

CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY

LIFE AND RESURRECTION

As Christians we believe in life after death—Resurrection. This can only come from a deep faith in the teachings of Jesus. In her letter to her mother Flora, when her brother John died in New Zealand, Mary MacKillop comforts her mother with thoughts of the new life John is now experiencing. John had returned to New Zealand, followed by a young woman from Penola. After a fall from a horse, John developed tetanus and died a week later, The young woman organised his funeral and wrote to his sister Maggie to tell her what had happened. Some years ago some of the Sisters went looking for his grave and found the gravestone under a tree.



May our blessed Lord Himself be your comforter in the new and severe trial. He has taken our dear John, but ah, how thankful we should be to know that the poor boy's death was so holy and happy one. How different would be our feelings had it been otherwise. My one constant prayer for those I love is that, ...God in his mercy may grant them a happy death and give them that happiness in the next world... 7th January 1868—Adelaide

Let us not mourn for John. We may safely hope that he is not far from his loving Redeemer. His wishes were always good and his life innocent. You have not got him to comfort and take care of on earth but from heaven he and our little Alick will watch over you and all of us I trust. (iAlick was a little brother who died at 11 months) ibid



IN SILENCE REFLECT ON THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

HOW DID YOU COMFORT YOURSELF AND OTHERS?

WAS THERE HOPE IN YOUR GRIEVING? WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS NOW?

IN YOUR MIND SIT BY MARY'S TOMB. TALK TO MARY MACKILLOP ABOUT YOUR THOUGHTS.

LISTEN TO WHAT SHE MAY SAY TO YOU

PSALM 22: from Psalms Now by Leslie Brandt Used with permission Aust. Lutheran Church

The Lord is my constant companion,
There is no need that he cannot fulfil
Whether his course for me points
 To the mountaintops of glorious joy
 Or to the valleys of human suffering
He is by my side, he is every present with me.
He is close beside me
 When I tread the dark streets of danger,
And even when I flirt with death itself,
 he will not leave me.
When the pain is severe, he is near to comfort.
When the burden is heavy, he is there to lean upon.
When depression darkens my soul
He touches me with eternal joy.
When I feel empty and alone,
 He fills the aching vacuum with his power.
My security is in his promise to be near me always
 And in the knowledge
 that he will never let me go.

Living God, your bringing new life from death opens to us the reality of your promise to never leave us. Trusting in this promise, may we live in confidence, wonder and com-mitment to our world that daily ex-periences death and resurrection. We ask this through Jesus. Amen.

