

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



MARY
MACKILLOP
today

Prayer Assembly - Primary

We Gather

Acknowledgement of Country

Gather the assembled with a soundscape of the Australian bush for example:
[A morning in the Australian bush](#)

Or

[Early Morning - Rainforest](#)

Sing

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

Say

*Let us begin our time of prayer together;
In the name of the Father...*



Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop - 8 August



We Listen

Option 1

Gospel: Matthew 6:25-34

Read

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and what you are to wear. Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin: yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field will he not much more look after you? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we wear? Your heavenly Father knows you need all these things. Set your hearts on his Kingdom first, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Option 2:

Read and/or act out a picture book about Mary MacKillop.

Some suggestions include 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.





We Respond

Reflection Option 1

(Play the following soundscape, asking the students to listen carefully to what they hear.)

A Morning in the Australian Bush

School Playground Sounds

Sound of a Bus Trip in Timor-Leste

Timorese Children Singing at School

Ask the following questions:

What did you hear first? Next? After that?

You have just heard:

- A morning in the Australian bush
- A school playground
- A bus trip in East Timor
- Children in Timor Leste singing in their classroom

(Show pictures that might match what they are hearing)

Show the picture of the Mobile Learning Centre with the children in front of it.

What do you think might be happening here?

This is where some children in Timor Leste go to school. This is their classroom.

What is different about their school and ours?

They don't have the same things that we do. This is a school on wheels. It provides teachers and students with opportunities to learn, sometimes outside because not all communities in Timor Leste have schools children can attend. The children love coming to the bus to learn. The children learn to sing songs, play games, read stories and do maths. An organisation called Mary MacKillop Today made this possible. Why? Well a long time ago there was a woman who said 'Never see a need without doing something about it.'

Do you know who that was?

Yes, it was Mary MacKillop.

Mary MacKillop believed that all children should have an education. Mary saw many children who didn't have any education, she taught them herself and started a school for them in an old stable.

Many other young women joined with Mary MacKillop over the years and they became known as the Sisters of Joseph. They began schools all over Australia. Today the Sisters have continued doing Mary's work around the world and the organisation called Mary MacKillop Today helps. Timor Leste is one of the places they help in.





We Respond

Reflection Option 1 - continued

Mary MacKillop inspired others to do something about the needs that they saw around them. There are needs all around us too. I wonder if over the coming year we can each do something when we see a need. It might be something small like regularly picking up some rubbish in the playground or in our neighbourhood to look after our environment, or it might be something bigger like visiting someone who doesn't get many visitors or it might be learning more about Mary MacKillop, the Sisters of St Joseph and Mary MacKillop Today. Let's have a moment of quiet to think and pray about what we might be able to do, to make the world a better place.

(Pause for a minute of silence, if students are likely to become restless, perhaps replay the Australian Bush soundscape or a piece of quiet music)

Read

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop always asked God to help her. Let us turn to God and pray the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father...





We Respond

Reflection Option 2

(Walk the students through this prayerful reflection. Pausing after praying with each finger to allow time for quiet personal prayer.)

Pray

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop loved God and she prayed every day for God to help her to look after her family, for her friends like Fr Julian, the priest who helped Mary start schools, those who pointed the way, for people in authority, like priests and bishops who didn't always see things the ways she did, for the children she taught, the poor in her community, those in need and for herself. Today we are going to pray, just like Mary and we are going to use our hands to help us.

Take a moment to look at one of your hands. For each finger and thumb we are going to pray a prayer quietly in our hearts.

(Quiet music begins)

Let's begin with our thumbs.

Think about the people who are close to you, your family and your special friends. Thank God for them and ask God to protect them and to keep them safe.

Look at your pointer finger.

This represents people who point the way – people like teachers, other adults in your life, Mary MacKillop and Jesus. Think about how they point the way for you. Thank God for them and ask that God continues to help them to be a good role model for you.

Next look to your tall finger.

This for all the big people in the world. Ask God to give wisdom to our government. Pray for wise and Godly people to surround them and support them as they make decisions.

Turn your attention to your ring finger.

It isn't very strong on its own. It is your weakest finger. And so we remember those who are not strong on their own, those who are sick, and those who live in poverty, or who are treated poorly. We pray that God gives them new strength and those who can, including us, fight for justice and support them.

Finally let's look at our pinky.

It represents us. God wants to hear your needs too. Pray for your own life, the things going on for you. We are not so small that God does not care or is not interested. God loves each of us and wants to know what matters to us, what is in our hearts – so finish with sharing those things now.

We make all these prayers through Christ Our Lord.

Amen





We Go

Pray

We'll conclude our time today by praying all together. The response to each line in our final prayer is Amen.

May we, like Mary MacKillop, dream of a better future for all. Amen

May we, like Mary MacKillop, be filled with courage and stand up for what is right. Amen

May we, like Mary MacKillop, listen and respond to the needs of the people around us. Amen

May we, like Mary MacKillop, see the best in others and reach out to them in love. Amen

And may we, like Mary MacKillop have faith and trust in God. Amen

We ask these prayers through Jesus our friend.

Amen.

Closing song

Suggestions:

- Beneath a Cross of Stars – Andrew Chinn
- St Mary MacKillop – Gary Pinto
- Go Make a Difference – Steve Angrisano
- Hearts of Courage – Timothy Hart
- In the Footsteps of Jesus – Andrew Chinn
- Do Something – Matthew West

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.

Websites:

- Big Start Assemblies: www.bigstartassemblies.org/prayer
- Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre: www.mmhc.org.au
- Mary MacKillop Today: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au
- Sisters of St Joseph: www.sosj.org.au

