Schools Committee: Canonisation Celebrations

As well as celebrations arranged by the diocese (see attached), celebrations of this historic event have also been planned at the school level. Please let Dr Rose Duffy csb know what your school community has in mind so that it can be shared with others and, possibly included on the CEOSale Website.

Schools may have also decided to celebrate in regional groups

Some ideas for schools:

1. Bronze IMAGE of Mary MacKillop has been adopted as a distinctive image for the canonisation celebrations in this diocese. It was commissioned for St Mary’s Cathedral in honour of the Beatification of Blessed Mary Mackillop in 1995. (See fuller explanation of image attached).

A DIGITAL PHOTO of this image will be forwarded and you may choose to use it on prayer cards/sheets/bookmarks/candles. It could be enlarged into a framed picture if your school does not have one.

2. MEMENTO for each student e.g. a medal on chain or leather cord; prayer card; bookmarks; badge. The Mary Mackillop Centres in Melbourne and North Sydney have a large range of memorabilia.


3. FRAMED PRINT from the Catholic Weekly Gift shop for $49


We must hold ourselves in readiness for God’s will, whichever way things go.
(Mary MacKillop 1867)
CELEBRATIONS BY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES AS A DIOCESE

Suggestions have been made as to how the school community of the diocese as a whole might celebrate. (Please forward any additional ideas so that they can be considered by the Schools Committee).

The following suggestions have already been made:

THANKSGIVING RITUAL HONOURING ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP

At 12.00 on Monday 18 Oct, the day following the canonisation, each school community throughout the diocese would gather around an image of Mary MacKillop for a ritual honouring our saint, followed by a BBQ or other culinary treat!

The ritual would consist of the following elements:

- A decorated image of Mary MacKillop
- The Paschal Candle
- Appropriate music and songs
- Each student to bring their own decorated candle-of-hope, in thanksgiving for the hope which Mary MacKillop has given to us and a pledge of their readiness to follow her in bringing hope to the world.
- In class groups, students place their candles before the image as they enter the room/hall/chapel/church

RITUAL FORMAT:

- An inspirational presentation about Mary MacKillop would be given (perhaps a PowerPoint)
- An appropriate Scripture reading would be read.
- Prayers of intercession asking for Mary MacKillop’s protection and help to follow Christ as she did.
- Some students may role play how Mary lived this out in her life.
- In response, class leaders would light the students candles of the class as appropriate songs are sung.
- Final prayer.
- Blessing of mementoes. Class teachers would then collect them and give one to each student.

If we have love in our hearts, We shall have God with us
(Mary MacKillop 1890)
SCHOOLS' PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

Two students from six of the Secondary schools, together with a Secondary teacher and Dr Rose Duffy cso, will be travelling with students from the Archdiocese of Melbourne and the Diocese of Sandhurst to the canonisation in Rome.

Some students and staff of Mary MacKillop College, Leongatha are travelling to Rome with other members of the Australian Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools (AJASS) group.

The college has already chosen the students and staff who will be attending. They are: Michael Brennan and Fran Backman (staff); Alana Green (yr 12), Megan Ryan (Yr11), Kaylee Appleyard (Yr 11) and Nick Gartland (Yr 9).

COMMISSIONING OF PILGRIMS

All diocesan pilgrims - not only those from schools - are invited to this commissioning which will be conducted by Bishop Prowse on Wednesday 6 Oct at the Catholic Education Office Teachers' Centre, at 7.00pm. Parents of the students are also most welcome.

DIOCESAN MASS of THANKSGIVING

This will be organised by the diocese (not the Schools’ Committee). Anyone from the diocese is welcome to attend. It is a celebration by the whole diocesan community and members of the school communities form part of that. It will take place at a date yet to be set, after the pilgrims return.

MARY MACKILLOP SCHOLARSHIPS

Because of Mary’s commitment to the education of the poor, it has been suggested that annual scholarships be established for a Secondary and Primary student nominated by Principals.

