

**'We Are But Travellers Here'** 1867

**Mary MacKillop's Brisbane**



*Walking the streets of Brisbane where  
Mary MacKillop trod between 1870 and 1880.*

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This pilgrimage has been prepared under the patronage of Saint Joseph.

*"Joseph is our father and has the best right to take care of us. ... the treasure house of God ... have courage, trust in Saint Joseph and you need have no fear ... apply to Saint Joseph with confidence and you will never be disappointed ... in Saint Joseph's care I leave you."*

*Mary MacKillop, 1873, 1893, 1905, 1906*

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# Introduction



Indicates Directions



Indicates prayer/reflection suggestion

This pilgrimage could be completed in one day by a very experienced walker, but this is not recommended. A pilgrimage is a sacred time, not a physical endurance feat. Plan this pilgrimage to allow time for prayer, reflection, relaxation and refreshment. There is a shorter version in the Appendix. Each stopping point is easily accessible by public transport and so walkers can stop and begin at any point along the way, for example South Bank Railway Station exits onto Tribune Street. The route traverses some beautiful scenery such as the river and the Kangaroo Point Cliffs, as well as ecological diversity, for example mangroves along the river and rainforest at Southbank. Take the time to appreciate this.



As Julian Tenison Woods often quoted,

*“There is an echo in the harmonies of nature which penetrates the soul and lures it on like the sound of distant music, until it has no eye or ear for aught except the works of its Creator.” Julian himself said, “The world is overrun with travellers [who] stay too short a time anywhere to see much beyond the surface of things. 1884 Every rock, every leaf, every insect ... has something wonderful, to tell ... creation declares the glory of its author.” 1880*



## Safety Issues

Always use sunscreen and insect repellent in Brisbane, with its subtropical climate. Always wear a hat and carry water. Even in winter, Brisbane can be very hot in the middle of the day. There are no public amenities along the Riverwalk. After New Farm Park, the next one is in the Riverside Centre, just past the Customs House. *(Pass the CityCat terminal, Jellyfish Restaurant and another one, signed as 'R'. At the far end of 'R' is an alleyway with a sign that says 'Lift'. There is also a sign above this that rather quaintly says 'WC'. The toilets are just inside the entrance, on the left. The next public amenities along the walk are at South Bank.)*

The route uses only paved pathways and footpaths. Most of it is flat, although there are some inclines at various points, a couple of which are almost 'hills', but very short distances. There are many steps down the Kangaroo Point cliffs as well as shorter staircases at other points.

All of the riverside walkways are shared spaces. Sometimes there are designated lanes for cyclists and pedestrians, at other times, it is a shared experience. Walkers need to be alert to the changing designation of these areas.

Any street sections are in very busy traffic areas. Wherever possible use traffic lights and designated crossings and stay on footpaths.

### **Brisbane City Council alert for Riverwalk**

*Except for the odd rest shelter along the way (with seating), there is no shade along the walk so it's recommended to be taken earlier or later in the day and in summer first thing in the morning or at dusk.*

## Context

Mary MacKillop and five other Sisters of St Joseph arrived in Queensland about 9:30pm on 31 December, 1869, at the invitation of James Quinn, first Catholic bishop of Brisbane and founder of the Catholic Education system in Queensland. The sisters offered Catholic education to the children of the working class in cities and isolated settlements according to the Woods-MacKillop system of parish-based schools. By mid-January

1870 the Josephites were teaching at Saint Mary's School, South Brisbane, and by July they had opened three more schools, two in Brisbane and the other one in the country town of Maryborough. During the next ten years the Sisters of Saint Joseph established or assumed control of fifteen schools and an orphanage and were teaching about half of the total number of children attending Catholic schools in the diocese. At that time, all of the colony of Queensland was one diocese. Throughout this decade seventy-nine sisters worked in the colony and of these over sixty had joined the Sisterhood in Queensland.

These ten years were marred by a controversy with Bishop Quinn over the Josephite style of government which placed the responsibility for the internal administration of the Sisterhood with the sisters themselves rather than with the bishop of the diocese. This controversy culminated in Bishop Quinn asking them to leave his diocese. Although many of the laity petitioned the bishop to allow the Sisters of Saint Joseph to remain, the bishop refused, and in mid-July 1880 the last community of Josephites left the diocese of Brisbane. Mary also visited Brisbane in 1885 and 1890, although little is known about these visits.

Twenty years later the Sisters of Saint Joseph returned to Queensland, not to Brisbane, but to a country town, Clermont, in the newly formed diocese of Rockhampton. In a letter to all the Sisters when that was announced, Mary MacKillop shared her happiness:

*"I am glad to think the Sisters will be back in dear old Queensland once more". 1890*

This pilgrimage is designed as a walk through the streets of Brisbane where Mary would have walked. She came with the original group of sisters and stayed for about fourteen months. She returned in 1875 for five months and again in 1878, when Mary was in Brisbane from March to July and again in December. Then, in May, 1879, Mary was again in Brisbane, remaining until December, when most of the sisters withdrew from Queensland, being progressively replaced by Sisters of Mercy or other teachers. The last of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart

left, from Bundaberg, in July 1880, and were replaced there by a diocesan group of Sisters of Saint Joseph. During these later visits, Mary travelled from Brisbane to other parts of Queensland where her sisters had established schools. Most of these would not be within walking distance of Brisbane, but the following are options for extending the pilgrimage. Return to Brisbane is easily accessible via public transport. Public transport information is readily available in Brisbane by ringing 131230 or checking [www.translink.com.au](http://www.translink.com.au).

- **Yatala**, near Beenleigh, established in 1875, possibly as a Catechetical Centre, is approximately 40km from Brisbane CBD, following the Pacific Highway, south.
- **Redbank Plains** established 1874 and now part of Ipswich city, is approximately 30km, west of Brisbane, following the Warrego Highway.
- **Helidon**, at the foot of the Great Dividing Range, established 1874, is approximately 105km west of Brisbane, following the Warrego Highway; there would be several stopping points along this route, with accommodation available. It would also be possible to use sections of the bridle trail and the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail. [www.railtrails.org.au](http://www.railtrails.org.au); [www.npsr.qld.go.au/experiences/horse-trails](http://www.npsr.qld.go.au/experiences/horse-trails)

The following pilgrimage starts on the north side of the river. It roughly follows the chronological order in which Mary would have visited these places for a total of about 21km. The pilgrimage could be shortened by following a geographical route which would not retrace so many steps. See the Appendix for a suggested route.

