

Daily Prayer

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Readings: Ecclesiastes 1: 2; 2: 21–23; Psalm 89: 3–6, 12–14, 17; Colossians 3: 1–5, 9–11; Luke 12: 13–21.

Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope

Source: [Jubilee Resource Pack for Parishes](#)

Jubilee years are a time of newness. They have been celebrated throughout the history of the Church, but their roots go back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites were commanded to celebrate a jubilee every 50 years...

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop used to say: 'We are but travellers here.' For the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be pilgrims of hope: a people who are not only travellers here but walking in joyful anticipation of 'the heavenly goal to which we have been called' (SNC §25).

Pope Francis believed that, in today's world, hope suffers; that too many people have been robbed by cynicism and despair. During Jubilee 2025, he wanted everyone to have 'an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ' (SNC §6). Only this hope—born from knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:35-39)—can breathe life back into weary souls.

This hope is not optimism. It is not a forced positivity in the face of hardship and evil. It is a grace from God, a trust in the Lord's promises: that he is good, that he is merciful, and that we are journeying towards the one who says, 'Look, I am making everything new' (Rev 21:5).



For this reason, the most striking part of the logo for this jubilee is the cross: bending towards humanity and forming an anchor, it depicts the cross as something to cling to, especially in rough seas. It is a contemporary 'riff' on an old biblical image. The epistle to the Hebrews describes the hope we have in Christ as 'an anchor of the soul, as sure as it is firm' (6:19).

The cross is not a dead symbol from the past. It is a living sign of God's unfathomable love, and one that carries us together in pilgrimage towards heaven.

Preparations for Daily Prayer

The following daily prayers can be used in their entirety or adapted to meet the needs of the audience. The prayers draw on the Sunday readings, so you may use any of the prayers on any day, although special focus will be given to Feast days, Solemnities, and days of special cultural significance. Feel free to adapt the prayers for special occasions or specific intentions of your own class and school.

The prayers will introduce students to traditional prayer and liturgical practices and responses, as well as a variety of Christian spiritual experiences. Take the opportunity to create a Sacred Space for prayer as you might do in creating a protected garden. This may include a prayer cloth or placemat, a bible, a crucifix, a candle, and flowers. Additional resources (apps, websites, music,

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videos) will be suggested for those wanting to enrich the prayers or to understand the readings at a deeper level.

The Year of Luke

The Gospel readings for this Year C are taken from the Gospel of Luke and the Church is in the Sixteenth Week of Ordinary Time.

Daily Prayer will invite those gathered to participate in prayer rituals and respond respectfully in a prayerful context. This week is about setting up for success in a way that those gathered will become comfortable with the structure, the responses, the gestures, the prayers and the symbols. Daily Prayer will be a time when all feel welcomed and valued.

Overview of the Week - National Vocations Week

Through our various ministries and agencies, we exist to serve the people of God, enabling the Gospel of Jesus Christ to come alive in our local community. [Vocations Melbourne Catholic](#) and [Instagram](#)

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers, and Forms of Prayer
Monday – Green	Storing treasures	Gospel, reflection
Tuesday – Green	Turn away from greed	Gospel, Psalm reflection
Wednesday – White	<i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	Praying with the Gospel Praying with Song and Reflection Questions Solemn Blessing
Thursday – Green	Be rich towards God	Gospel, respond
Friday – White	<i>Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop</i>	Opening Prayer Prayerful Sharing in Response to Quotes Praying a Litany

Note that scripture quotations are from the Lectionary (*Jerusalem Bible*) or NRSV.

Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

- Liturgy Help: [Commentaries and Homilies & Reflections](#)
- Loyola Press: [Sunday Connection](#)
- The Emmaus Series: [Sunday Reflections](#).

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Readings: Genesis 18:1-10; Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42.

Monday

Today's Daily Prayer – Storing treasures

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the Word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: We gather together as people who place their trust in God, and so we pray.

(Pause)

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Today we focus on the Gospel of the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

(Light candle and pause.)

Background to the Gospel

Leader: In this parable, Jesus challenges those present to think about what they value, about how much they worry about their possessions, and how much faith they put in God. The parable doesn't say there is anything wrong with being successful. But instead of taking the opportunity to share his wealth, the young man in the gospel wanted to keep his wealth all for himself. That was the problem!