We must teach more by example than by word
(Mary MacKillop 1867)
A REGIONAL CELEBRATION: SOUTH GIPPSLAND REGION

On the Canonisation Day, October 17, a College Expo Day will be held at Mary MacKillop College. This will celebrate the work of the College.

The activities of the day will include:
Early afternoon: Regional celebration of the Eucharist in the College multi-purpose hall
Mid afternoon: Expo and extra curricula activities, including Religious Education display
6.00 – 7.00 pm BBQ and picnic dinner. All welcome
Early evening: Arts/ crafts auction of student work based on the life of Mary MacKillop.
Live feed of Canonisation celebrations from Rome. Messages from pilgrims in Rome.

Other initiatives at Mary MacKillop College
Commissioning of a quilt
The possible commissioning of a major artwork for the College, as a commemoration of the life of Mary MacKillop
The possible of building a brick wall for the College. Parents and students will be invited to purchase a brick and the funds raised will support the College’s pilgrims to the canonisation.

For further information and to share your school’s planned celebrations please contact:
Dr Rose Duffy csb rduffy@ceosale.catholic.edu.au
or direct line (03) 5622 6624

Wherever we may be, let God’s glory absorb our thoughts, deliberations and actions.
(Mary MacKillop 1898)
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/ and 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 canonization – Church Resources, in collaboration with the Sisters of St Joseph, has prepared a series of bulletin clips about Mary MacKillop for each week leading up to the Canonization in Rome on 17th October 2010.

The Mary MacKillop Story
Prepared for Parish Bulletins in Australia & New Zealand
by Sr Marie White rsj on behalf of the Sisters of St Joseph. Published by CathNews.

Mary MacKillop – An Australian Like Us  Module 1
Born in Melbourne on January 15, 1842, of Scottish migrant parents, Mary was the eldest of eight children. Her mother, Flora (McDonald), a strong and courageous woman, had amazing trust in God’s Providence. Her ‘schoolmaster’ father, Alexander, was unsuccessful in business. In 1873, Mary wrote: ‘My life as a child was one of sorrow, my home when I had it a most unhappy one… When I was a little more than sixteen years of age, the principal care of a large family fell upon me, and … I felt its burden yearly more and more.’

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

Mary MacKillop – An Australian Like Us  Module 2
Mary’s father, Alexander, was often caught up in speculative ventures but his lack of business sense, combined with passionate idealism (including forays into politics), led to temporary periods of slight prosperity but ended in insolvency. Unable to support his wife and children, a dispirited Alexander moved away. With compassionate love for him, Mary wrote to her mother in 1867: ‘I do feel for his lonely state.’ In 1868, with his loving wife Flora at his side, Alexander died in Hamilton, Victoria.

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

Mary MacKillop – 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”.’

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

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

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Mary MacKillop – An Australian Like Us

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
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 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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www.marymackillop.org.au

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Bas-relief bronze sculpture commissioned by The Most Reverend Jeremiah J. Coffey B.A., D.D., Bishop of Sale, for the Catholic Diocese of Sale.

Notes on the design for the bas-relief bronze 'MARY MacKILLOP' to hang in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sale.

By Annemieke Mein, O.A.M
August 1994
MARY MacKILLOP (1842 - 1909)

BRONZE SCULPTURE

Research and Design - June - August 1994
Clay Modelling and Bronze Casting - August - .......... 1994

DESIGN MEASUREMENTS

Minimum wall space required - 116(w) x 107(h) cm.

Bronze in two parts
(a) Main area - 55(w) x 80(h) cm.
(b) Smaller area - 67(w) x 46(h) cm.

The two bronze works have been designed to be able to be grouped in three different positions to suit the available wall space most effectively. Also, to allow for relocation at a later date if deemed necessary or appropriate for logistics with worshippers.

Of the three different grouping positions possible, I prefer the extended J shape (the tip of the gum buds corresponds and aligns with the tip of the Mary MacKillop signature page).