There are other starting points on the north side, for example New Farm Park; on the south side, Norman Creek, Mowbray Park. There are also hundreds of kilometres of walking tracks around Brisbane which may lead from the pilgrim's accommodation to the inner-city. These can be accessed on the Brisbane City Council website and through the Translink 'Local Travel' maps (*see references below*).

# Pilgrimage

A pilgrim is different from a tourist.

*As Psalm 65 says:*

*From all over the world we come to you  
Like the procession of travellers to a holy shrine  
The earth is filled with people who reveal your fruitfulness  
Through lives of mercy, kindness and gratefulness.*

The Macquarie Dictionary says *a pilgrim is a person who journeys as an act of devotion*. A pilgrimage is a journey of the heart. Just as our feet can take us to different times and places, so our heart can take us into sacred times and places, open to encountering the God within ourselves, within creation and within others.

As a pilgrim you will encounter

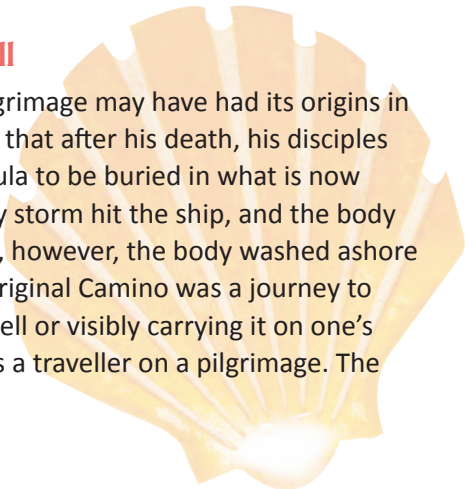
*“people [and places] who reveal [God’s] fruitfulness to you”.*

*Mary MacKillop*

When planning the walk, ask yourself why you are making the pilgrimage at this time and what are your hopes for this pilgrimage.

## The Tradition of the Pilgrim Shell

The use of a scallop shell to denote pilgrimage may have had its origins in the story of Saint James. Legend has it that after his death, his disciples shipped his body to the Iberian Peninsula to be buried in what is now Santiago. Off the coast of Spain a heavy storm hit the ship, and the body was lost to the ocean. After some time, however, the body washed ashore undamaged, covered in scallops. The original Camino was a journey to the tomb of Saint James. Wearing a shell or visibly carrying it on one’s person or backpack denotes that one is a traveller on a pilgrimage. The





scallop shell also acts as a metaphor. The grooves in the shell, which come together at a single point, represent the various routes pilgrims travel, eventually arriving at a single destination, which, for us, is the deeper knowledge of Mary MacKillop's God who

*"is so very good to us all." 1872*

Although this pilgrimage begins at the water's edge, pilgrims probably won't be able to find a shell, so perhaps each pilgrim or group could choose another symbol that will serve as a reminder that

*"the majesty of God's ways seems so beautiful." 1871*

As you set out, acknowledge that you will be walking on ground that was sacred not only to Mary MacKillop, but to the Turrbal and Jagera people who walked this land for thousands of years before any European even knew of it and who still walk these lands.

Ask God's protection as you begin to walk. You may pray one of the prayers below, or use your own.

*An edited version of an ancient pilgrim's prayer from  
the Camino de Santiago de Compostela*

*God, who brought your servant Abraham  
out of the land of the Chaldeans,  
protecting him in his wanderings,  
who guided the Hebrew people across the desert,  
we ask that you watch over us, your servants,  
as we walk in the love of your name  
around Mary MacKillop's Brisbane.*

*Be for us our companion on the walk,  
our guide at the crossroads,*

our breath in our weariness,  
our protection in danger,  
our shade in the heat,  
our light in the darkness,  
our consolation in our discouragements,  
and our strength in our intentions.

So that with your guidance  
we may arrive safe and sound at the end of the road  
and, enriched with grace and virtue,  
we return safely to our homes filled with joy.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### *A prayer with Mary MacKillop*

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.

So, let us begin, remembering with Mary, that

*“it is in love that God leads me.” 1873*

## Brisbane Port - 4.3km to the Customs House



1. To experience something of the journey up the Brisbane River, it is suggested the pilgrim start the walk at *The Powerhouse*, Teneriffe, following Riverwalk. Please note: The Howard Smith Wharves – a section of this walk near the Story Bridge – has a planned redevelopment, due to start in late 2016. This may render a section of the walk inaccessible for some time. Check Brisbane City Council or Howard Smith Wharves websites for current information.
2. *The Powerhouse* is at the far end of Lamington Street, New Farm. The street ends in the carpark, which is free. The Riverwalk can be accessed by bus or City Cat. If using public transport, it may be easier to start at the New Farm Ferry Terminal.
3. From the carpark of *The Powerhouse*, walk to the riverside and turn right. This riverside walk will, with two detours, lead right into the city. After following the southern perimeter of New Farm Park, the walk peters out at the ferry terminal and so walk up Brunswick Street, taking the first turn left into Oxlade Street.
4. Follow this along, staying on the left hand side of the road to the Riverside Reception Centre.
5. Turn left into a lane between this and the Merthyr Bowls Club. This leads back on to Riverwalk.
6. Follow it until reaching the Sydney Street Terminal, where the route again exits the Riverwalk, onto Sydney Street. Turn left into Griffith Street and follow it until it begins to curve up a hill. At the same point, there is an obvious entrance back on to Riverwalk, on the left.
7. This soon leads on to a walkway above the river. This section of Riverwalk goes under the Story Bridge, through the historic Howard

Smith Wharves and connects with the Riverside Centre. *\*See note below for possible variation to All Hallows' Convent at this point.*

8. The Customs House is just before the Riverside Centre. It is a domed, sandstone building, dwarfed by modern, surrounding buildings. It is not well signed. It is the only colonial era building in the area. The walkway takes a definite right-angled turn on its right-hand side, with a beautiful Moreton Bay fig tree above it. There are two black and white signs, one on each side of the stairway, saying 'Receptions' and 'Functions'. There is a small brass plaque on the wall saying "Customs House". Visitors can enter the grounds, but not the building which is currently leased by the University of Queensland.

