



## Liturgy of the Word - Primary

### Prayer Space

*Suggestions: Set up a space that is visible for all students. If they are seated on the floor, ensure the prayer space is low to or on the ground. Drape the space with prayer cloths. Place a candle (real or battery operated), a cross, a bible or lectionary with the place marked with today's reading and an image of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop in the prayer space. Alternatively, these items could be processed in and placed into the sacred space one by one, whilst the opening song plays.*

### Acknowledgement of Country

#### Introduction

*(Begin with the following introduction if you are not sharing Mary's story in the reflection of today's liturgy. If you are, begin with the paragraph Mary MacKillop Today is continuing...)*

Mary of the Cross MacKillop is Australia's first saint. A saint is a person who the Church recognises as someone who is especially close to God and devoted their lives to serving God. Mary MacKillop was born over 180 years ago in 1842 in Victoria. She grew up with seven brothers and sisters. When she was twenty-four, she devoted her life to God and took on the name "Mary of the Cross."

Mary was an ordinary woman with an extraordinary dream. Her dream was to give families and children who lived in poverty an education and safe shelter by opening schools. With what little they had, Mary and her friend Father Tenison Woods turned an old stable into a school in Penola, South Australia.

In 1866 Mary and Father Tenison worked together to set up the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (also known as the Josephites). This was the first religious order to be founded by an Australian.



Be ***Fierce*** for ***Fair***



# Liturgy of the Word - Primary

## Introduction - contd.

Mary taught everyone—regardless of gender, race, faith, or wealth— while serving with love and compassion. She and the Sisters of St Joseph went wherever the need was greatest. They gave up everything to live and teach amongst the people they served.

Mary MacKillop Today is carrying on the work of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph. They work with communities to create change by teaching practical skills to women, men and children in Australia and overseas. One particular project they have is the Mobile Learning Centre in Timor Leste. The Mobile Learning Centre is a bus that travels to communities throughout Timor Leste providing children and teachers the opportunity to learn in fun and exciting ways. If Mary of the Cross MacKillop were living in our world today we could not only imagine her doing this work but speaking out about it courageously. Mary MacKillop Today has chosen Be Fierce For Fair as the theme for Mary MacKillop's Feast Day. As we celebrate and reflect Mary's life let these words guide our prayer. Be Fierce For Fair.

Let us pause as we become aware of God's presence.(You might like to use an Australian Bush soundscape such as [Australian Bush](#) or [Early Morning Rainforest](#) to focus everyone's attention or you might like to pause in quiet stillness.)



**Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop - 8 August**



## Opening song

Suggestions:

Beneath a Cross of Stars – Andrew Chinn, St Mary MacKillop – Gary Pinto, Let Our Light Shine – Michael Mangan, Never See a Need – Michael Mangan

## Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross. In the name of the Father...

Loving God,

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, a woman of great faith and courage turned to you for strength and guidance as she helped those around her. May this celebration give us courage and strength to do the same, to Be Fierce For Fair in a world where many need your help. We ask this in Your name.

All: Amen

Leader: Let us listen to God's Word.

## Gospel

Gospel Matthew 6:25-34

(The Gospel could be read as below or told using Liquid Pictures, Echo Mime or simply acted out with gestures for the actions.)

Reader:

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ





## Reflection Ideas

(Reflect on the life of Mary MacKillop in light of Matthew's scripture passage. Below are a list of ways this could be done:

- *Read picture book about Mary MacKillop Meet Mary MacKillop by Sally Murphy, St Mary MacKillop: Beneath a Cross of Stars by Andrew Chinn and Jill McLaughlin RSJ, St Mary MacKillop Friend of Jesus by Judith M Steer RSJ, The Gift of Mary MacKillop by Colleen O'Sullivan RSJ – best done by a staff member*
- *Reflect using a series of wonder questions. Students could come up with these themselves or these could be written beforehand. Here are some examples:*
  - *wonder what it was like to be the eldest of eight children.*
  - *wonder what games Mary played as a child.*
  - *wonder who Mary liked to play with.*
  - *wonder how Mary travelled from place to place when she was a child*
  - *wonder how Mary travelled from place to place when she was a Sister of St Joseph.*
  - *wonder what Mary's first classroom looked like.*
  - *wonder why Mary wanted to help children.*
  - *wonder how Mary prayed.*
  - *wonder where Mary's favourite place to pray was.*
- *Act out a short play about Mary MacKillop as the story of her life is told.*
- *Students lead a reflection they created using Be Fierce for Fair Statements – eg Be Fierce for homelessness, Be Fierce for refugees, Be fierce for the lonely, etc.,*
- *Have a class write a poem that reflects on Mary MacKillop's life. Some different types of poems include Acrostic Poem, Bio Poem, I Am Poem,*
- *If you are a Josephite school, share some of the school's history and how the Mary MacKillop's legacy continues to live on in the life of the school today.*

All reflections could have quiet music playing in the background. When the music concludes, it will indicate the time of reflection has concluded.





## Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Let us turn to God in prayer.

Ever generous God, You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop to live her life faithful to the Gospel and bring hope and encouragement to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy. With confidence in your generosity, we pray:

Reader: For Pope Francis and leaders in our Church that they lead with courage and justice.  
Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the Sisters of St Joseph and the work of Mary MacKillop Today, that they continue to be inspired by Mary MacKillop, reaching out to those in need, in faith and love.

Lord hear us

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: For our school community, may we walk in Mary MacKillop's footsteps, seeing a need and doing something about it, especially when it is difficult.

Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all those in our community who are sick, that they will receive your healing and strength.

Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: For our own intentions... (pause)

We make these prayers and those in our heart in Your name.

**All: Amen.**

## Final Blessing

Leader: Let us stand for a blessing

Through the example of Saint Mary of the Cross, may we learn to recognise God's will for us and trust in God's wisdom.

**All: Amen.**

May her life of service awaken in us a deep respect for the poor and a heart for justice.

**All: Amen.**

May we share in her courage, see with the eyes of God's love, and learn from her actions.

**All: Amen.**

And may God bless us. In the name of the Father...

**All: Amen.**





## Closing Song

Suggestions:

- Hearts of Courage – Timothy Hart
- Beneath a Cross of Stars – Andrew Chinn
- Never See a Need - Michael Mangan
- Go Make a Difference – Steve Angrisano
- In the Footsteps of Jesus – Andrew Chinn
- Do Something – Matthew West

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## Resources

Books:

- Geddes, Judith, In God's Hands, Psalms & Prayers for Children - In the Spirit of Mary MacKillop, St Joseph's Convent, St Albans, VIC, Australia, 2005.
- Wintour, Rina, Sacred Celebrations for Ordinary Time: Year A, MountJoy Enterprises, Manly, QLD, Australia (2004)

Websites:

- Liturgy Brisbane: [www.liturgybrisbane.net.au](http://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au)
- Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre: [www.mmhc.org.au](http://www.mmhc.org.au)
- Mary MacKillop Today: [www.marymackilloptoday.org.au](http://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au)
- Sisters of St Joseph: [www.sosj.org.au](http://www.sosj.org.au)