DESIGN LEVELS

(a) VERTICAL LEVEL
   (i) the vertical bar of the Josephite Cross.
   (ii) the spine of the 'Visitation' book.
(b) HORIZONTAL LEVEL
   (i) the horizontal line of the Josephite Cross.
   (ii) not visual.
(c) EYE LEVEL
   The relic insertion on the main bronze.
(d) LIGHT SOURCE
   I recommend that a small overhead spotlight be installed to illuminate the bronze (particularly important if the bronze can be hung in the old church entrance foyer as there is not much available light there).
MARY MacKILLOP (1842 - 1909)

PRIORITIES AND AIMS OF THE DESIGN BRIEF

My priorities, in accordance with the commission brief, with direction from the Sisters of St. Joseph and Bishop Coffey are:

(a) An extraordinary woman, a religious Sister, foundress of the Sisters of St. Joseph of The Sacred Heart, and to be Australia’s first Saint - hence the design shape, the portrait, the flow of the veil, the Order’s emblem and the Holy Bible.

(b) An Australian - hence the eucalypt leaves, buds, blossoms and nuts. Her influence in Gippsland was profound. Consequently I’ve chosen the species ‘Southern Blue Gum’ which is indigenous to the Gippsland area. This eucalypt arrangement is designed to have the viewer instantly recognise her as an Australian.

(c) A dedicated teacher, an educator and relentless social welfare worker for improvements to human suffering and lifestyles - hence the arrangement of books and papers featuring the Holy Bible, the Horarium, Visitation record book and a Josephite Constitution (‘The Rule’) book. Her life’s work was for the betterment of all people, particularly the most unfortunate.

(d) Inclusion of the Relic into the bronze sculpture. This (secondary) relic is a fragment of Mary MacKillop’s old cedar coffin. The precious relic is to be set inside a layer of embedding resin (to protect it from the elements) and then it will be fastened to the bronze sculpture at a point approximate to Mary MacKillop’s heart.

(e) The bronze sculpture should inspire a sense of religious devotion, be sensitive, uncluttered, and elegant in keeping with Mary MacKillop’s life’s work and life of poverty.
SCULPTOR’S DESIGN THOUGHTS

1. TOTAL OVERALL SHAPE (in two parts)

The first part of the bronze features Mary MacKillop, the woman, the religious Sister, the foundress of the Josephites, the Saint-to-be, as well as the extraordinary Australian. The second part of the bronze features her life’s work in education and social welfare along with her strength to overcome hardships.

The total design is based on the letter J standing for Josephite (The Sisters of St. Joseph of The Sacred Heart). The Josephites have three J’s in their emblem or trademark (standing for Jesus, Joseph and John the Baptist). So, appropriately, I have discreetly designed three Js into the bronze. As viewed face-on,

(a) curve of the left side of the veil.
(b) curve of the right side of the veil leading into a turned gum leaf.
(c) the combined shape of the two bronzes from the top of the right veil, through the gum leaf to the blossoms and buds, to the point of the Mary MacKillop signature page and through the books to the upturned leaf.

The overall shape is designed to flow down the wall maximising the potential of the available space.

The whole design has been deliberately left free and open (i.e. without solid or confining shaped edges such as a square or oval backing would create) to symbolise the lifestyle of the Sisters of St. Joseph compared to the more common monastic convent orders of the time.
2. PORTRAIT

I am aiming to portray her many personal attributes with the strength and empathy that she gave to the people and to the Sisters of her Order as a devoted Sister of St. Joseph of The Sacred Heart.

The face is approximately life-size and depicts Mother Mary MacKillop in about 1882 when she was 40 years old and at the height of her vocation.

Her distinctive facial features are
  (a) the differing size of her eyes (the right eye being perceptively smaller than the left).
  (b) heavier right eyelid.
  (c) the shape and angle of her lips including the midline groove of the upper lip (giving her sensitive closed lips a mystical, almost 'Mona Lisa'-like expression).

The coif, band and veil frame and encircle her beautiful face.

I have also deliberately tilted her head to enhance a sense of loving, endearment and humbleness. (This was inspired by early photographs of Mary MacKillop which often show her with her head slightly tilted).

