

# St Mary of the Cross

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

### Mary MacKillop - Faithful Servant Of God



Artwork by Dorothy Woodward rsj

**Please Note:** This resource may be integrated into a Eucharistic Liturgy or adapted for a School Assembly or Class Prayer.

#### Website Background & Information:

[www.marymackillop.org.au](http://www.marymackillop.org.au)

[www.sosj.org.au/who-we-are/index.cfm?loadref=105](http://www.sosj.org.au/who-we-are/index.cfm?loadref=105)

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mackillop-mary-helen-4112>

<https://www.mackillopfoundation.org.au>

[www.mmhc.org.au](http://www.mmhc.org.au)

#### Introductory Rite

*(During the entrance song a large rustic looking cross, the Word, some brown cloth, a lantern or large candle, a large platter with some food on it – bread, cheese, fruit – a large jug and a couple of glasses are carried in and placed in the sacred space.)*

**Gathering Hymn:** **St Mary Mackillop We Sing Praise** (Monica Brown – St Mary MacKillop)  
OR **A Cross of Stars** (Andrew Chinn – Wherever I Go)

#### Welcome & Introduction:

**Leader:** Today is the feast of St. Mary of the Cross, Australia's first saint. Mary was a person of great faith who trusted God to care for her and provide for her. She was a person of action who, when she saw a need, did something about it. We are called to be like Mary, to be people of hospitality and welcome, to be people of action.

#### Penitential Rite:

**Leader:** Loving and merciful God, you welcome all who come to you. Sometimes we are not as welcoming as we could be.

Lord Jesus, you are the heart of welcome. Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you are the heart of hospitality. Christ, have mercy.

**All:** Christ, have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you are the heart of generosity. Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

#### Opening Prayer:

**Leader:** Loving God, who provides us with all that we need, you show us in Mary of the Cross, how to be welcoming people who look to the needs of others. Help us to live like Mary, trusting in you and living out hospitality and generosity. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## **Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading:** 1 Kings 17: 8-16

**Responsorial Psalm:**     **You Are the Light**\_(M. Mangan – Forever I Will sing)  
  **The Lord is My Light** (C. Wilcock – Gather Australia)

**Gospel Acclamation:**     *sing one familiar to the community.*

**Gospel:**     Matthew 6: 25-34

### **Breaking Open The Word:**

A one sentence comment from students on the significance of the symbols in the prayer focus space might lead into the youtube viewing.

A reflection on Mary MacKillop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSB4BtpRaQM>

### **Prayer of the Faithful:**

**Leader:**     **We turn to you O God, and ask you to listen to our prayers.**

**Reader:**     **We pray that, like Mary Mackillop, we may be people of action, ready to do what is needed. Lord, hear us.**

**All:**           **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:**     **We pray that, like Mary Mackillop, we may be people of prayer who turn to you when we are in need. Lord, hear us.**

**All:**           **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:**     **We pray that, like Mary Mackillop, we may be people of courage, ready to face difficult times with you beside us. Lord, hear us.**

**All:**           **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:**     **We pray that, like Mary Mackillop, we may be people of trust and faith, assured that you are always with us. Lord, hear us.**

**All:**           **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:**     **We pray that, like Mary Mackillop, we may be people of example who show we are followers of the gospel in our daily lives. Lord, hear us.**

**All:**           **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:**     **Loving God, hear the prayers we offer you and help us to look to Mary Mackillop for example and inspiration. We ask this prayer in Jesus' name.**

**All:**           **Amen.**

### **Concluding Rite:**

**Final Prayer:** **God of hospitality, who welcomed all, help us to be accepting and open to all whom we meet. May we live out Mary MacKillop's words, "Never see a need without doing something about it", and be willing to help all those in need. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.**

**All:**           **Amen.**

**Blessing & Dismissal:** *(from the Mass of Saint Mary of the Cross)*

**Leader:**     **Through the example of Saint Mary of the Cross may we learn to recognise God's will for you and trust in God's help.**

**All:**           **Amen.**

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

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** May we share in her courage, see with the eyes of Christian love, and learn from her holy deeds.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** And may almighty God bless us, the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Let us go now, to love and serve the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Recessional Hymn:** **Mary of the Cross** (Michael Mangan – Saints and Celebrations)  
**OR** **Mary of the Cross** (M. Brown – St Mary MacKillop – Hymns, Mantras and Songs)