

**VOTE OF THANKS**  
**MASS OF THANKSGIVING**  
**FOR THE CANONISATION OF MARY MACKILLOP**  
**18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2010**  
**ST PAUL'S OUTSIDE THE WALLS**  
**ROME**

What a wonderful thanksgiving to God we have just celebrated in this beautiful Eucharist.

We thank you Cardinal Pell for being our Presider in this Mass of Thanksgiving when we could sing and praise God in our own language for the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop. Thank you also for the inspiring homily you gave us today.

One of Mary MacKillop's characteristics not spoken about in these days was her respect for the priesthood. Today we echo that respect for the priesthood and recognise that our Bishops and Priests have given their lives in service of us, God's people. Let us show our appreciation for them.

We thank all those who have prepared the beautiful liturgy we have just celebrated and who have led us in music and song. In particular we thank the Canonisation Liturgy Committee under the leadership of Father Peter Williams and assisted by Sr Carmel Pilcher.

We thank the Australian Delegation and our Ambassador to the Holy See for their special presence with us at this Thanksgiving Mass.

Another group I would like to thank today – a group that doesn't often get thanked – is the Australian media. Because of your hard work and commitment over these days the great story of Mary's Canonisation has been recorded and everyone back at home in Australia and New Zealand has been able to participate. We are grateful.

In conclusion may I remind us that we all came here to Rome as pilgrims – open to being touched by God in whatever way God wanted to in these days.

May I invite us all to take a moment's silence and reflect on how we will be different because of this pilgrimage experience.

We look forward now to a better Australia, a better New Zealand, better countries to which we return because we go home as different people from those who came.

May your journeys home be safe and your homecomings joyful.