

4. TREASURE OF OUR CHURCH page 18-20

Session Outcome: Pilgrims become familiar with and deepen their appreciation of the significant people, places and history in their faith community.

SONG: How Great Thou Art / Whakaaria Mai

Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

***Then sings my soul my saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art x 2***

When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Whakaaria mai, Tōu rīpeka ki au
Tiaho mai, Ra roto i te pō
Hei kona au, Titiro atu ai.
Ora, mate, Hei au koe noho ai

(sing once to the tune of the verse, and once to the tune of the chorus)

***Translation of Maori - Show your cross to me.
Let it shine there in the darkness. To there I
will be looking. In life, in death, let me rest in thee.***

PRAYER: Mary MacKillop Prayer

Ever generous God,
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop
To live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus
Christ
and constant in bringing hope and
encouragement
to those who were disheartened, lonely or
needy.
With confidence in your generous providence
and through the intercession of Saint Mary
MacKillop
We ask that you grant our request to be with us
as we prepare for World Youth Day.
We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh
by the Holy Spirit
so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live
with courage, trust and openness.
Ever generous God hear our prayer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:43-47

God calls us to be in community with other believers
to share and celebrate our faith.



GROUP ACTIVITY: Treasure Hunt

INPUT FOR DISCUSSION: We belong to a community of believers who share faith and traditions which have been passed down for thousands of years, from generation to generation. Sometimes it can be easy to take this gift for granted, sometimes we are too busy and simply don't see the treasures we have right here in our homes, parishes, Diocese and country. This activity is a fun way to explore some of the treasures of the Catholic Church of Aotearoa.

ACTIVITY: Please complete the treasure hunt below – each group must take a photo at each destination point to use when making a presentation to the other pilgrims later. .

- 1. TEAM:** Your team leader will coordinate your group for this exercise and hold the group together for the remainder of the day. As we journey through the day let's look for the gifts each team member has and be willing to share these with each other. Decide on a team name and create a team banner to take with you as you journey today.
- 2. DIOCESAN CENTRE:** Starting at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre. Find (a) the Maori Pou that were originally erected in Auckland Domain for Pope John Paul II's visit to New Zealand in 1986 and (b) the stained glass window inviting a saint to pray for John Baptist Pompallier. Which saint is called upon for prayer? Who is our current Auckland Bishop?
- 3. CATHEDRAL:** Go to St Patrick's Cathedral. What year was the present Cathedral built? What item is on display that was worn by Pope John Paul II when he celebrated Mass at Auckland Domain in 1986? Find out three interesting facts about the Cathedral and be prepared to share these with the rest of the group when you return to Pompallier Centre.
- 4. SAINTS:** Saints are our role models, the ancestors of our faith. Saint Mary MacKillop is Australasia's first saint. We know that she would have prayed at both St Patrick's Cathedral and St Benedict's Parish in Newton where her Sisters of St Joseph lived and taught. What connections can you find to Mary MacKillop at or near St Benedict's Parish in Newton? What organisation now operates from the house where the Sisters of St Joseph lived? Chat about the information provided while in the car – what are three facts you would like to share?
- 5. GO TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP:** Go to the top of Mt Eden – take a picture of the view with team members in the foreground, including as much of the city as you can! Read Matt 5:14-16 and use the message of this scripture in your presentation. Use the lectio divina tradition to really identify what this scripture says to you today.
- 6. RETREATS:** For which retreat centre in Auckland is the logo shown to the right? They offer times of peace through retreats and on the first Wednesday evening of each month they offer Taize prayer. [Clue from St Patrick's Cathedral: On 30 December 1860 Pompallier returned from Europe with 8 men from this religious order.]
- 7. SERVICE ORGANISATIONS:** What are three different organisations that are helping to bring God's Kingdom to reality on earth (read Luke 4:18-19 to get a sense of what that might mean)? If your group was given \$10,000.00 to support one such organisation, who would you support? Why? .



Groups must be creative in their presentations - they may like to transform their photos and discoveries into a power point/dvd/song/drama etc.

TOOL FOR THE JOURNEY: LECTIO DIVINA (SPIRITUAL READING)

There is a long spiritual tradition and practice of reading scripture slowly and listening to what word or phrase seems to 'speak' to you.... this is understood as God speaking personally within you by the power of the spirit. A principle beneath the practice of 'Lectio Divina' is that one idea can change your life. It is not about volume or how much you read, but letting a word or phrase 'speak' to you. We become spiritually aware of a word or idea touching us inwardly, revealing something to us, about us, within us.



Give It A Go:

- Select the text (this could be a passage of scripture or a spiritual book or reading).
- Call upon the Holy Spirit to be with you during your time of reading.
- Read the passage through once.
- Read the passage slowly for a second time, taking note of anything that strikes you - a particular word or phrase or feeling associated with a word or phrase. What is the text saying to you? What stands out for you?
- Read the passage a third time. The word or phrase that speaks louder may stay the same or it may change this time. Either way, God is leading you to the words you need to hear. Again, listen to whatever thoughts or feelings are experienced.
- Return to a word or phrase that speaks to you and sit quietly with it for several minutes.
- Be generous in allowing silence; let God to speak through your thoughts, feelings and reflections.
- What is the message for you at this time (spend a few minutes writing and reflecting on this)?
- End this time of spiritual reading by praying in thanks for what you have heard from God.
- Try and ponder how you might live the word and message you have heard from God.

Remember:

- Don't be tempted to read too much. Spiritual reading is most of all slow reading and then listening.
- Sit and ponder and chew over one thing, in depth and in slow motion.
- Having heard a message or discovering a new insight, the invitation is to 'respond' by integrating it into your journey.