Blessed Mary MacKillop will be canonised as Australia and New Zealand’s first saint (Mary of the Cross MacKillop) in Rome on Sunday 17th October 2010.

In preparation for this wonderful day for the Church in Australia and New Zealand, the Sisters of St Joseph have prepared a number of resources available on their websites. There is also a regular free e-news to which one can subscribe. [http://www.sosj.org.au/](http://www.sosj.org.au/) and [www.marymackillop.org.au](http://www.marymackillop.org.au)


Mary’s story: Mary MacKillop dedicated her life to the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the first religious order to be founded by an Australian. Despite a vow of poverty and dependence on Divine Providence, Mary managed to make education available to the poor and the marginalised people of rural Australia. Mary MacKillop was born of Scottish parents, Alexander and Flora MacKillop, January 15, 1842 in Fitzroy, Victoria. The family went through many difficult times, often without a home of their own, depending on friends and relatives and frequently separated from one another. Mary was the eldest of eight children, and from the age of sixteen worked as a governess, clerk and teacher. While acting as a governess to her uncle’s children at Penola, Mary met Father Julian Tenison Woods who, with a parish of 56,000 square kilometres, needed help in the religious education of children in the outback. In 1866, at the age of 25, greatly inspired and encouraged by Father Woods, Mary opened the first Saint Joseph’s School in a disused stable in Penola. Young women came to join Mary, and so the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph was begun. In 1867, Mary was asked by Bishop Shiel to come to Adelaide to start a school. From there, the Sisters spread, in groups to small outback settlements and large cities around Australia, New Zealand, and now in Peru and Brazil.

(Cont. page 3)

“Never see a need without doing something about it”

Mary MacKillop’s motto in life

**SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH US!**

**WHAT IS YOUR PARISH OR SCHOOL PLANNING FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARY MACKILLOP’S CANONISATION? PLEASE SHARE THEM WITH OTHERS IN THE DIOCESE. EMAIL US WITH YOUR IDEAS!**

Contact: Sophy Morley (editor), Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Office, PO Box 103 Newborough Vic 3825. P: (03) 5126 1063 F: (03)5126 4399 E: smorley@sale.catholic.org.au
**Mary MacKillop**

**Module 1**

**An Australian Like Us**

**Module 2**

**An Australian Like Us**

**Module 3**

The deep love between Mary and her mother, Flora, shines through their letters. Mary always began with ‘My dearest Mamma’ and on August 14, 1866, reminded her mother of the importance of her example: ‘You so often sought, not by precept only but by example also, to impress on the minds of your children ... that “God will comfort you and that God will provide”.’


To access bulletin clips for each of the weeks leading up to the Canonisation on 17th October, go to CathNews [http://www.cathnews.com/Parish%20Bulletin.aspx](http://www.cathnews.com/Parish%20Bulletin.aspx)
Mary MacKillop – An Australian Like Us

Module 4

To bring some money into the poverty-stricken home, Mary MacKillop sought employment in Melbourne as a nursery governess and as clerk at Sands and Kenny the Stationers. In 1860, at age 18, she went to Penola (South Australia) as governess. Her writing style, teaching aptitude, and religious knowledge indicate that she was well-educated. In May, 1873 she would explain: ‘From (my father) I learnt so much. He had studied for seven years in Rome alone, and under the Jesuit fathers.’

Provided by Sr Marie White rsj of the Sisters of St Joseph - www.sosj.org.au. For further information, see www.marymackillop.org.au and www.cathnews.com.au

Mary’s story (continued)

Mary and these early Sisters, together with other Religious Orders and Lay Teachers of the time, had a profound influence on the forming of Catholic Education as we have come to know and experience it today. She also opened Orphanages, Providences to care for the homeless and destitute both young and old, and Refuges for ex-prisoners and ex-prostitutes who wished to make a fresh start in life.

In 1869 Mary with some of the Josephite sisters arrived in Brisbane. They were based at Kangaroo Point and took the ferry or rowed across the Brisbane River to attend Mass at old St Stephen’s Cathedral. She left Brisbane in 1871. The Josephite Congregation expanded rapidly, and by 1871 130 sisters were working in more than 40 schools and charitable institutions across South Australia and Queensland.

