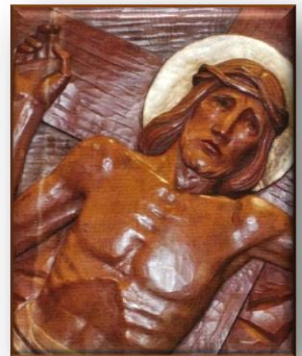


Station 11 : Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

“The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him some sour wine, and saying: ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’”

Luke 23:36



Finally Jesus arrives at the place of crucifixion. It is now time for Jesus to face the intense physical suffering of this form of death. It was the practice to offer the condemned man wine mixed with myrrh to ease the pain, or perhaps to actually prolong the time before death. Jesus refuses this offer as the crowd taunt him with possibility that Elijah come to save him. Jesus in his last moments commends his spirit into the hands of the God who loves him.

Moments in the life of Mary MacKillop

“Lean on God.”

Mary MacKillop 1871

Excommunication is the most serious penalty that the Church can inflict upon an individual. It is the penalty for a very grave offence, and deprives an individual of all participation in the sacraments. On September 22nd, 1871, Mary MacKillop was wrongly excommunicated by Bishop Sheil on the grounds that, “she had incited the sisters to disobedience and defiance.” As a result of this excommunication Mary MacKillop and forty-seven Sisters were also expelled from the Sisters of St Joseph. Yet despite the serious nature of this event Mary MacKillop keeps focused on God. She recalls, “I do not know how to describe the feeling but that I was intensely happy and felt nearer to God than I had ever felt before. I can only dimly remember the things that were said to me, but the sensation of the calm, beautiful presence of God I shall never forget.”

Moments in my life ...

- ✦ In this moment: first name, then try to embrace the crosses in your life, God is there in the midst of them.
- ✦ How does it feel to have God present?

Take a moment to reflect in silence upon these aspects of your life. It is tempting to run from suffering, to do anything to avoid it, yet suffering is part of the human condition. God is present with us in those dark moments. As you identify the pain in your own life let God love you.

Prayer

Jesus you embrace the suffering of the cross in order to transform it. Help me to understand that in the midst of your brokenness is abundant life. In times of suffering let me find a place of refuge and healing within the compassionate heart of God. May I be open to your grace shown to me through the care and concern of others.

Forgive me Lord for the times that I have created barriers, refusing to allow others to minister to me when I need help. Give me the desire to be an instrument of your healing love for others. Help me to be open to the possibility of transformed faith in you.

Stations of the Cross: A Journey with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Valerie DeBrenni

Available for purchase @ \$7.95 from Mary MacKillop Place Bookshop, Mount Street, North Sydney, or on line:

<https://www.sosj.org.au/product/stations-of-the-cross-a-journey-with-st-mary-of-the-cross-mackillop/>

Image: Station 11, Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel, North Sydney