

Station 13 : Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

“Joseph of Arimathea, a respected councillor, who was also looking for the kingdom of God, took courage, came in before Pilate and requested the body of Jesus.”

(Mark 15:43)

It was not the normal practice for the Romans to hand over a corpse for an honourable burial, but rather to throw it into a common grave. However Joseph of Arimathea requests, and is given, the body of Jesus. Mark tells us that Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus watched from a distance taking careful note of where the body had been laid. We can only imagine why the other disciples are not present, perhaps fear had overcome them.



Moments in the life of Mary MacKillop

“Believe in the whisperings of God to your own heart.” Mary MacKillop 1868

The excommunication of Mary MacKillop must have felt like the end for many of her Sisters. Sisters were forbidden to wear their habits and were unable to continue to teach or work in parishes. Mary herself was forced to move from place to place until she was given sanctuary by the Jesuit Fathers at Norwood. Yet despite these trials Mary and her Sisters maintained a deep trust that in the end all would be well.

Moments in my life ...

- + Reflect on a moment in your life that felt like failure
- + How do I respond at such times?

Take a moment to reflect in silence upon these aspects of your life. Times when we feel a failure can be times of real growth if we are open to the possibility of a new beginning. During such times it is easy to be consumed and paralysed by fear. What is required is the courage to enter time and again into the waves of dying and rising that are part of life.

Prayer

Jesus, your death upon the cross and resurrection transformation reminds me of the transformative possibilities in my own life. Give me the courage to let go of my resistance to change, may I be ever open to the break-through of new beginnings so that I can be open to the delight of surprise.

Forgive me Lord for the times when my inner critic keeps me bound in self doubt. When things don't work out as I expect may I be open to your healing redemptive love. Remove from me all that blocks my acceptance of your offer of new life, a new way of being.

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/>

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