Listen

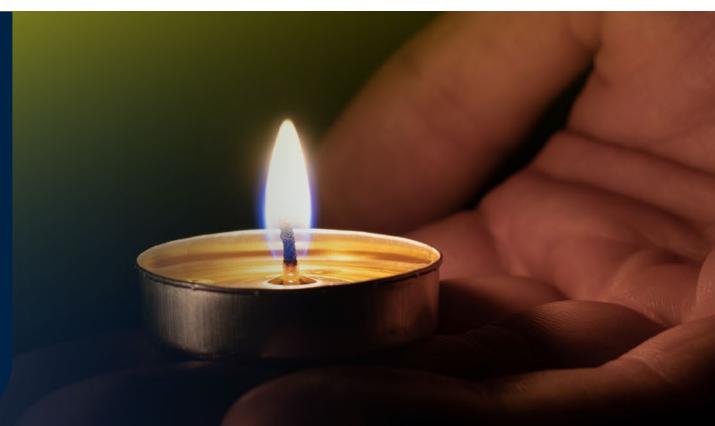
If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night

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your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.'

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Leader: In this parable Jesus probes the heart – where is your treasure?

Treasure is something that is highly valued and very precious, something we desire and long for, something we prize more than anything else.

The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure.

What do you treasure the most?

(Pause)

How could you share your treasure?

(Pause)

(Allow a couple of minutes.)



Key, [Pixabay](#) (CC0 Public Domain)

Go Forth

Leader: Gracious God, who loves us and cares for us, you promise to be with us always and to give us what we need. Help us to focus not on what we have but on who we are. May we see beyond our needs and look to the needs of others. We ask this prayer in Jesus' name.

Pope Francis told us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again." [Source](#)

Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God's love in all that we say and do.

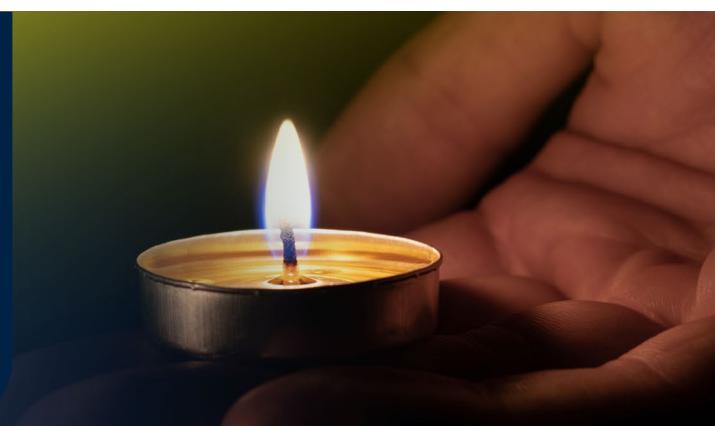
All: God, guide us on our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Readings: Genesis 18:1-10; Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42.

Tuesday

Today's Daily Prayer – Turn away from greed.

Preparation: Choose readers, provide copies of the prayer for all, someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: With our hearts and minds focused on God, we gather together to pray. (Pause)

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Leader: Today we focus on the Gospel of the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

(Light candle and pause.)

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.'

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Respond

Leader: In this parable Jesus calls us to reassess what we value most. Have we succumbed to greed, wanting more and more – of everything? Or are we focused on our relationship with God and sharing our abundance with those who have least?



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How can we refocus our lives?

What are you holding onto that you don't need? (*Pause*)

What could you do to decongest your life? (*Pause*)

Go Forth

All: I wait patiently for God to save me;
I depend on him alone.
He alone protects and saves me;
he is my defender,
and I shall never be defeated.
I depend on God alone;
I put my hope in him.
He alone protects and saves me;
he is my defender,
and I shall never be defeated. (Psalm 62)



Chick, Pixabay (CC0 Public Domain)

Leader: Pope Francis told us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#)
Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God's love in all that we say and do.

All: God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Readings: Genesis 18:1-10; Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42.

Wednesday

Today's Daily Prayer – The Transfiguration of the Lord.

This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him

Today's prayer focuses on the Gospel from the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer.

Leader: Gathered in God's presence, let us sit quietly, allowing the rhythm of our breathing to still our bodies and minds. Let us feel the soles of our feet on the floor and relax our hands. Take five deep breaths slowly and mindfully.

(Pause)

Together we pray the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Listen

Background to the Gospel

In the Gospel, Jesus goes with Peter, James and John to a mountain. An amazing thing happens and Jesus seems to become like a very bright light. The disciples hear a reminder from God to listen to what Jesus has to say. 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' We read that his friends became frightened, but Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Stand up and do not be afraid'.

