

Opening and Blessing of the Mary MacKillop Stable School Park

Beginning of Pilgrim Walk

All gather outside the Church at the sound of a bell. Mary MacKillop, Annie & Lexie (Srs Mary McNamara, Chris Symonds & Sara Sungio (Principal) and children in period costume will lead the pilgrim procession from the Church to the Park. Those unable to walk that distance are invited to be seated in the park awaiting the procession.

Gathered pilgrims

Sr Marion Gambin Let us join in procession following the children, Mary MacKillop, and her sisters, Annie and Lexie, to the Mary MacKillop Stable Park for the opening and blessing.

Procession arrives at the park and all take their seats.

Sr Marion Gambin Acknowledgement of Country

Sr Marion Gambin Welcomes invited guests, visitors, National Pilgrims, Sisters....and invites Sr Marie Foale to tell the story of the park.



Blessing of Plaque

Sr Marion We come now to bless this park on the sacred country of the Pinchunga people and of the first Josephite school – where it all began.

We bless first the bronze plaque commemorating the beginning of the work of education by Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods for the children of Australia and New Zealand. The present plaque replaces the one that was in the ground here and has worn away over time. We ask the children presently at the Mary MacKillop Memorial school to bless the plaque.

Children sprinkle the plaque and then return to their seats.

Father Paul Gardiner

May the vision and the charism of the founders of the Sisters of St Joseph, Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, continue to inspire women, men and children to act justly, be kind faithfully and walk humbly with God, each other, and all life in our world.

All *sung response – Amen*

Blessing of Wall

Sr Marion We bless the wall naming the Park as the Mary MacKillop Stable School Park. The Principal, staff and children of Mary MacKillop Memorial School on behalf of all the Schools who share the MacKillop charism and Josephite tradition will bless the wall.

Principal, staff & children take the twigs and water and sprinkle the wall and return to their seats.

Emeritus Archbishop Leonard Faulkner

May the blessings of God,
abundant blessings of good education
surround, inspire and give freedom
to all children and teachers in Josephite schools
so that they may be bearers of hope
and makers of community among us.

All *sung response – Amen*



Blessing of Pathways

Sr Marion We bless the Pathways and ask those who have walked many pathways in their lives to bless these new ones.

A group of older Penola people who have had experience of life walk along each pathway sprinkling them water.

Sisters Janine Keating, Niesha Allport & Colleen Dempsey

May all who walk these pathways
in sunshine, wind or rain,
find their way in the present
and their dreams into the future.
In their walking may they respect
their interconnection with all creation.

All sung response – Amen

Blessing of Pilgrim Prayer

Sr Marion We bless the Pilgrim prayer and ask those who are here on the national pilgrimage to come forward and bless the prayer with water.

A group of Pilgrims – sprinkle the water over the plaque.



Emeritus Archbishop Leonard Faulkner

May all who meet here on pilgrimage,
whether they are beginning,
on the way, or at the end,
find their hearts' desire
and return home renewed and at peace.

All *sung response – Amen*

Blessing of Seating

Sr Marion We bless the seating in this park as places of rest for parents and grandparents who might sit and watch their children here and for all others who will sit on these seats. We ask the Chairs of the School Board to bless the seats.

*The Chairs representing those who might sit there watching their children play
- sprinkle the water in turn.*

Sisters Chris Symonds and Mary McNamara

May all who pause to rest on these seats,
enjoy precious moments of contentment and peace
either alone, or with family or friends.
May the presence of God in this place
seep as love into the hearts of all who rest here.

All *sung response – Amen*

Blessing of Boundary Wall

Sr Marion We bless the wall around the park which has replaced the fence destroyed by the tornado. I ask the Sisters of St Joseph representing the Congregations to bless the wall.

*The Sisters representing the Provinces and Congregations spread out along
the wall and pass the water from one to another until the entire wall has been
sprinkled.*

Emeritus Archbishop Leonard Faulkner

May these walls be a protection for all who come to enjoy this park.
May they hold open a space where
all will be welcomed,
and experience respect and acceptance.

All *sung response – Amen*

Sr Marion Let's sing together the song, ***From Penola's Plains***, blessing this park
with our singing and joy!

