

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. You may also like to add some items that help students to remember what St Mary did and how the Sisters of St Joseph and Mary MacKillop Today continue her work. This could include a small blackboard and chalk, a small stack of books, a set of rosary beads, and a picture of the Mobile Learning Centre bus. Alternatively, these items could be processed in and placed into the sacred space one by one, whilst the opening song is sung.*



Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop - 8 August

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



# Liturgy of the Word - Primary

## Acknowledgement of Country

## Introduction

Today is St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's Feast Day. It is a day we come together to celebrate the life and work of Australia's first Saint. A woman who worked tirelessly for others, especially for families who couldn't afford to send their children to school. In Penola in 1866, she with the help of a priest, Fr Tenison Woods and two of her sisters, she opened her first school. 1866 was also the year that she began the Sisters of St Joseph, a religious congregation, which is still going today. Throughout Australia, New Zealand and in places like Timor Leste the work of Mary MacKillop carries on today through an organisation called Mary MacKillop Today.

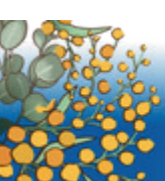
Mary MacKillop Today work with communities to create change by teaching practical skills to women, men and children. One particular project they have is the Mobile Learning Centre in Timor Leste. The Mobile Learning Centre is a colourful bus that travels to communities throughout Timor Leste providing children and teachers the opportunity to learn in fun and exciting ways. If St 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 St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's Feast Day. As we celebrate and reflect on Mary's life let these words guide our prayer. Be Fierce For Fair.

Let us pause 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, In the Footsteps of Jesus – Andrew Chinn.



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## 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, courage and commitment fixed her eyes on you as her source of strength. May her faith remind us to be faithful to you. May her courage be a guiding light and may her commitment remind us 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.

*(You may choose to read both the Reading and the Gospel, however it is likely, that you will choose to have only one. The Reading or Gospel could be read as below or told using Liquid Pictures, Echo Mime or simply acted out with gestures for the actions.)*

## Reading

Reading Colossians 3:12-17

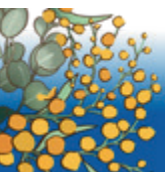
Reader: A reading from St Paul's letter to the Colossians:

God has chosen you and made you his holy people. He loves you. So always do these things: Show mercy to others; be kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Do not be angry with each other, but forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, then forgive him. Forgive each other because the Lord forgave you. Do all these things; but most important, love each other. Love is what holds you all together in perfect unity. Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking. You were all called together in one body to have peace. Always be thankful. Let the teaching of Christ live in you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and strengthen each other. Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Everything you say and everything you do should all be done for Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

**And/or...**







## Gospel

Matthew 6:25-34

Reader:

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

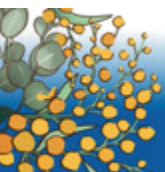
Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father 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





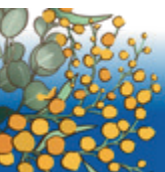
## Reflection Ideas

*Reflect on the life of Mary MacKillop in light of today's scripture passage/s.*

*Below are a list of ways this could be done:*

- Read this letter. Mary MacKillop was a great letter writer. Imagine she wrote this letter. It tells students something about her life and challenges them to never see a need without doing something about it. Mary MacKillop showed God's love we hear about in the readings today.
- Use the Reflection on Mary MacKillop Today's work in Timor Leste to help students to see and understand how Mary MacKillop's work lives on today.
- Read a picture book, some titles 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 – this reading might be best done by a staff member
- Students lead a reflection they created using Be Fierce for Fair Statements – e.g. 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. If possible use the instrumental version of one of the songs you are using in the liturgy.*





## Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Let us turn to God in prayer. Ever generous God, You inspired St Mary MacKillop to live her life faithful to the Gospel, bringing hope and encouragement to those in need. With confidence in your generosity, we pray:

Reader: For Pope Leo XIV 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 in love to all those in need.

Lord hear us

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: For our school community that we may courageously walk in St Mary'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 touch.

Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

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

Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: 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 inspire us to serve others.

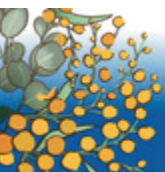
**All: Amen.**

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

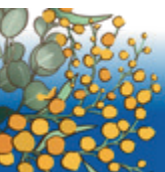
## Resources

Books:

- Freeman, Pamela, Mary's Australia: How Mary MacKillop Changed Australia, Black Dog Books, Newtown, NSW, Australia (2014)
- 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)
- Goodwin, Joan, Letters from Mary, St Paul's Publications, Strathfield, NSW, Australia, (2010)
- Ryan, Maurice & Grajczonek, Jan, Learning Links to Mary MacKillop: Teacher Resources for the Religion Classroom, Lumino Press, Hamilton, QLD, Australia (2009)
- 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)





## Mary's Letter

My Dear Friends,

When I was small my parents lived in a large house in Melbourne, but we had to move when my father lost his job. We moved to a farm near my grandparents' home. It was often difficult to go to school. When we couldn't go, my father would teach us. There were many of us. I have seven brothers and sisters. We all grew up loving God and each other, even when times were hard. When I was eight years old, I was able to attend a school run by Miss Kane. It was wonderful. I loved to read and write.