★ *The Port of Brisbane in the twenty-first century bears very little resemblance to the place that Mary MacKillop and her sisters encountered. They arrived on the 'City of Brisbane', at 9:30pm on New Year's Eve, 1869, having taken twenty-four days to travel from Adelaide, begging for their fares at each stage, in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. The most likely point of disembarkation would be the Customs House, in what is now the city reach of the Brisbane River, at 399 Queen Street. The current Customs House was completed in 1889. It was probably a much more humble structure in 1869, when the independent colony of Queensland was just ten years old. From there, it was a relatively short walk to All Hallows' Convent, where the Sisters of Mercy were waiting to offer them hospitality. Perhaps Doctor Cani, the Vicar General, who met them on behalf of Bishop Quinn, had transport available for them.*

When Mary and her sisters reached the Customs House, she may well have repeated a remark made in 1867:

*"With God's aid we shall get on and gain fresh strength and energy for the work."*

*Where and how do I gain fresh strength for my work in the kingdom when the going is hard and long?*

## All Hallows' Convent - 0.6km from the Customs House



1. To get from the Customs House to All Hallows' Convent walk through the grounds of the Customs House to Queen Street. \*
2. Turn right and walk to the end of Queen Street where it joins Ann Street.
3. Turn right into Ann Street and walk along to a very high brick wall, surrounding All Hallows'. The site currently houses All Hallows' School, with the sisters no longer living on site. The original building is still there although the Sisters of Mercy are unsure of exactly where in the building Mary and her companions stayed during their two weeks with them. If you wish to see this building on school days, this is permissible between 9:00am and 12:00pm. You must sign the Visitors' Book located at the school's main Reception Office. You may have to reflect from the footpath at all other times. If you are organising a group pilgrimage, contact the school office (07 38313100) in advance to ensure they can accommodate a number of visitors to their grounds at that particular time.

### **\*Alternative**

1. As the Riverwalk exits the Howard Smith Wharves precinct, it enters the next section, across Boundary Street, through a bright blue archway. There is a wooden seat there.
2. Stop at the seat and look up the street to the right. Ivory Lane leads off on the right.
3. On the left side of Ivory Lane is a cream-coloured concrete wall, with a large cream-coloured building behind it. Just visible, in blue lettering, is 'All Hallows' School'. While not the building that Mary and her sisters would have stayed in, it is part of the All Hallows' site where the original building remains.

Pilgrims may wish to sit here and contemplate the following reflection, rather than walk to the original section of All Hallows' Convent after visiting the Customs House.

✦ *The Sisters of Mercy, most of them from Ireland, weren't sure what to expect. It is recorded in their archives that one of the Sisters of Mercy thought the women from Adelaide were 'like real nuns'. Mary and her companions were also uncomfortable, being welcomed by a community in confusion after Bishop Quinn had interfered in their recent election of superior. The Josephites stayed with the Sisters of Mercy for two weeks.*

Mary might well have thought

*"God lets me see love in all". 1873*

*How do I respond when meeting new people,  
especially if I am unsure of a welcome?*



## First Convent - Tribune Street, South Brisbane



3.5km from All Hallows' Convent

1. After leaving All Hallows', retrace the route to the Customs House and the Riverwalk.
2. Continue along the walk for about two kilometres. This section goes past the Riverside Centre, then along the edge of the City Botanic Gardens, past the Captain Cook Bridge and the Riverside Expressway to the exit point for the Goodwill Bridge. This is a pedestrian bridge across the Brisbane River. The bridge is not well signposted, being just one small sign among several at this point, at the entrance to the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) precinct.
3. Cross the Brisbane River via the Goodwill Bridge.
4. Exit right from the Goodwill Bridge to enjoy the peace and beauty of Southbank, a riverside parkland with many eateries and rest places. Walk along the riverbank (turn sharp right) or through the Bougainvillea Arch (turn right then veer left).
5. Tribune Street exits the Parkland at a point approximately in line with Southbank Ferry Terminal 3. The exact location of the sisters' house is unknown, but walk along Tribune Street and imagine Mary accessing the local shops and engaging with the neighbours. There are still a couple of houses that could have been there in the 1870s. At the very top of Tribune Street, in Vulture Street, are two houses that would fit the description of the first convent (below).

✦ *In mid-January 1870, the Sisters of St Joseph rented a four roomed house in this street. Sister Teresa Maginnis, a member of the first community of Josephites to arrive in Queensland, wrote:*

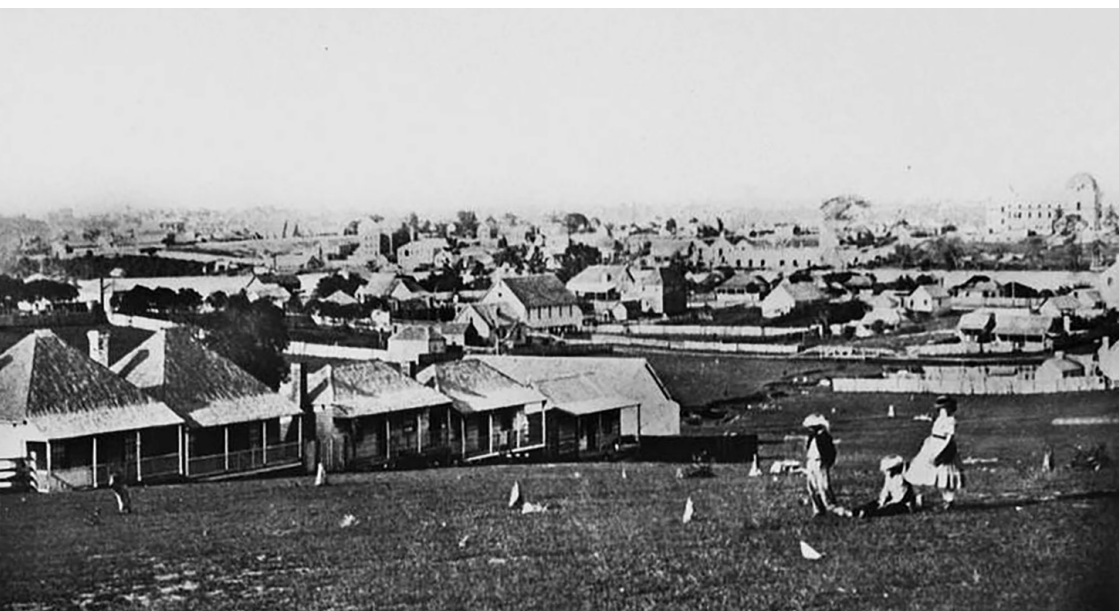
*'We rented a small building in Tribune Street, containing four small rooms, two on the ground floor and two upstairs, with a back verandah which served for a kitchen and a refectory. Near this was a washhouse with a small window painted with the blue bag, which was the delight of Sister Mary.'*

