

- 1** MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE  
START/FINISH  
362 Albert Street, East Melbourne
- 2** BIRTH SITE  
7 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy
- 3** ST MARY OF THE CROSS SQUARE  
10-12 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy
- 4** ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL  
1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne
- 5** FIRST PROVIDENCE  
5 La Trobe Street, Melbourne
- 6** ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA  
8 La Trobe Street, Melbourne
- 7** CUMBERLAND PLACE SCHOOL  
18-28 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
- 8** "LITTLE LON."  
13-37 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
- 9** ST. FRANCIS' CATHOLIC CHURCH  
326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne



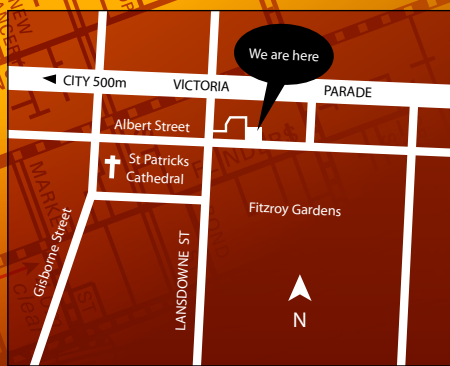
# Mary MacKillop's Walking Tour



## A Tourist walk through Mary MacKillop's Melbourne.

Mary MacKillop is a child of Melbourne. She was born in Brunswick Street in Fitzroy and spent the first 18 years of her life living in this amazing city. She was formed by Melbourne in all its hustle and bustle of the gold rush era. Her family life in this burgeoning city was spent in transient poverty but always enfolded in the comforting arms of family and clothed in the unwavering faith in a Provident God.

Her return to her home state took a number of years, but Mary stamped her city with the indelible mark of the Sisters of St. Joseph in establishing schools for the poor, refuges for women and children, and homes for boys and girls who had no-one else to look after them. Take a walk down Mary's streets and see Melbourne as she did. Let Mary's story become a part of your own journey . . .



Open Weekdays 10am - 4pm  
Closed Public Holidays, other times by appointment

## MARY MACKILLOP WALKING TOUR



Mary MacKillop  
HERITAGE CENTRE

362 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002  
PHONE 03 9926 9300 EMAIL [mmhc@sosj.org.au](mailto:mmhc@sosj.org.au)



Mary MacKillop  
HERITAGE CENTRE





# Life of Mary MacKillop

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne on January 15th, 1842. Her parents, Alexander MacKillop and Flora MacDonald had emigrated from Scotland and were married in St. Francis' Catholic Church in Melbourne. Mary's childhood was one of hardship as the family were poor and relied on the help of relatives and friends. Whilst growing up, Mary lived in eighteen houses in fifteen years. Mary started working at age 14 for the L'Estrange family as a governess and for a number of years was the breadwinner for her family. Mary worked for the stationers, Sands and Kenny, in Melbourne before moving to Penola in South Australia where she eventually became a teacher.



Her passion for helping people and genuinely upholding the human dignity of all led to her motto to "never see a need without doing something about it". Her love for her God impelled her to devote her life to her faith and she began the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Penola as a teaching order of religious Sisters. Father Julian Tenison Woods, the Parish Priest of Penola assisted her in

beginning what was to become her life's work. A humble rundown stable was the site of the first Josephite school. The work grew, first in South Australia, then across Australia and New Zealand as Mary was joined by many like minded women who lived in isolated communities and dedicated themselves to teaching and assisting the poor and the isolated. Mary kept in touch with the sisters by mail, and by visiting when she could. Mary's work and idealism challenged the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in her time, but her unwavering faith saw her through many difficulties.

Mary was assisted by Catholics and non-Catholics which enabled her to serve the poor in schools, orphanages, soup kitchens, children's homes, and refuges. Mary returned to Victoria in 1889 to continue the work of the Sisters of St. Joseph here. Commencing in Numurkah in country Victoria, she soon established the sisters in Bacchus Marsh, Surrey Hills, East Melbourne, Footscray, Yarraville, Williamstown, Newport and Broadmeadows. Mary's legacy lives on today in the work of the Sisters of St. Joseph and those who follow Mary's example, not only in Australia but in Brazil, Peru, East Timor, New Zealand, Ireland and Scotland. Mary MacKillop died on August 8th, 1909 in Sydney and was canonised a saint on October 17th, 2010.

