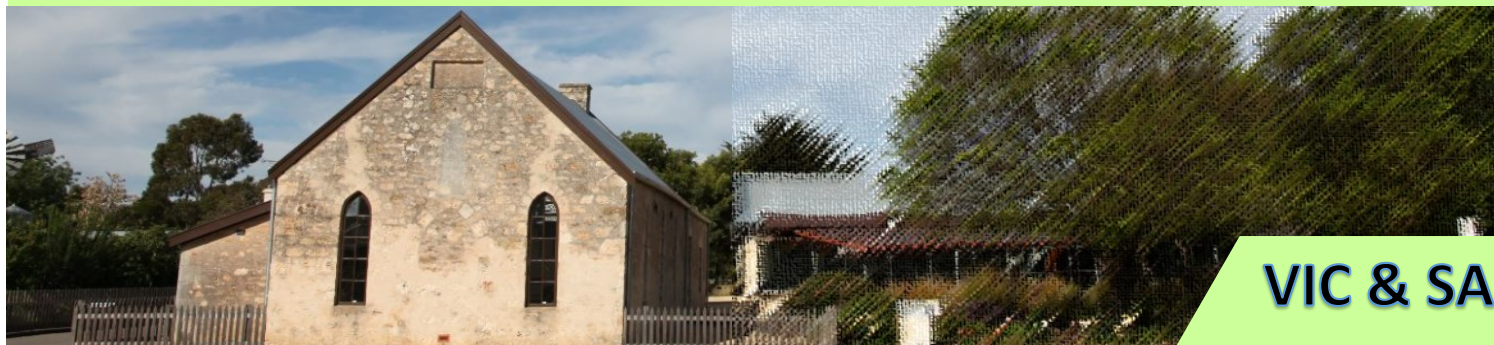


# “MISSIONARY SPIRIT IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION – A Journey with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop”

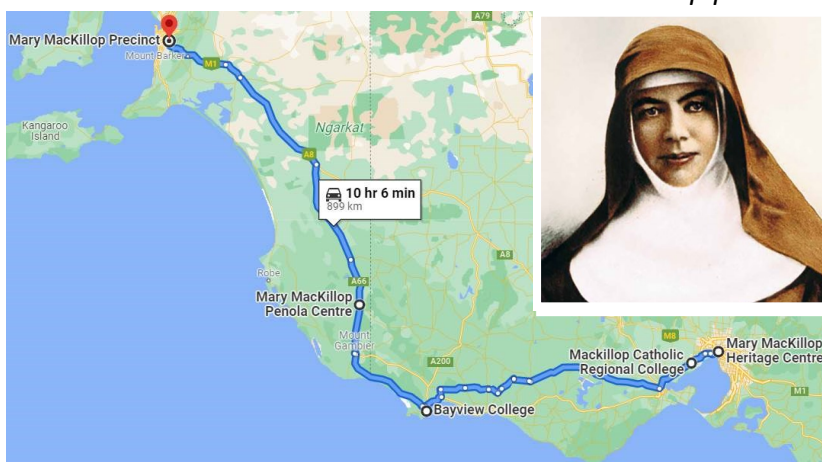


**AUGUST 2023 (5 DAYS)**

**Departs Melbourne Monday 21<sup>th</sup>**

**Returns Adelaide Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

*This program explores the story and key events in the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop with a special focus on her mission in Catholic education in Australia. It is designed to develop and sustain those in leadership positions in Catholic schools.*



## Day 1—Monday (Melbourne to Portland)

In 1890 the SOSJ Victorian ministry commenced with the opening of Numurkah, Bacchus Marsh and Surrey Hills. By 1891, around 25 years after the SOSJ started, there were more than 300 sisters working in nine dioceses in Australia and New Zealand. The SOSJ had been serving the parish of Werribee, especially in the field of education since 1910. Our pilgrimage begins at MacKillop College Werribee with a gathering ceremony and reflection. Here we will explore the points of interest, the Chapel, sculptures and labyrinth.

## Day 2—Tuesday (Portland to Penola)

In 1862 Mary aged 20, was residing in Portland and working as a governess. At 21 Mary applied for her first formal teaching position at Portland's Catholic Denominational School and at 22 years of age opened a boarding school, 'Bay View House Seminary' for Young Ladies. Places to visit include Bayview Community school built by the Loreto Sisters around Bayview Cottage; The Church where Mary was Sacristan with a beautiful stained-glass window in the Porch; and The History Museum at the western end of the town in Glenelg Street.

## Day 3—Wednesday (Penola)

In 1866 aged 24, Mary opened the first free Catholic school in Penola the "Stable school", the First Josephite school. Mary and her sisters Annie and Lexie started teaching more than fifty children. Mary wore a black dress, to signify her dedication to God and took the name of Sister Mary of the Cross. The school opened on St Joseph's Day.

Places to visit include the Interpretive Centre/MacKillop Woods School house; Heritage Buildings: Petticoat Lane; the Stable site now a memorial garden; and the sculptures at Father Woods Park.

## Day 4—Thursday (Penola to Adelaide)

In 1867 Mary took religious vows and became the first sister and mother superior of the Institute of the SOSJ, dedicated to the education of the children of the poor, the first religious Institute to be founded by an Australian. In 1867 the first Adelaide school opened. In 1869 when Mary was aged 27, in South Australia there were 72 sisters teaching in 21 schools as well as an orphanage, a refuge for women in distress and a home for the aged. Places to visit include the Chapel and Museum at Kensington; Chapel at Dominican School where Mary was—excommunicated; St Francis's Xavier's cathedral and statue; and the Church at Morphett Vale.

## Day 5—Friday (Adelaide)

On 22 September 1871 aged 29, Mary was excommunicated in the Chapel at the Franklin Street Convent because of her alleged disobedience and rebelliousness and within a month a further 47 Sisters were expelled by Bishop Laurence Sheil. This was revoked on 23 Feb 1872 by Fr Hughes in his parish church Morphett Vale at the request of a dying Bishop Sheil. Mary MacKillop Precinct is located at Kensington, on the historical site established by Mary MacKillop in 1872. On 7 May 1876 a new Chapel, Convent and Novitiate were blessed and opened. Here Mary lived, prayed and worked until 1883, when she was banished from Adelaide by Bishop Reynolds.



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