*This was the first convent of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Queensland. These four rooms housed the five Josephites and a sixteen year old girl, Ada Braham, who had come with them from Adelaide at the request of Father Woods.*

With an inadequate housing situation, no money and no friends, Mary would have thought what she later wrote to the sisters in 1874,

*“work on bravely and hopefully”.*

*How do I react when a change in circumstances leaves me feeling alone and inadequate?*



*Houses backing onto Tribune Street c1870*



## Montague Street Convent - now known as Montague Road



1.6km from Tribune Street

1. After exploring Tribune Street walk back towards Southbank to Grey Street and turn left.
2. Follow Grey Street, past the beautifully restored South Brisbane Station, stopping at Alexander Smith Place. This is a small park, a memorial to a contemporary of Mary MacKillop's, one of the first free settlers in Brisbane and a drayman in the area. He may even have carted goods for Mary and her sisters when they moved.

✦ *Pause and reflect, giving thanks for your neighbours and the services they provide for you.*

3. Then, continue a little further to Peel Street.
4. Cross Peel Street and turn left then immediately right, into Fleet Lane. Follow this through to Montague Road and turn right.
5. Somewhere between the intersection of Fleet and Montague and that of Montague and Stanley, was the convent, possibly where GOMA – the Gallery of Modern Art - is situated. At this point, Stanley Street is a pedestrian-only thoroughfare. While the area is now an affluent residential/entertainment precinct, large sections of it were poor or working class areas of Brisbane in 1870. The Paul's/Parmalat milk factory, built in the 1930s, is a reminder of the industrial nature of this area, but it, too, is earmarked for redevelopment. This convent was also the Provincial House of the sisters in Queensland, at that time, further emphasising that Josephites were founded for

*“the education of the working class ... in the poorer sections of the cities ...”* Mary MacKillop: 1873/74

✦ *By March, Mary MacKillop and her companions realised that the house in Tribune Street was too small and too far from Saint Mary's School, where they were teaching. So the community moved to another building, at one time a hotel, in Montague Street. It was rented to the sisters by James Toppin, a local baker. This building was chosen by Mary MacKillop because it was big enough to house a large community of sisters and was within easy walking distance of St Mary's church which during the week housed the school. It was adjacent to the wharf for the river ferry at the end of Grey Street. This was important for access to the north side of Brisbane, including Saint John the Baptist School at Petrie Terrace and Saint Stephen's Cathedral.*

*In her memoirs, Sister Josephine Carolan wrote: 'We moved to a large house near the church and school. It had been a hotel so was large and more convenient in every way and we had not far to go to Mass.'*

Mary said on many occasions,

*"Let God guide you in all your life." (1909)*

*How do I react when my first decision needs to be changed?*



*Intersection Montague and Stanley Streets c.1890*

## St Mary's Church and School - 0.5km from Montague Street (Road) Convent



1. From the corner of Fleet Lane, turn left and proceed along Montague Road to Merivale Street, the street after Hope. It is not well signed but the Queensland Theatre Company building is on the corner.
2. Crossing Merivale Street, turn left and continue to Saint Mary's Church on the corner of Merivale and Peel Streets. The current building was blessed and opened on 2nd July 1893. It replaced the first Saint Mary's – a small, wooden church built on the site of the present car park around 1864 and the one Mary MacKillop would have been familiar with. The land on which it was built was a grant of land from the NSW government in 1859 before news of the declaration of the separation of the Queensland colony from New South Wales became known. The current church has been recently restored. To ensure the church will be open, it would be wise to check beforehand. They do have a history group which will open the church if possible – 38442744.

★ *Saint Mary's School, situated in Peel Street, South Brisbane was opened by the Sisters of Mercy on 2 April 1866. Prior to the arrival of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, this school had been operated by a young lay woman, Mary Teresa O'Meara who became a Sister of Saint Joseph in 1874 and was known as Sister Austin. In her memoirs Sister Josephine Carolan, told how the sisters 'opened a school in South Brisbane given up by the Sisters of Mercy as it was too far away from their Mother House'. There had been a temporary bridge over the river, linking the north of Brisbane with the south, but prior to the arrival of the Josephites it had been washed away. The Victoria Bridge, the first permanent bridge over the river, was not opened until June 1874. Saint Mary's school was conducted in the church. Every Monday morning the furniture had to be arranged to suit the purposes of a school. On Friday afternoon the process was reversed. This was a task that Sister Mary [MacKillop] and Sister Augustine*

*Keogh who taught in the school, had to attend to. Sister Mary remained head teacher at Saint Mary's until just prior to her return to Adelaide in April 1871. The school had opened with 70 pupils, but by October 1879, there were 190 children who attended regularly.*

*A glimpse of school life at St Mary's is given in the Brisbane Courier, 10 October 1879. "Yesterday afternoon the distribution of prizes took place to the pupils of St Mary's School, South Brisbane. There had been an examination previously, and the various examination papers were creditable proofs of the proficiency of the pupils in writing and arithmetic. Each class, however, was called up to read and answer questions in spelling, geography, and other branches of learning, and the general accuracy with which these various exercises were accomplished was excellent testimony to the painstaking tuition of the sisters."*

Mary must have rejoiced when she met the families of Saint Mary's, coalminers, dock workers and the like. As she often told the sisters,

*"Seek first the poorest and most neglected  
of God's vineyard." (1900)*

*What do I seek when discerning my ministry  
or place of work?*



## St Joseph's School - One Mile Swamp 'The Swamp School'

2.6km from St Mary's School



1. From Saint Mary's Church, cross back to the left hand side and continue down Merivale Street, to the intersection with Vulture Street.\*
2. After crossing Melbourne Street, pass the Exhibition and Convention Centre, spanning an entire block.
3. Further up Merivale Street pass Saint Clement's Melkite Church on the left then Saint Nicholas' Siberian Church on the right. Mary MacKillop was known for her ecumenical attitudes in a time when it was frowned upon. Her best friend, Joanna Barr Smith was a Protestant and another friend, Emmanuel Solomon, was a Jew. Both of these gave Mary and her sisters great financial support, especially at the time of the excommunication.