Throughout her life, Mary met with opposition from people outside the Church and even from some of those within it. In September 1871, Sheil excommunicated Sr Mary for alleged insubordination and attempted to disband the sisters. After five months, regretting his previous action, the Bishop removed the sentence nine days before his death, allowing the Josephites to continue their work.

Sister Mary travelled to Rome in 1873 to seek papal approval for the order and was encouraged in her work by Pope Pius IX. Whilst in Europe, Mary travelled widely to observe educational methods. During this period, the Josephites expanded their operations into New South Wales and New Zealand, and Mary relocated to Sydney in 1883 on the instruction of the Bishop of Adelaide. Pope Leo XIII gave the final approval to the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart in 1888. Blessed Mary was elected Superior General in 1875 and served in this position until removed by the Bishop of Sydney in 1885, and was again elected to head the order in 1899.

Even when faced with challenging times Blessed Mary refused to attack those who wrongly accused her and undermined her work, but continued in the way she believed God was calling her and was always ready to forgive those who wronged her.

Mary of the Cross died on August 8, 1909 in the convent in Mount Street, North Sydney where her tomb is now enshrined.

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Message from Bishop Christopher Prowse, Bishop of Sale

Dear Friends in Christ

As we all now know, on October 17, 2010, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, will canonise our (Blessed) Mary of the Cross MacKillop. In the preparation for this most historic moment for the Catholic Church in Australia, I ask all parishes, schools and communities to discuss how they are able to celebrate the canonisation of our first Australian saint at the local level.

I would expect at least two aspects to be represented in all such initiatives:

• **Historical aspect** - Increasing the knowledge of the life and enduring contribution of Blessed Mary of the Cross MacKillop;

• **Devotional aspect** - Maturing of the cult of Blessed Mary of the Cross MacKillop. We should encourage praying to her and invoking her intercession as one of the Saints of the Catholic Church. She will lead us to Jesus.

In time, I will notify you regarding some Diocesan events to celebrate the Canonisation in the Sale Diocese.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Christopher C Prowse DD
Sisters of St Joseph currently in our Diocese

Sr Doreen Dagge, Narre Warren
Sr Jose Noy, Iona-Maryknoll
Sr Maureen Philp, Lakes Entrance
Sr Christina Scannell, Pakenham
Sr Madeleine White, Orbost
Sr Rose Wood, Koo Wee Rup
Sr Lynette Young, Wonthaggi

We give thanks for the presence and witness of these Sisters and for all the Sisters of St Joseph who have lovingly and faithfully served this Diocese in years past.

Mary MacKillop Prayer

God of the pilgrim
Mary MacKillop trusted your guidance in her journey of life and deepened her confidence in your will.
May we renew our trust in your Providence to lead us in hope.
May we relish the sacred in the ordinariness of our lives.
May we grow in the fullness of your love and the depth of your mystery.
We ask this through Jesus Christ the way, the truth and the life.
Amen.

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Soul of the Sunburnt Country

The Sisters of St Joseph are pleased to announce the premiere screening of Soul of the Sunburnt Country, the first and the most comprehensive documentary ever produced that profiles the life of Mary MacKillop and the dynamic and significant work that the Sisters of St Joseph continue to undertake in her name across Australia and around the world. Produced by acclaimed Melbourne based documentary makers Albert Street Productions, Soul Of The Sunburnt Country offers never before seen images and archival material, candid interviews and “access-all-areas” footage to give a rare insight into the life and legacy of Australia’s first saint and the history behind and ongoing work of, the congregation she founded. The fascinating documentary also profiles the important and vital role the Sisters of St Joseph have played and continue to play in education, welfare, pastoral care and community development across regional and rural Australia and throughout towns and cities across the world. Copies of the DVD are available for purchase for $29.95 at the Mary MacKillop Museum, North Sydney and at Mary MacKillop Heritage Museums and Heritage Centres across Australia.

Go to the Sisters of St Joseph website (above) for contact details of your State’s Heritage Centre.

http://www.sosj.org.au/

Mary MacKillop Bronze
St Mary’s Cathedral, Sale
Artist: Annemieke Mein, commissioned on the occasion of the Beatification of Blessed Mary MacKillop 1995
Image © Catholic Diocese of Sale