By the time I was fifteen years old, I went to work so that I could help my family. My first job was as a governess and I loved it. It was one of the jobs I had that prepared me for what was to come. I also worked in a printing press shop, which I really didn't like, but it helped me too.

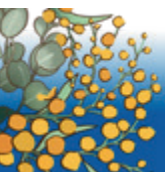
Many years ago now, in 1866, five years after I met Fr Julian Tenison Woods I received a letter from him asking me to be the first teacher in a school in Penola, South Australia. I accepted and my sisters Annie and Lexie joined me. My brother John was a carpenter, just like Jesus was, and he converted an old stable into a school. Imagine that, Jesus was born in a stable and our first school was once a stable! That was pretty special. I still thank God, for those early years.

Throughout the years, I had many young women who wanted to help me when I saw a need. Teachers and women who could travel across the country and teach children whose families couldn't afford to send them to school. We opened many schools across Australia. If we saw a need, we went there.

I, and the other women became known as the Sisters of St Joseph. We couldn't have done what we did without God's help. We prayed together every day. When we all ended up in different parts of Australia, I either visited them or wrote letters, just as I am writing to you.

I pray that what we have started will continue. Children all around Australia need our help. They might need yours one day too. I hope you will help them. Let's pray for each other.

All my love,  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop







## Liquid Pictures

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 Mime

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)

## Gestures

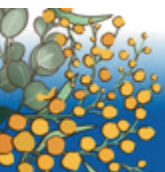
Take each of the actions in the gospel and create (or have the children create) a simple action for them. Perhaps have whoever is doing the action, dress all in one colour that is different from the person who is reading the gospel. Ensure they don't make eye contact with the audience. It can be useful to have them look at or towards their hands as they do the actions so that those watching will also focus on the actions. Some examples are below:

Do not worry – shake your head

Eat – pretend to eat something

Drink – pretend you have a glass of water in front of you

Look – put your hand over your eyes and look beyond those gathered





## Acrostic Poem

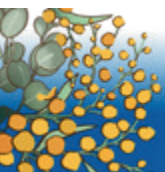
An acrostic is a poem in which the first letters of each line spell out a word or phrase, such as Mary MacKillop. The first letter of each line is capitalised. This makes it easier to see the word spelled out down the page.

M  
A  
R  
Y

M  
A  
C  
K  
I  
L  
L  
O  
P

Acrostics don't need to rhyme. Each letter of Mary's name might describe the story of her life, what she did, something about her personality or a combination of all of these.

Adapted from: [How to Write an Acrostic Poem – Kenn Nesbitt's Poetry4kids.com](http://www.poetry4kids.com)





## Reflection on Mary MacKillop Today's Work in Timor-Leste

What does Timor Leste, one of our closest neighbours, a bus and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop have in common?

People who follow in Mary MacKillop footsteps run a Mobile Learning Centre out of a bus in Timor Leste. The Mobile Learning Centre is like a school on wheels!

Mary MacKillop worked tirelessly for the poor, especially with families who couldn't afford to send their children to school. In Timor Leste, the Sisters of St Joseph and Mary MacKillop Today have carried on Mary's work and because many children, especially those in the country cannot get to school, they are taking a school to them in a bus.



One of the children whom the bus visits is Juliana. She is in grade 4. Juliana and her friends feel so happy to be a part of an education program. The mobile learning centre, which is part of the education program, is a colourful bus that travels around communities, filled with toys, musical instruments and lots of arts and crafts supplies. There are also books in the local language, Tetum, and a team of enthusiastic teachers. It's a whole lot of learning fun that makes Juliana and her friends smile.

Did you know that in Timor Leste 42% of children, that's close to half of all children in Timor Leste, live below the poverty line and many of them if they do get to go to school, go without food? Sometimes, this happens for Juliana, too.

The mobile learning centre program is what Saint Mary MacKillop's work looks like in today's world. Mary knew that education was a way to help people lift themselves out of poverty. Sometimes we grumble about having to come to school because we think it is too hard or we are too tired. Imagine if there wasn't one for us to be able to go to. I think that might be different.

Today as we remember St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, let us also remember and the Sisters of St Joseph, the staff of Mary MacKillop Today, around the world who carry on her important work. Let us also remember and pray for children like Juliana, whose life has been touched by St Mary's work. Let us also pray for ourselves, that we may take up Mary's challenge and do what we can to help.