*Pause and pray for those who work today for ecumenical and interfaith relations. Pray also for your own friends.*

4. At the end of Merivale Street, turn left into Vulture Street and continue to the intersection with Stanley Street.
5. Turn right into Stanley Street, past Ronald McDonald House and the Mater Private Hospital on the left and Lady Cilento Children's Hospital and the Mater Public Hospital on the right.
6. Pilgrims need to be on the right hand side of Stanley Street before walking under the freeway.
7. Hubert Street is the second on the right after the freeway. The famous 'Gabba' Cricket Ground is visible at the end of Stanley Street. The Woolloongabba Bus Station is immediately opposite. The exact location of the school is unknown.

\* The return walk could also be via Southbank Parklands, following the Bougainvillea Arch through to its end, past the Goodwill Bridge. This exits at the intersection of Vulture and Stanley, with the green-coloured Lady Cilento Hospital ahead. Rejoin the above route at number 5.

★ *Saint Joseph's School, One Mile Swamp, was situated in Hubert Street, Woolloongabba. This school was opened on 1 April 1870. Sisters Josephine Carolan and Teresa Maginnis were the teachers. 'Sister Mary went out the first day, and then we two were to go on and we did. We were teaching in a cottage,' wrote Sister Josephine in her memoirs. 'The partitions were taken down and we had as many as 90 children there. The school room backed onto a Wesleyan Chapel, and when the sisters were taking the children for catechism on a Sunday, the Wesleyan congregation was busy singing their hymns.'*

*Stand in Hubert Street and imagine what it was like as "One Mile Swamp". The name itself conjures up some rather unpleasant images.*

As they walked through the summer storms, they may have thought like Mary:

*"God helps us to walk on water, like St Peter." (1890)*

*How do I cope with difficult circumstances?*



*Sr Josephine Carolan*

## St Joseph's School - Kangaroo Point



0.5km from The Swamp School

1. From Hubert Street, turn left, walking back down Stanley Street, past Reid Street. Then turn right, crossing at the lights before the freeway, into Leopard Street.
2. It is then a short walk along Leopard Street to the current Saint Joseph's School which is on the site of the original church/school. In the grounds is a beautiful statue of Mary MacKillop and children as depicted on the cover of this publication. During school hours, visitors must sign in at the Office. Outside of school hours, pilgrims will need to make arrangements for access to the site. Contact the Principal on 33915397 or [pkangaroopt@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pkangaroopt@bne.catholic.edu.au). They are happy to provide access.

In honour of the sesquicentenary of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, in 2016, the area in between the school and the church has been named "MacKillop Way" with a prominent plaque on the church wall. In front of the church, on a large rock, is a 'Welcome to St Joseph's Kangaroo Point' sign, detailing Mary's connection to the school and brief notes on her life.

★ *The Swamp School was moved in 1871. A church had been built in Leopold Street (the name was changed to Leopard in 1914) Kangaroo Point, and the school was housed in this building. Initially, the sisters walked daily from the Montague Street Convent to Saint Joseph's School, but after the move to Kangaroo Point they rented a cottage situated in River Terrace, just after Paton Street (see below). On the weekends they returned to the convent in Montague Street.*

*In Mary's day, Kangaroo Point was very much a working class area, with shipyards, quarries and other industrial establishments, with Saint Joseph's drawing its pupils from the dockyards and other slum areas.*

Mary advised her sisters to

*"find happiness in making others happy." (1899)*

*What makes me truly happy?*

## St John the Baptist School - Petrie Terrace - 4.8km from St Joseph's Kangaroo Point



1. From Saint Joseph's, continue along Leopard Street until it becomes River Terrace just after Lockerbie Street, winding along the top of the Kangaroo Point Cliffs.
2. Lockerbie Street is one of the many streets in the area boasting original buildings. Number 42 was built in 1878. Its occupants may well have been known to Mary and the sisters.
3. The Ozcare Centre (66 River Terrace), probably the site of the rented cottage, is just after Paton Street, the fifth street on your right.
4. Cross River Terrace. From here there are a number of descent points down the Kangaroo Point Cliffs - continue along River Terrace to the main Kangaroo Point Cliffs Park, at the intersection with Main Street where there are steps down from this park. There is another back at Scout Place, directly opposite the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints just back from Paton Street. This exit is a very steeply descending staircase. There is a road access (still steep) further back at Ellis Street, just opposite the school.
5. At the bottom of the cliffs, turn left and walk back towards South Bank.
6. Follow the Riverwalk, under the Goodwill Bridge, through Southbank Parklands and under the Victoria Bridge. There is no remnant of the bridge that Mary knew, but the abutment that still remains is part of the 1896 bridge, so belongs to Mary's lifetime. The walk continues under the current (fourth) bridge.
7. Continue past the Cultural Centre, the Museum, the Art Gallery, then past the Gallery of Modern Art (there are exit points to each of these places if a visit is desired) to the Kurilpa Bridge (approximately 3 km).
8. The Kurilpa Bridge is a pedestrian bridge, designed to resemble the sailing ships that originally plied the Brisbane River and were a common site to Mary and the sisters. The name is connected to an Aboriginal story which is detailed at the southern end of the bridge. There, too, is a message from the Jagera People who lived there while



the northern end has one from the Turrbal people. Mary would have loved to see the honouring of these people, something she longed for in her lifetime. She spoke lovingly of her Jesuit brother Donald's work with the Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory and described some who came to her in Sydney as "dear boys, so good and intelligent" (1892). Her attitude was vastly different from the popular and scientific opinions of the time.

✦ *Pause and pray for Australia's indigenous people and those who work for and with them for justice.*

9. Exit the bridge, continue towards the Law Courts precinct and cross George Street. Proceed through the Courts precinct to Roma Street.
10. Cross Roma Street, turn left and continue along Roma Street, past Roma Street Station and the Transit Centre.
11. Cross Countess Street and walk past the Ambulance and Fire and Rescue headquarters. Opposite these buildings is E. E. McCormick Park, named after the man who rose from Branch Manager to Managing-Director of 'International Harvester Company of Australia' who had a building on the site. He was honoured for his generous co-operation to enable Council to obtain the land for a park. This is the site of Brisbane's first cemetery. Most of the burials were of convicts.