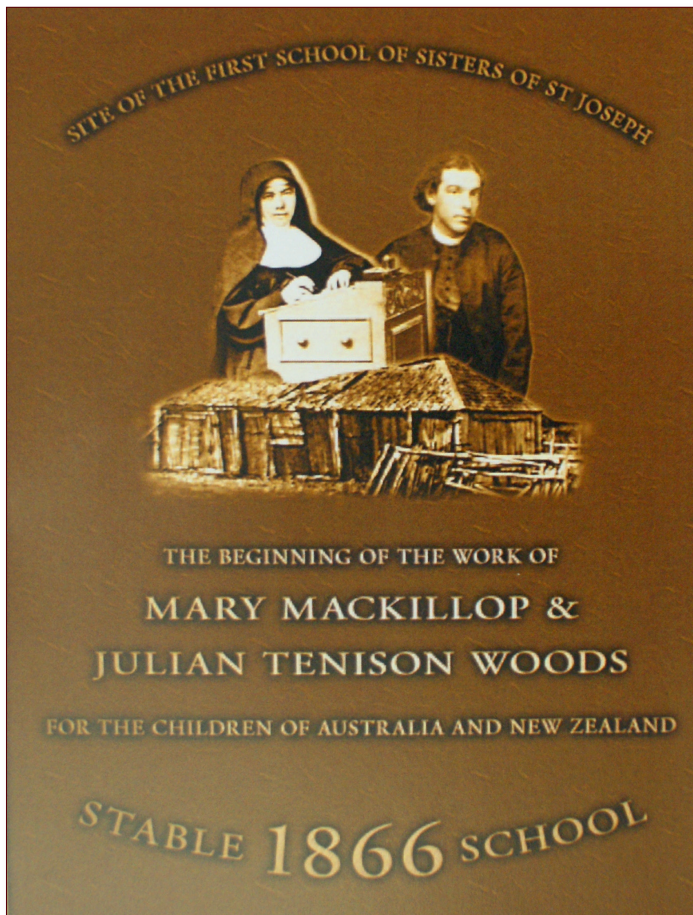
All

From Penola's Plains

*Loving God, we give you thanks this day as gladly we rejoice,
that a woman's life should so proclaim a love that heard your voice.
Now inspired by her example, may we strive to seek your face,
so that in our rugged homeland the poor will find a place.
Here with Mary of the Cross we pray your truth may guide our way,
that our open hearts may hear your call to follow you each day.*

*Let our praise now fill this joyful space as loudly we proclaim
that in Mary's life we see the faith that glorifies your name.
For her heart knew your compassion at the plight of children poor.
So she mustered all her courage and saw her future call.
Trusting firm in you she ventured forth, her eyes upon your cross.
From Penola's plains to all the world, her arms reached out in love.*

*Holy Spirit gift of love divine, with you we dare to dream.
May your wisdom come to lead us on where justice reigns supreme.
Now may Mary's love inspire us, and the cross still lead us on.
Give us hearts that never waver 'til victory is won.
Let our lives show forth your tender love, compassion warm and bold.
Help us bring Good News to all the world, your Spirit Love unfold.*



Sr Marion We've blessed the park really well! But before we move to bless the new convent, I invite Sister Anne Derwin, the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, to address us.

Address by Sr Anne Derwin, Congregational Leader

Opening and Blessing of the Convent

Children lead the way to stand in front of the convent.

Sr Anne

I invite Sr Sheila McCreanor to briefly tell us the story of this convent site.

Srs Anne and Marion

We lay the welcome mat in the doorway. May all who enter this house experience the welcome of Josephite hospitality and love.

Srs Anne and Marion

We ask the Srs Mary McNamara and Chris Symonds, Archbishop Faulkner and Fr Peter Fountain and some children to go through the house and bless each room in thanksgiving.

While this is happening inside, those outside join in the litany.



- Sr Anne** We bless the kitchen – may it become the centre of our hospitality and gratitude for the bounty of Earth.
- All** **May God be at home here**
- Sr Marion** We bless the dining room - may we share good food and conversation around our table.
- All** **May God be at home here**
- Sr Anne** We bless the lounge – may we enjoy community life and relaxation in this place.
- All** **May God be at home here**
- Sr Marion** We bless the bathroom and laundry – may we appreciate the gift of the waters of Earth as we bathe and wash day after day.
- All** **May God be at home here**
- Sr Anne** We bless the bedrooms - May we sleep deeply and wake well rested and full of hope.
- All** **May God be at home here**
- Sr Marion** We bless the study - May our reading and preparation enhance our ministry in this place.
- All** **May God be at home here**
- Sr Anne** We bless the prayer room – May all who pray in this space experience the hospitality and love of our Good God.
- All** **May God be at home here**

All come out of the house and stand in front of the house as we sing

- Sr Marion** The convent is blessed so let's sing in rejoicing, ***Beneath a Cross of Stars.***

Beneath a Cross of Stars

Chorus

***Across these great lands she brought the Good News
With courage and love in her heart
That faith and hope and love may live
beneath a Cross of Stars, beneath a Cross of Stars***

*Early in life she heard God's call
The call of Christ to stand with the poor
To serve like Joseph, to serve in deed
To teach, to love, to answer a need*

*Soon others could see Mary's shining light
They came from far and they came from wide
To stand with the poor to teach with the young
To see that Christ's song would one day be sung*

Repeat Chorus

*"Have courage no matter what your crosses are"
this Mary knew when times were hard
she trusted in God, and God did provide
and Mary's love traveled far and wide*

*Across a vast land from north to south
and to the land of the Long White Cloud
Mary carried her dream, she followed her call
so that our faith would live in us all.*

Repeat Chorus

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Sr Anne - Thanks



Thank you to our sponsors for the Mary MacKillop Stable School Park

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Mary MacKillop Interpretive Centre, Penola
Knights of The Southern Cross, Fleurieu Peninsula
Josephite Congregation Legacy
Sale of Sr Mary McNamara's Jams
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Acknowledgements for St Joseph's Convent

Empak Homes
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St Joseph's School, Belmore
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