God says to each one of us 'Listen to Jesus!' and Jesus encourages us to 'Stand up and do not be afraid'.

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the

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sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him.

Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'

He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.'

When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

(Pause for silence)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Leader: Let us pray with the song '[Listen to my Beloved Son](#)' by Paule Freeburg DC and Christopher Walker.

God says to each one of us 'Listen to Jesus!' What does Jesus want us to hear?

What might I hear if I stop to listen to Jesus in my prayer?

Let us close our eyes and listen to Jesus.

Time for silent prayer ...

Go Forth

Solemn Blessing

Leader: Let us pray the Solemn Blessing for the Solemnity of the Transfiguration of the Lord. A solemn blessing is a special blessing that the priest gives at the end of the Mass.
May the Lord bless and keep you.

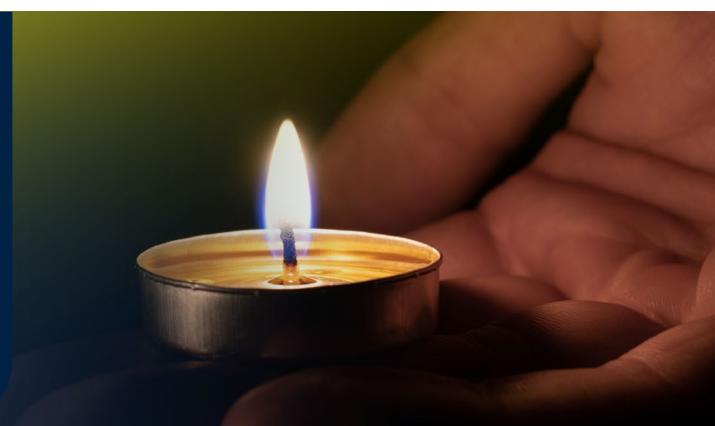
All: Amen.

Leader: May he let his face shine upon you and show you his mercy.



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All: Amen.

Leader: May he turn his face towards you and give you his peace.

All: Amen.

Leader: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever.

All: Amen.

Leader: May God continue to lead us. Pope Francis told us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#)
Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God’s love in all that we say and do.

All: God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

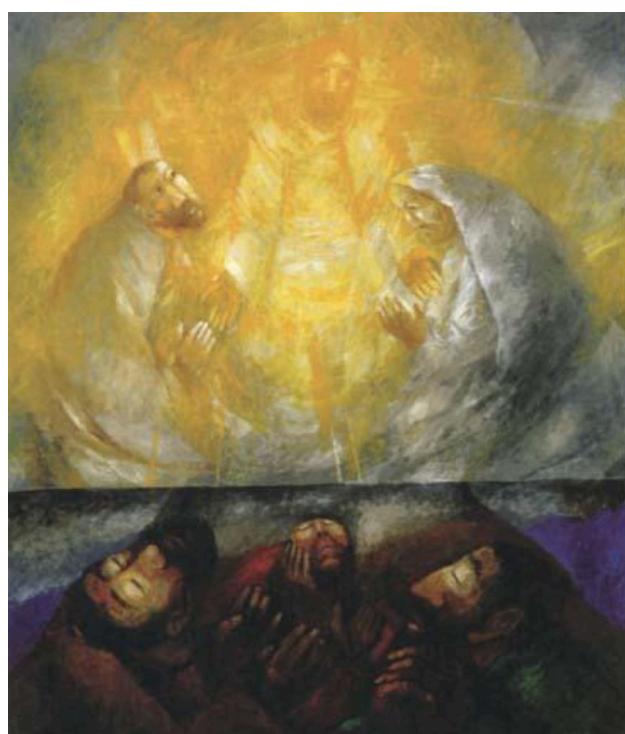


Image: The Transfiguration: Sieger Koder

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Readings: Genesis 18:1-10; Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42.

Thursday

Today's Daily Prayer – Be rich towards God.

Preparation: Choose readers, provide copies of the prayer to all and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us to focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: Knowing that God will always give us what we need, we gather together to pray.

(Pause)

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Leader: Today we focus on the Gospel of the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

(Light candle and pause.)

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.'

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Respond

Leader: Let us pray for the needs of others and our own.



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Reader: Open our eyes, Lord, so that we may see your abundant blessings.