✦ *Pause and consider the debt we owe to these people for their work in establishing our city. Pray for today's prisoners who live with little dignity or hope.*

12. Just beyond the emergency services buildings is a steep staircase with a sign that says 'Barracks and Lang Park". As an alternative to the stairs, walk a couple more metres, past the bike racks to access a lift to the walkway.
13. This leads to 'The Barracks' shopping centre. Walk through the centre and emerge on Petrie Terrace, immediately opposite Caxton Street.
14. Walk down Caxton Street towards the intersection with Hale Street. The school was possibly housed in two cottages somewhere near this intersection.

15. Immediately behind this point, in Hale Street is Lang Park/Suncorp Stadium, famous in rugby league circles and also as an entertainment and other sports venue. This site includes the former Paddington Cemetery, which was closed during the Josephites first year in Brisbane. Family members of the school community may have been buried in the Catholic section of this cemetery with the sisters in attendance.



*Pause and remember:*

*Who are my ancestors?*

*For what gifts from them do I need to thank God?*



*With house blocks as small as seven perches (177 square metres) to fit in as many workers' cottages as possible, Petrie Terrace also known as Milton, became one of the few parts of Brisbane with housing congestion resembling that of Collingwood and Redfern in the southern capitals. Workers and their families lived very spartanly. Into this area, came the first Josephites on the north side of the Brisbane River. Saint John the Baptist School was opened in April, 1870, by Sisters Clare Wright and Francis de Sales Sullivan with an attendance of 52 pupils. Enrolments had more than doubled by the time the school closed later in the decade. Perhaps it is indicative of the spirit of Mary MacKillop that one of the school's near neighbours was a jail! "The Barracks" was originally the Police and Army Barracks of the fledgling colony. Those who protected Mary and her sisters would have lived/trained there at that time.*

*The people in this area were very kind to the sisters and took up a collection for their support every week. They were disappointed when the bishop closed this school in the late 1870s.*

*Sisters and pupils from the three Brisbane Josephite schools used to*

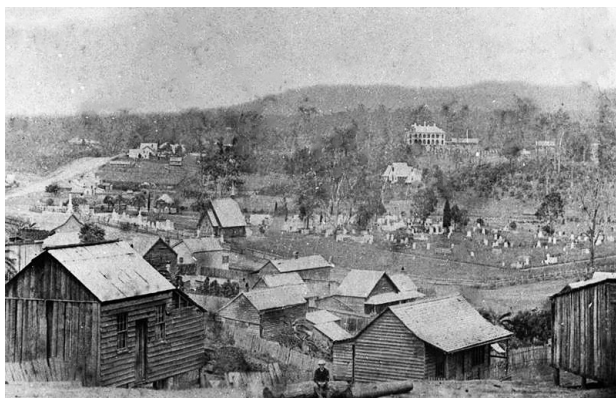
meet annually for a picnic. A reporter for the Brisbane Courier was present at this celebration and wrote:

*'The children under the care of the Sisters of St. Joseph's, to the number of nearly three hundred from their schools at Milton, South Brisbane, and One-Mile Swamp met together on June 23rd in the paddock adjoining St Mary's Church South Brisbane, where they were regaled with tea, cakes, sandwiches, fruit etc. A number of games were indulged in, including a novel one called 'Providence Bag,' to which the child approaches blindfolded; those fortunate enough to reach it taking out a prize. A number of friends were present who assisted the Sisters in satisfying the wants of their numerous little visitors.'* [9 July 1870.]

The hustle and bustle of this area in the twenty-first century would be a far cry from what Mary and her sisters experienced in 1870. As the sisters walked to the ferry or perhaps Victoria Bridge after 1874, crossed the river and then walked up to the school in all kinds of weather, they may have heard Mary say such words as:

*"The little crosses of every day are harder to bear than the thumping big ones". (1889)*

*How do I manage the annoyances of everyday?*



Petrie Terrace c 1860

## St Stephen's Chapel - 2.2km from St John the Baptist School, Caxton Street



1. To walk to Saint Stephen's Chapel at 249 Elizabeth Street retrace the route to the point where you entered Roma Street. This is at Emma Miller Place, past the entrance to the Roma Street Parklands.\* Emma Miller was known as Emma Calderwood when she arrived in Brisbane in 1879, from England, with her husband and the children from her first marriage. She was a seamstress and activist for women's rights. She would surely have championed Mary's stand against Bishop Quinn. After her second husband's death, she married Mr Miller in 1886.



*Pause and reflect:*

*Who are the strong women in my life?  
Pray for them and for those women who struggle to  
maintain their dignity in our world.*

\*For a break or to see a beautiful place, take a detour to visit the Roma Street Parklands. These are well worth a visit for the peace and beauty they offer. The entrance is a left turn immediately after passing the Transit Centre, before Emma Miller Place.



*Stop a while with Mary to*

*"see the beauty of God" 1872.*

2. From Emma Miller Place continue up Roma Street or walk through the park to the intersection of Roma, Albert and Turbot Streets. Cross Albert Street.
3. Cross Turbot Street into Suncorp Plaza which is actually a continuation of Albert Street. Just into the plaza, on the right is a plaque marking the site of the Roma Street Police Station. This would have been there in Mary's time.



*Pause and give thanks for the men and women who protect our society today.*

4. Continue through Suncorp Plaza past the historic Albert Street Uniting (Methodist) Church which was opened in 1889, so may have been seen by Mary, who would have been familiar with the original church on this site, then cross Ann Street into King George Square again, technically Albert Street, fronting Brisbane City Hall.

✦ *Pause at the large sculpture on the right. It is a memorial to the Petrie Family, pioneers of Brisbane. It represents many of Mary's values – family life, willingness to go where needed, respecting the dignity of all, including indigenous people, concern for the good of all.*

*Do these values guide my life's direction?*

5. Then, proceeding through the Square, continue walking down Albert Street to cross Adelaide Street, then Queen Street Mall and then Elizabeth Street.
6. Turn left and continue down Elizabeth Street on the right-hand side. Pass Tara House (number 175), the construction of which Mary and the sisters would have witnessed between 1877-1879. It was acquired in 1919 by the Queensland Irish Association. This building, no longer the Irish Club, holds many fond memories for many Queensland Irish sisters.

