

Mary MacKillop (1842-1909)



A woman

- of extraordinary faith and heroic virtue;

- of Scottish heritage and Australian birth;

- whose mission took her far and wide across the great south land of Australia and across the seas to New Zealand;

- whose story and legacy have crossed further oceans to Peru, East Timor, Brazil, Ireland, Scotland and other countries

Matthew 25:35-40 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, ^[a] you did it to me.’

Early Life:

“Many family homes were sought and lost during Mary’s childhood.”



Mary was born to Flora and Alexander MacKillop, the first of eight children. They lived in Brunswick St. Fitzroy.

A life of poverty, but also of learning, and of trusting in God

Mary needed to work as a child to support the family.

Compassion, hard work, and faith

- ❁ *Believe in the whisperings of God to your own heart' Mary MacKillop—to her mother Flora, 1868 (Aged 26)*
- ❁ In 1860 at age 18 Mary moved to Penola, South Australia, as a governess.
- ❁ 1860s – schools for the poor established
- ❁ 1866 – on the feast of St Joseph, at the age of 24 Mary appeared to her community in a simple black dress.
- ❁ 1867 – Mary became the first of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, joined by 10 others.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart

- ❁ 1. An emphasis on poverty;
- ❁ 2. A dependence on divine providence;
- ❁ 3. No ownership of personal belongings as God would provide;
- ❁ 4. The Sisters would go wherever they were needed.



From school teacher to saint



Mary viewed crosses as blessings in disguise;

Politics and the church;

Survival through begging;

Excommunication – for 5 months

Ordered to Travel to Rome in 1873



In Rome

“Cried myself to sleep. Was so weary of the struggle and felt so utterly alone...only offered my weary heart’s trials to my God with the wish that he would do His will and make of me what he pleased.”

From 1866 to Today

- ❁ **Mary MacKillop's order, the Josephites, is affectionately known as the 'Joeys'. There are today about 886 Sisters living and ministering throughout Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Peru, East Timor, Scotland and Brazil.**



Today

In August 2016, the Josephite Sisters of St Mary of the Cross marked their 150th anniversary with a conference and a public call to the government to consider granting a one-off amnesty to refugees currently on Nauru and Manus Island, and also calling for a national bipartisan summit established by a consensus of all parties to chart a viable alternative.

From an early life of poverty, Mary Mackillop used her experience, energy, skills and faith to bring justice to the poor and those who needed mercy.

Mary MacKillop was Canonised on October 17, 2010 at St Peter's Basilica, Rome. Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed Mary's sainthood during the Canonisation Mass.

Prayer of St Mary MacKillop

- ✿ **Ever generous God,
You inspired Mary MacKillop
To live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
and constant in bringing hope and encouragement
to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.**

- ✿ **With confidence in your generous providence,
we ask that you grant our request.....**

- ✿ **We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the
Holy Spirit,
so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with
courage, trust and openness.
Ever generous God hear our prayer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.**