## 4 ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne

St Patricks Cathedral was commenced by Bishop James Goold and was consecrated in 1897 by Archbishop Thomas Carr. It is the Centre of Worship for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, and is built on a traditional east – west axis. The plan is in the form of a Latin cross and the altar is at the eastern end to symbolize the resurrection of Christ. The proximity of St. Patrick's cathedral to the East Melbourne Providence means that Mary MacKillop would have spent time at prayer here. There is a simple shrine to Mary MacKillop in the St. Joseph's Chapel, reflecting her great devotion to St. Joseph. There is a further commemoration of Mary MacKillop's life in the grounds of the Cathedral in the face of one of the cathedrals gargoyles which was restored by a stonemason in the likeness of Mary MacKillop. In August 2012, also in the Cathedral grounds, Archbishop Hart unveiled a statue of St Mary MacKillop by local sculptor, Louis Laumen. The statue depicts a young, vibrant Mary MacKillop stepping out with the Word of God in her hand, as she commences her ministry as a Sister of St Joseph.

It is valuable to contemplate the humble beginnings of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in a stable school in Penola, South Australia and compare these to the great Cathedral where Mary spent time in prayer. In all things, both great and small, Mary found the God she loved and thus inspiration for her work.

## 5 FIRST PROVIDENCE

5 LaTrobe Street Melbourne

A plaque remembers the work established by Mary MacKillop in the early 1890's - a night school for children and a House of Providence for unemployed women. Soup and clothing were distributed with the help of good Ladies who lived in Melbourne. In 1892 the Sisters advertised a home for unemployed servants and the providence moved to 'Nottingham Place' at 535 Victoria Parade and then to 'Floraston' at 39 Victoria Parade where women and girls employed in warehouses could also board. It existed there for 10 years before moving to 362 Albert Street East Melbourne at the end of 1902.

## 6 ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

1-9 Victoria Street Melbourne

The Royal Society of Victoria is Victoria's oldest continuous scientific society whose aim has been the promotion and advancement of science. Fr. Julian Tenison Woods, the co-founder with Mary MacKillop of the Sisters of St. Joseph, was a noted scientist as well as being a Catholic priest. Some of his scientific papers are held here.

## 1 Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre

START/FINISH  
362 Albert Street East Melbourne

The Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre was originally a House of Providence. Built in 1901 and opened in 1902 at the request of Archbishop Carr, Mary purchased the land for this building from the Doctor next door and proceeded to raise the funds necessary to build it. (She described herself as the beggar in chief in Melbourne). The term Providence meant, for Mary and the Sisters, that God will provide. They had great faith and trust that all they needed to continue their work would be given to them by God, through the generosity of those around them. The Providence was a refuge for women and children who had nowhere else safe to live. The Doctor's residence was purchased by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1920 to supplement the accommodation to meet demand. Mary lived here for a short time when visiting Melbourne. Today both buildings are heritage listed and have been beautifully restored as the centerpiece of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre which houses a significant exhibition in the four galleries that comprise the Museum.

## 2 BIRTH SITE

7 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

Mary was born right here in Marino Cottage on January 15th, 1842. She is a child of Melbourne. She lived in places such as Darebin Creek, Merri Creek, Clunes, Glenroy, Collingwood and Shamrock Street in Richmond. Mary knew what it was like to be poor and to have no one place to call home. Through it all, however, her family and faith were her strength and her inspiration. Mary's parents emigrated to Australia from Lochaber in Scotland looking for a new beginning and escaping the desperate hardship that existed there. Marino Cottage provided a haven for them, a safe and solid cocoon from which to begin their life together in their new country. Unfortunately, the combination of the prevailing economic conditions, and some lack of financial judgment on Alexander's part, led them away from this haven when Mary was a mere baby, a few months old.