Also, and most appropriately, the colour of the finished brown bronze sculpture is very similar to the colour of the brown habits worn by the Josephites. They were then endearingly called 'Brown Joeys'.

3. VEIL

The veil has been designed to hang in the shape of the letter J (a symbol used throughout the bronze sculpture and by the Sisters of St. Joseph). Both the left and right sides of the veil have the J form (see earlier notes). This idea was inspired by the delightful story told to me by Sister Theresa Stubbs (of the Mary MacKillop Pilgrim Centre, Melbourne) of how she used to put new cardboard strips up between the layers of fabric every Sunday to keep a smooth shape to the sides of the veil. On Mary MacKillop's left side, the back of the veil has been swept out a little as though it has been caught by a light breeze. This was done to balance the shape of the tilt of her head and face, and so as not to have her look as though she is falling over.

The veil shape gives the bronze sculpture natural flowing lines that will guide the eye around the whole design. It also radiates qualities of saintliness with an ethereal look. It is elegant without extravagance, and helps create a serene and sensitive portrait.
4. THE EMBLEM OR TRADEMARK - 'Mary of the Cross'

I decided to feature this quite proudly, simply and yet dominantly as Mary MacKillop was the foundress of the Order, and, because it is the symbol that all Josephite Sisters wear today (in the form of a brooch or pendant).

Originally, Mary and her Sisters wore the central part of the emblem (appliqued in blue) on the front of their habits with a crucifix tucked into their belts.

When habits were discarded for ordinary clothing in 1980s, the brooch or pendant became the distinguishing 'badge'.

In the design, the Josephite emblem becomes an instant 'visual' to Mary MacKillop's life vocation, the Church and her Order.

5. THE RELIC

The precious relic was given to me to incorporate into the sculpture by Sister Theresa Stubbs R.S.J. at the Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage Centre, Melbourne on 21 July 1994.

I felt the placement of the relic was crucial to the overall design so that both the bronze sculpture and the wooden relic would harmonise and compliment each other.

Consequently, I have placed it below the curve of the veil and over the (theoretical) position of her heart.

The relic is a small piece of Mary MacKillop's original cedar coffin. On 20 December 1993, her remains were raised from the crypt and transferred to a newly constructed shrine in the Chapel of St. Joseph's Convent, Mount St., North Sydney.

In the intervening 85 years, the cedar wood has greatly deteriorated and so was too fragile to leave exposed to the elements or to human handling. After discussion with conservators and curators of old wooden artefacts, and with permission from the Sisters of St. Joseph, it was resolved that my husband (Phillip Mein) would set a small piece of the relic in a layer of embedding resin. (The embedding resin has a polished see-through appearance like glass, and so would not detract from the wood itself). Then the relic can be safely attached to the bronze sculpture in the space provided.
6. EUCALYPTS

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1842. She became an extraordinary Australian woman - in her lifetime and is so recognised today. She is an Australian for all Australians.

I toyed with many ideas on how to instantly and visually ‘brand’ her sculpture as ‘an Australian woman’.

I believe the overall eucalypt theme has done this successfully and elegantly, and will relate well to most viewers.

I also find the gums surrounding her appropriate to her life as she was often out in the bush or travelling throughout Australia. Some Gippsland and Catholic-educated friends have told me how often ‘a bunch of gum leaves’ was a common sight in the schoolroom in their youth - and they were all educated by Josephites.

Because the bronze sculpture is to hang in St. Mary’s Cathedral, Sale, I chose the eucalypt species Southern Blue Gum (E. globulus). The Southern Blue Gum is a huge stately tree common to Gippsland, although many ancient forests have given way to pasture or farm lands.

Large glossy leaves hang over Mary MacKillop’s left shoulder and continue this theme to the second part of the sculpture. The viewer will note that they are not all ‘perfect’ leaves. Many have had bites taken out of them and yet they look more ‘alive’ because of these holes and blemishes. I liken these to the personal trials, conflicts and sorrows that Mary MacKillop endured during her life and how she overcame all odds and rose above them with great dignity.

