

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

MARY
MACKILLOP
today

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 MacKillop was born in 1842 in Victoria and grew up with seven brothers and sisters. When she was twenty-four, she gave 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 poor families and children an education and safe shelter by opening schools. With what little they had, Mary and 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 (the Josephites). This was the first religious order to be founded by an Australian.

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. 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.



Let's walk in the footsteps of Australia's most loved Saint.
Just like Mary MacKillop...
Let's be fierce in the face of adversity.
Let's be fair and act when we see injustice.
Let's give love to those we encounter each day.
Together, let's be Fierce for Fair.

Let us pause in quiet stillness as we become aware of God's presence.

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 or Echo Mime

Liquid Pictures is a form of drama whereby a scripture passage is taken and divided into five or six main sections each with a short phrase. Choose a simple action for each phrase. A leader reads the opening line, for example: Jesus said. Each of the phrases are then proclaimed one at a time, by different children accompanied by the action. They repeat the phrase and the action two or three times and then freeze. The process continues with each child and each line until all five or six phrases are complete. The students will then be all in a line, in a 'frozen' picture that tells the story. The leader concludes with a simple statement.

Echo Mimes assist children of all ages to understand and recall a scripture passage. The passage is written in short, simple statements. An accompanying action is created. A leader or group of students voices each statement with the accompanying action and the statement and action are repeated (echoed) by the rest of the group.

Adapted from Sacred Celebrations for Ordinary Time: Year A, A Resource for Celebrating Children's Liturgy of the Word, Rina Wintour (2004)





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 (best done by a staff member)*
 - *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*
- *Reflect using a series of questions*
- *Act out a short play about Mary MacKillop*
- *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 an I Am Poem that reflects on Mary MacKillop’s life*
- *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, may they continue to inspire others, 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. 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.

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

All: Amen

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

All: Amen

Leader: 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

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
- Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre: www.mmhc.org.au
- Mary MacKillop Today: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au
- Sisters of St Joseph: www.sosj.org.au