✦ *Pause to give thanks for the many Irish Sisters who have contributed so much to the Queensland Josephite story.*

7. Cross Edward Street. The chapel and cathedral are a hundred metres further on, with the GPO (Post Office) on the left. The front section of this beautiful Post Office was built in 1872, so would probably have been used by Mary and her sisters.
8. Walk between the two cathedrals into the grounds behind St Stephen's Chapel. Here is a cream-coloured stone building, known as Mercy Place. It now houses diocesan offices but in the 1870s was the Cathedral School, staffed by Sisters of Mercy who lived at All Hallows'. A statue of Bishop Quinn stands beside the building. To the right is Penola Place which also houses diocesan offices and the Cathedral Coffee Shop.

This building dates from 1900. In 2013, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of CRAqld – Catholic Religious Australia, in Queensland - Archbishop Coleridge renamed the buildings to honour the Mercies and the Josephites who “have been responsible for the greatest apostolic works the Catholic Church has ever known in this part of the world. The religious have gone out in a way that is mysterious and magnificent to offer the welcome of God to everyone ... especially those who are judged worthless, condemned by others, those who have found no welcome.”

*Catholic Leader, 08-03-2013*



*How do the Archbishop's words resonate with my own experience?*

*How do I welcome those who find no welcome?*

Mary believed her vocation in life was to

*“seek [only] to serve God in the care of the little ones of his flock ... human agency [could] not do what has been done ... May God be praised in all.” 1867*

*Do I recognise God's hand in all I do?*



1. Walk across the grounds to the front of Penola Place.  
In 2016, on 8 August, the latest tribute to Mary MacKillop was unveiled. Penola Place now has two 'shopfront' windows dedicated to Mary MacKillop, displaying memorabilia and story. From here, a path leads to the southern side door of St Stephen's Chapel. Set into the path are plaques detailing twelve important dates and events in Mary's story.
2. Enter St Stephen's Chapel through this door.



*Mary MacKillop prayed in both the original Saint Stephen's Cathedral and in the present Cathedral of Saint Stephen, opened in 1874. During the 1870s, South Brisbane was a part of the Cathedral parish as it is again, in the twenty-first century, so that both of these churches served at some time as the parish church for the sisters living in South Brisbane. The diocese of Brisbane, at that time, covered the entire colony of Queensland. On some Saturday mornings Mary MacKillop used to come to Mass in what is now known as Saint Stephen's Chapel, which houses the Shrine of Mary MacKillop. Father Woods used to say Mass in this church and preached Missions here. There is a storyboard in the porch opposite the entrance porch. The Bishop's Chair in the Chapel belonged to Bishop Quinn.*

*Saint Stephen's Chapel, the original Cathedral designed by the famous English architect, Augustin Pugin, has been dedicated as a shrine to Mary MacKillop, who is now the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Brisbane.*

*Allow plenty of time to study the statue of Mary MacKillop and discover for yourself the message that the artist, John Elliott, meant to communicate. Listen for the message that Mary is trying to communicate to you.*

*The statue and the panels behind it are all hewn from the one camphor laurel tree. Traces of the tree's perfume can still be smelt in the Chapel, even though it has been there since 1998.*

*The figure of Mary MacKillop evokes the strong pioneering spirit of the woman. Her faith and trust in God's providence are shown in her determination as she strides forward, even with one hand damaged. Her face reflects warmth and compassion for those in need. John Elliot began with the trunk of a hundred-year-old camphor laurel tree. He sliced it and hollowed it out and then began painstakingly to recombine its elements, allowing Mary MacKillop to emerge. The ancient tree and its rough bark recall the slab hut in which she opened her first school and the old fence posts so familiar in the Australian bush. Mary's spirit is almost tangible here. Her example gives us new strength to face the challenges of our life. With compassion for our needs, she shows us how to trust in God's providence.*

*The relic set into the stone on the floor to the right of the statue, is a piece of the original coffin in which Mary MacKillop was buried in 1909.*

*John Elliott's panels beside the statue pay tribute to Mary's religious life as Mother Mary of the Cross and her work encouraging the sisters in their ministry - especially by her letter writing. The drawings allow us to discover children and Australian animals and other elements of her life and ministry.*

*How would an artist depict me and my life story? What element in the statue draws me to Mary?*

*If I find the statue challenging, as many do, what is the challenge?*

*What element in the panels speaks most clearly to me?*



Mary often went to a chapel (oratory) or a church when she needed peace, heeding her own advice,

*“Believe in the whisperings of God in your own heart” 1868*

and, on another occasion,

*“The happiness of possessing God is unspeakable”.*

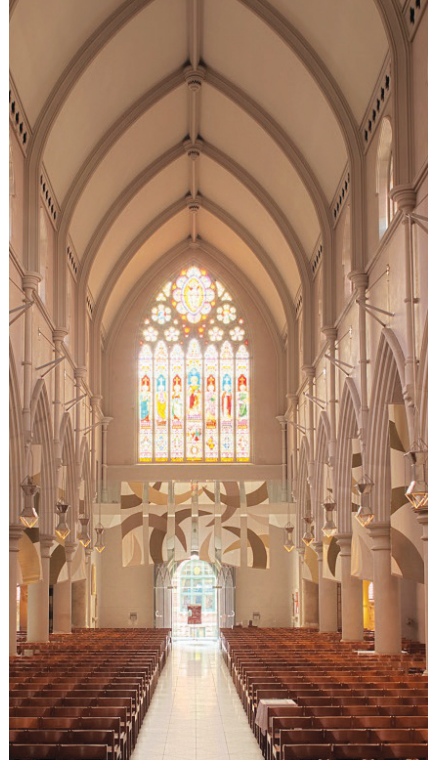
*How do I satisfy my need for peace and quiet?*



## Cathedral of St Stephen



- The current cathedral is next door to Saint Stephen's Chapel.
- The Blessed Sacrament Chapel is behind the main altar.
- Bishop Quinn's grave is to the left of the main altar.
- Saint Joseph the Worker is depicted in the Holy Family stained glass window behind the organ.
- Saint Joseph, foster-father of Jesus, has a statue in the alcove to the left of the main door as you leave the cathedral.