Each stage from gum bud, gum blossom to gumnut has also been portrayed to represent the nurturing care that she (and her Order) gave to so many people, as well as the passing of time. As Sister Lynette Young succinctly put it ‘like the stages of coming to life; we meet people where they are and we try to help them move into the next stage of life’.

7. BOOKS, PAPERS, DOCUMENTS

The books, papers and documents in the second part to the bronze design are a very important feature in relation to Mary MacKillop’s life. They represent her life’s vocation to education and social welfare.

Mary MacKillop, and the Sisters of St. Joseph, have given an invaluable contribution to education throughout Australia and New Zealand. In my area alone in Gippsland, Victoria, some 21 parishes established Josephite schools staffed by the Josephite Sisters. No wonder their name is synonymous with Catholic education.
On top of the pile of books is a Holy Bible in honour of her religion and code of life
and living. A simple cross is embossed on the front cover.

The slim book underneath the Bible is a HORARIUM (a Latin word for ‘hours in the
day’) - called a ‘Time-table’ today. Apparently the Sisters of St. Joseph were ahead
of their time in arranging a healthy balance between the three Rs and relaxation
periods such as singing and exercise. Josephite teachers were the mainstay of
Primary Catholic education in Gippsland from 1908 to the 1970s. Two local schools
have been named after Mary MacKillop - Leongatha Secondary College and
Narrewarren North Primary School.

Mary MacKillop was well educated herself with a very apt way of expressing
herself. Many of her letters and accounts survive today. The sheets of paper and
documents underneath the Horarium represent her correspondence with family,
friends, Sisters and the clergy. The bottom sheet of paper has been angled so as to
expose her signature and her distinctive handwriting. I have deliberately only
included a small pile of papers as she was such a conservationist of paper. Also,
the pile of papers has been placed so as to appear somewhat protruding and
bending off a flat surface, symbolising the delicate balance of control over her basic
principles within ‘The Rule’, and through some difficult times.

The book standing up, central in the design, is a ‘Visitations’ book. It is the vertical
‘anchor’ to the design in recognition to Mary MacKillop’s important social welfare
activities. Children, families, homes, factory-workers, street-dwellers, hospitals,
jails, poor houses, businesses and the sick were visited wherever the Josephite
Sisters heard the need. Their pastoral care was of immeasurable value to the
needy. The cover of the Visitation book shows a humble Josephite Sister, holding
hands with two children while a third one walks away - this little chap still needs
help. A Sister’s work never ends!

Standing beside the Visitation book is a Constitution or ‘The Rule’ for the Josephite
way of life - ‘a life of devotion, sacrifice and poverty, so as to be of maximum help to
the needy’. I plan to have the Order’s emblem (or trademark) engraved on the
spine of the cover to clearly signify its content.

The gum leaves, buds, blossoms and nuts continue the Australian/Gippsland
theme from the first part of the bronze and help to aesthetically balance the papers
and books.

One little eaten leaf turns up and points heavenwards, and back to the portrait of
Mary MacKillop.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to the many people who helped me complete the Mary MacKillop bronze design and sculpture.

I particularly thank the Gippsland Sisters of St. Joseph of The Sacred Heart and Bishop Coffey, for the trust they invested in me to complete this commission with empathy.

Individual thanks must go to:
Sr. Lynette Young R.S.J.,
Sr. Audrey Thomson R.S.J.,
Sr. Maureen O’Kelly R.S.J.,
Sr. Theresa Stubbs R.S.J.,
Sr. Margaret Wise R.S.J.,
Sr. Margaret Brown R.S.J.,
The Right Reverend Monsignor J. P. Allman, V.G.,
The Gatt family of A.N.P.A.S.,
Peter Synan,
Terry Synan,
Charles McCubbin,
Bruno Kappenberger,
Serra Club of Sale,
Phillip Mein.

There have been times when I’ve felt Mary MacKillop work through my hands - for this astonishing feeling, I thank her too!