All: **Open our eyes, Lord.**

Reader: Open our eyes, Lord, so that we may look beyond our possessions and see what is really important.

All: **Open our eyes, Lord.**

Reader: Open our eyes, Lord, so that we may see the needs of others first and seek to serve.

All: **Open our eyes, Lord.**

Reader: Open our eyes, Lord, so that we may see how much you love us through the love and care of those around us.

All: **Open our eyes, Lord.**

Reader: Open our eyes, Lord, so that we may keep our eyes on the goal of bringing about your Kingdom here on earth.

All: **Open our eyes, Lord.**

Go Forth

Leader: Let us pray for the needs of others and our own. Generous and loving God, we offer up these prayers to you knowing you will always listen.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us go now in peace and love, ready to serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Pope Francis told us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#)

Let us go forth from here sharing the light of hope a grace filled life can offer.

All: **God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.**

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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Readings: Genesis 18:1-10; Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42.

Friday

Today's Daily Prayer – Never see a need without doing something about it

Today is the Solemnity of Saint Mary of the Cross. Mary MacKillop was a truly inspiring person and was the first Australian to be canonised a saint, by Pope Benedict XVI on 17 October 2010.

Preparation: Choose voices for the parts that are written for the Leader and the Reader, copies of the prayer for all and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: Let us pause and call to mind God's loving presence within us and among us.

(Pause)

We begin prayer by making the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Leader: On this day of remembering and celebrating Mary MacKillop, let us pray as one the Opening Prayer or Collect for this Solemnity:

God, source of all goodness, you have shown us in Saint Mary of the Cross a woman of faith living by the power of the Cross. Teach us, we pray, by her example, to live the Gospel in changing times and to respect and defend the human dignity of all in our land. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Words from Mary MacKillop

Mary MacKillop spoke of God as a God of tender love and a God who takes care of us in all our needs. Mary had a strong faith and was aware of the need to nurture her faith so that she would grow in God's love. Mary MacKillop was a woman who constantly reached out to those in need. Mary left a legacy of writings for her community of sisters. Key quotes from these are and have



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been a source of inspiration and comfort to many. Let us take time to listen to three of her quotes. In between each of the quotes, there will be a time of silence.

Reader:

Never see a need without doing something about it.

(Silence)

Courage, courage, trust in God who helps you in all things.

(Silence)

Believe in the whisperings of God to your own heart.

(Silence)

Respond

Reflecting on the Words of Mary MacKillop

Leader: Let us take time to reflect on these words of Mary MacKillop:

- Why do you think they were important to her?
(Time for silent reflection)
- How are they relevant to you and your life?
(Time for silent reflection)
- How can you live these words?
(Time for silent reflection)



Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop painting by C Clohesy

Go Forth

Litany to Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Leader: Saint Mary of the Cross.

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Woman of faith.

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All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: Woman of courage.

All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: Woman of wisdom.

All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: Saint Mary of the Cross.

All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: May God continue to lead us.

All: **As our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.**

Pope Francis told us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#)

All: **God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.**

Leader: Let us go now in peace and love, ready to serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Additional Resources

Alternative response:

[‘A Tribute to Mary MacKillop’ by Monica Brown.](#)

After watching the video, ask those gathered to engage in prayerfully sharing a word or a phrase from the lyrics that touched their hearts or spoke to them about this amazing saint.

An additional song is [‘Saint Mary MacKillop’ by Gary Pinto](#)

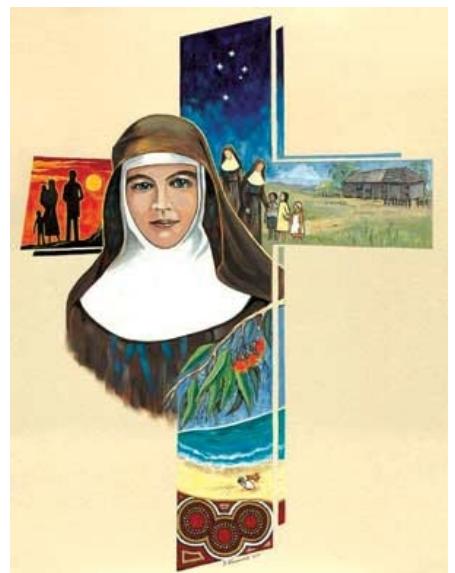


Image: Our Lady of Lourdes Church Parish Logo – Dorothy Woodward rsj, 2015.