★ *Bishop Quinn featured prominently in the decade of Mary's life that we are reflecting on. His 'larger-than-life' statue, his chair of authority and his mortal remains are reminders of the man who described Mary as "an ambitious, obstinate woman ... a very troublesome woman." Mary described him as "a kind and generous-intentioned man but ... unfortunately ... unpopular." (1871).*

*Mary never spoke ill of Bishop Quinn, nor of any other bishop or priest who wronged her. In 1879, in the midst of the withdrawal from Queensland, she was able to say:*

*"From my very heart, I forgive Bishop O'Quinn. ... May God teach us all the patience and prudence we require".*

*How do I respond to those with whom I may disagree, especially if I have to work with them?*

- ✦ *From 1874, Mary would have worshipped in the Cathedral of Saint Stephen. It is testament to her enduring legacy that she has been named Patron of the Archdiocese. Archbishop John Bathersby initiated this honour in 2009, the centenary of Mary's death.*

*Mary often spent long hours in quiet prayer.*

*'When storms rage, when persecutions or dangers threaten,  
I quietly creep into the deep abyss of the Sacred Heart; and  
securely sheltered there, my soul is in peace' 1907.*

- ✦ *Pause and take time now to contemplate the invitations that come in the quiet and peace of this sacred place.*

Your life pilgrimage continues but before your move from this place remember Mary's words:

*"All depends on prayer. Begin with it and end with it". 1890*

## Conclusion

And so as you finish the pilgrimage you may like to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the quiet of the Cathedral, the following, adapted from the "A Pilgrim in St Joseph's Land".

*As I come to the end of my pilgrimage with Mary,  
around Brisbane,  
I am grateful for the many blessings  
I have received over these routes ...  
I am particularly grateful  
for those unexpected moments of blessing  
when I recognised who I really am ...  
My hopes for this time have been fulfilled ...*

and I realise that this is not an ending,  
but a beginning ...  
wherever I go on my pilgrimage  
through life may I be aware  
of the presence of God around me.  
May I know that

*'there, where I am, I will find God'. 1874*

May the vision for a new way of living  
in the spirit of Joseph  
shared by  
Saint Mary MacKillop  
and  
Father Julian Tenison Woods  
continue to inspire many in our  
world today.

*"Be eager in your desires,  
but humbly patient in their  
accomplishment." 1867*



## Return to Base



This completes the pilgrimage.

1. If returning to the Powerhouse,\* exit the cathedral by any door and proceed behind the cathedral, on the left-hand side, towards the Francis Rush Centre.
2. Here are steps leading down to Charlotte Street.
3. Turn left into Charlotte Street and walk to the intersection with Eagle Street.
4. Cross Eagle Street and walk through any of the venues in the Waterfront Place/Eagle Street Pier precinct, to arrive back on the Riverwalk.
5. From here choose to take a Citycat back to the Powerhouse, or retrace the route along Riverwalk.

**\*Alternatively,** if there is no need to return to the Powerhouse, use either bus or train to return to your accommodation. Consult Translink for the best options, including appropriate bus stops. Bus and train may be accessed by walking through Post Office Lane, immediately opposite the entrance to the Cathedral. The clock tower of Central Railway Station can be seen in the distance as you exit this lane into Queen Street.

*God's beauty, goodness, watchful care of me, and all nature pursues me everywhere."*

*Julian Tenison Woods, 1870*



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- The work of Margaret McKenna rsj and the JOLA (Josephite Outdoor Leisure Activities) group of the 1990s - this group, under Margaret's supervision, compiled a leaflet, 'Footprints from the Past' which was used as a starting point for this document.
- Front Cover: Sandstone Sculpture by Mardi Kearney. Mary MacKillop and Children. 2009. St Joseph's School Kangaroo Point. Used with permission.
- Title Page: 'Joseph' by Stephen Todd. Used with permission.
- Sandy Leaitua for design and layout.

## **Inspiration and Information Taken From**

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- » “With Grateful Hearts - Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph in Queensland, 1870-1970” Margaret M. McKenna, Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, NSW, 2009
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- » [www.translink.com.au](http://www.translink.com.au)

## **Appendix**

A shorter pilgrimage (14.5 km) may be had by following a geographical sequence rather than an historical one, ending at Saint John the Baptist School.

1. Begin at the Powerhouse as above.
2. Use the alternative to ‘All Hallows’ as above.
3. Exit the Customs House into Queen Street and turn left. Follow it to the intersection with Elizabeth Street and proceed along the left hand side of Elizabeth Street to the Chapel and Cathedral. Exit the Cathedral as in numbers 1-4 of ‘Return to Base’ to return to the Riverwalk, turning right onto the walk to proceed as far as the Goodwill Bridge.
4. Exit the Goodwill Bridge by the left and join the Riverwalk.
5. Follow this around to the Kangaroo Point Cliffs to a carpark. From here access River Terrace via Ellis Street, or continue a little further to a stairway which leads up to Scout Place on River Terrace or further still to another staircase which leads up to Kangaroo Point Cliffs Park, upper level. The last is probably the least steep and exits closest to the cottage where the sisters stayed during the week (possibly 66 River Terrace). See ‘Saint Joseph’s School Kangaroo Point’ and then ‘Saint John the Baptist School’, numbers 1-3 for instructions around this site
6. From Saint Joseph’s School, walk in the opposite direction to Paton Street, River Terrace becoming Leopold Street. Follow this to the intersection with Stanley Street, with the freeway on the right.

7. Cross with the lights and turn left. Hubert Street is the second street on the right.
8. From Hubert Street, turn right back into Stanley Street and follow this under the freeway, past the hospital complexes on both sides of the street, to the intersection with Vulture Street.
9. Turn right into Vulture Street and walk down to Tribune Street. See 'Tribune Street Convent' for reflection here.
10. From Tribune Street, turn left into Merivale Street and follow this through to Saint Mary's Church and School.
11. From Saint Mary's, continue along Merivale Street to the intersection with Montague Road.
12. Turn right and walk down Montague Road to Fleet Lane. See number 4 of 'Montague Street Convent'.
13. Continue along Montague Road, under the William Jolly Bridge (where it merges with the remnants of Stanley Street) and follow it around to the Kurilpa Bridge. Connect with number 7 under 'Saint John the Baptist School'.
14. Return to base from here or follow the directions under 'Saint Stephen's Chapel' back to the centre of the city, approximately another 2.2 km.

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