## 7 CUMBERLAND PLACE SCHOOL

18-28 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

The Cumberland Place School was established in 1897 by the Sister's of St. Joseph to teach the poorest of the poor. It was commonly known as the Catholic Poor School. The school was supported financially by Archbishop Thomas Carr who shared Mary MacKillop's passion for education for the poor. Children were accepted no matter their religion or their ability to pay fees. The children who attended the school were from diverse backgrounds including Chinese, Indian, Syrian, French Italian and Australian. The school was located on the edge of a precinct in Melbourne known as "Little Lon".

## 8 "LITTLE LON."

13-37 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

"Little Lon" was the heart of Melbourne's slum district. It was a place of brothels, gambling dens, drunkenness and destitution. It was also a place where the urban working class lived. Therefore, according to Mary MacKillop, it was a perfect location for the Providence in Melbourne and a school for the poor. The area was considered not suitable for the Sisters to live in because of the presence of houses of ill-repute. Annie (Mary's sister) in a letter, wrote of the terrible screaming of women and the noise of cattle and dogs moving down the street during the night. Upon hearing of Archbishop Thomas Carr's concern that the location may be unpleasant for the Sisters of St. Joseph, Mary replied that this was where the greatest need was. Mary visited the school often, bringing with her boiled sweets for the children. The school closed in the 1930's.

Although the term Social Justice was not in common use during Mary's time, it is certainly an apt description of the work that she and the Sisters of St. Joseph undertook in Melbourne. Mary believed that education was the best means to provide the poor with opportunity to rise above their circumstance. For those who lived in poverty, Mary tried to provide aid and comfort to ease the difficulties in their lives.



## 3 ST MARY OF THE CROSS SQUARE

10-12 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

St Mary of the Cross Square was opened in 2013 providing a public space for the Fitzroy community, within the surrounds of St Patrick's Campus of Australian Catholic University (ACU). In the midst of this beautiful tree lined square is an inspiring statue of a young Mary MacKillop, created by Melbourne artist Louis Laumen. The statue embodies the idealism and aspiration of a youthful Mary MacKillop, as she gazes towards the place of her birth on the opposite side of Brunswick Street Fitzroy. A series of bronze plaques depicting significant aspects of Mary's life work, lead from Brunswick Street to the statue, then through to the entrance of Mary of the Cross MacKillop Chapel in the Daniel Mannix Building. The Chapel, designed in a contemporary traditional style, provides the campus and the local community with a peaceful place of worship and reflection. The life of Mary MacKillop and the history of the Sisters of St Joseph have been closely intertwined with the University since the very beginning. Mary MacKillop's respect for the dignity of all people, her service of the disadvantaged and her efforts to build the capacity of those communities she served are qualities which ACU seeks to instil in its staff, students and graduates.

## 9 ST. FRANCIS' CATHOLIC CHURCH

Cnr Elizabeth & Lonsdale Sts Melbourne

St Francis' Church was commissioned by the first Catholic priest in the city of Port Phillip (Melbourne), Fr. Patrick Geoghegan. In 1839, a temporary chapel made of second-hand floorboards was built on the site of the future St Francis' Church. This is the church in which Alexander MacKillop and Flora MacDonald (Mary's parents) were married.

When sufficient funds were raised to finance a permanent building, Fr. Geoghegan commissioned the architect Samuel Jackson to design the present church, which he dedicated to St Francis' of Assisi. The foundation stone was laid in 1841. Mary MacKillop was baptised in this church by Fr. Geoghegan in 1842, and in 1850 she made her first communion (this was the same year bushranger Ned Kelly's parents were married in the church).

In 1869, on the same site, the Christian Brothers opened their first school in Melbourne. St. Francis was the Cathedral from 1848 until St. Patrick's was built in the late 1860s. There is a statue of Mary MacKillop in the Eastern niche of the church. She is wearing the traditional brown habit which is long associated with the Sisters of St. Joseph.

