



REFLECTION & PRAYER – Secondary & Adult

What makes St Mary MacKillop so important to our history in Australia?

Educational Contributions: Mary MacKillop co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in 1866, alongside Father Julian Tenison Woods. This order focused on providing free education to poor children in rural and remote areas of Australia, which was groundbreaking at the time. Their contribution made education accessible to many who would otherwise have been deprived.

Schools and Institutions: Under her leadership, the Sisters of St Joseph established 117 schools, 12 Homes for children, and charitable institutions across Australia and New Zealand.

Overcoming Challenges: Mary MacKillop faced significant opposition from both within and outside the Church, including excommunication in 1871 (later lifted). Her resilience in the face of adversity demonstrated her unwavering commitment to her mission and inspired many.

Spiritual Legacy: Her deep faith and spirituality left a lasting impact on the Catholic Church in Australia. She became a symbol of perseverance, faith, and dedication.

Advocacy for the Poor: Mary MacKillop dedicated her life to advocating for the marginalised and disadvantaged, providing education, shelter, and support to those in need. Her work set a precedent for social justice and charity in Australia.

Canonisation: In 2010, Mary MacKillop was canonised as Australia's first saint by Pope Benedict XVI. This recognition highlighted her extraordinary contributions to society and the Church.

National Identity: Mary MacKillop is an integral part of Australian history and culture, embodying values such as compassion, determination, and service to others. Her story is celebrated in Australian history and is taught in schools across the nation.

Inspiration: She serves as a role model for Australians and people worldwide, inspiring acts of charity, education, and advocacy for the disadvantaged.



Mary MacKillop
Heritage Centre



St Mary of the Cross
Feast Day 8th August

Extracts from Mary MacKillop

Read and reflect on each statement by St Mary:

“God’s love is too deep for words to express”. MMK 1870

“All will be right with time and a little patience”. MMK 1873

“Gratitude is the memory of the heart”. MMK 1907

“We have much for which to be thankful.” MMK 1873

“May God bless and keep you strong”. MMK 1875



Quiet time: Which one touches your heart the most? Why?

Final Prayer together:

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 to hope as we bring our prayer before You.*

*May we grow in the fullness of Your love
and the depth of Your mystery.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Way,
our Truth and our Life. Amen.*

