

Pray the Our Father together ...

Concluding Prayer:

Provider God you gave us Mary MacKillop. She spent her life loving you and bringing your love to the poor children in Australia. She still works on through her Sisters of St Joseph and their Associates. We thank you God and pray that you will bless us so that we can follow her example. We ask this in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Song: Mary of the Cross (from Saints and Celebrations by Michael Mangan)

Chorus:

Born beneath the Southern Cross
Living under skies of blue
From the ocean spray to the dry, red desert sand
Living her life by the power of the Cross
Wearing a dress of brown,
Mary shared God's love throughout our land.

Mary knew God's plan for her
She listened to God's call
She heard God's voice in the cry of the Poor:

Peace and justice for all!
Mary, she listened to God's call.
Mary, peace and justice for all

When times were tough she trusted God
She knew there'd be a way.
Courage was the badge she wore,
Her heart burned strong with faith.
Mary, she knew there'd be a way.
Mary, her heart burned strong with faith.

From busy city streets to outback towns
Travelling far and wide
Building dreams and bringing God's love,
Her sisters by her side.

Mary, travelling far and wide,
Mary, her sisters by her side.

(or choose another suitable song)



*Prepared by the Sisters of St Joseph
of the Sacred Heart WA, 2009*

Centenary Year of the Death of Mary MacKillop 1909 - 2009

Prayer for 8th August



"Never see a need ...

... without trying to do something about it."

In early Australian times if you were poor and a Catholic there was little or no chance of an education and especially a Catholic Education like we have today. The poor stayed poor, neglected and uneducated.

At this time there was a young woman Mary MacKillop who dreamed of being a Sister. She really wanted to help these poor children to get a good Christian Education, so they could do something with their lives. She wanted them to know of God's love for them.

Together with a young priest Julian Tenison Woods, she began to do something about her dream. They began a Congregation called the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. The Sisters went out to isolated bush places to educate the poor children where ever they were. They went across Australia and New Zealand, not only for education but they also cared for the sick, homeless and orphans.

Mary faced many difficulties, hardships and misunderstandings but through it all she had faith in God and worked to bring God's word to the poor people. Where ever there were poor children or a need to be met the Sisters were there for them. Mary believed wherever there was a need you did something about it.

Song: Never See a Need (Josephite Dreaming by Mary Fletcher)

Never see a need without doing something about it!
Never see a need without lending someone a hand.
Always take the time to help someone else,
Never take for granted what you have yourself,
So take a little time and just share a little love around.

Help those in need
Reach out to the poor
Make your attitude of justice be your cause!

(or choose another suitable song)

Gospel Reading : Luke 4: 18,19
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
For He has anointed me,
To bring good news to the poor,
To proclaim freedom for those imprisoned
To give new sight to the blind,
To free those who are oppressed,



And announce the Lord's year of mercy. The Gospel of the Lord. God spoke to Mary MacKillop in her heart and this inspired her to dream and to act. Mary said "Listen to the whispering of God in your heart" we now pause to let God speak to us in our own hearts.

Pause: *A time of quiet*

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, when you created the world and all the people in it, you gave us a special person called Mary MacKillop We thank you for her life and the example to live as Jesus did. We ask you to bless us and the needs we name.

For all the people in the world who are suffering and without food and clothing, we ask you through Mary MacKillop to send kind and generous people to help them.

Lord hear us. Response: Lord hear our prayer.

God our Father we pray for families, help us all to love and care each other.

Lord hear us. Response: Lord hear our prayer.

For all the people who are poor and have no one to love them, we ask that you help us all to find ways of giving our love and help to them in any way we can.

Lord hear us. Response: Lord hear our prayer

God of friendship, we pray for all those children who are different from us and feel left out, give us courage to be a friend to them.

Lord hear us. Response: Lord hear our prayer.

Litany of Mary MacKillop:

Leader:	Response
Blessed Mary MacKillop	Pray for us
Faithful to the will of God	Pray for us
Educator of the poor	Pray for us
Forgiving all who hurt you	Pray for us
Serving the neglected	Pray for us
Teaching God's little ones	Pray for us
Gift of God to us today	Pray for us
Leading by example	Pray for us

