

THE CANONISATION CEREMONY

A few days prior to the ceremony a large image of each saint will be hung in front of the Basilica of St Peter. Mary MacKillop's image will be the middle one on the right hand side of the main door as you face the Basilica.

There are two parts to the ceremony:

1. The preparation for the ceremony – some short readings written by the blessed. For Mary MacKillop these will be read by Sr Judy Sippel and Sr Katrina Brill. Then there will be a prayer followed by verses one and three of the hymn, "If I Could Tell the Love of God" written by Fr Christopher Willcock. This will be sung by the choir consisting of Australian Catholic University students, Sisters of St Joseph and friends. This choir will join the Vatican choir for the remainder of the Liturgy.
2. The Rite of Canonisation takes place during the Mass celebrated by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, who will arrive accompanied by the concelebrants, eight in number for each one to be canonised. For Mary MacKillop the concelebrants are Cardinal George Pell, (Sydney), Archbishop Philip Wilson, (Adelaide), Archbishop Denis Hart, (Melbourne), Archbishop John Bathersby, (Brisbane), Archbishop Barry Hickey (Perth), Bishop Joseph Toal (Scotland), Bishop Denis Browne (New Zealand) and Fr Paul Gardiner SJ (Former Postulator). Altar servers for Mary MacKillop in the procession are Angelo Spadavecchia (South Australian in Rome), Paul Catchlove (Queenslander in Rome), Joseph Duke, (Queensland) and Antonio de Padua Martins Soares (East Timor).

The Rite of Canonization

- The pope begins with a greeting.
- The Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Archbishop Angelo Amato, accompanied by the Postulators, Fr Emilio Dunoyer, Mr Andrea Ambrosi, Sr Anna-Maria Cinco Castro, Sr Maria Casey, Dr Nunzio D'Elio and Fr Giovangiuseppe Califano, approaches the Holy Father and requests him to proceed with the Canonization of the following Blessed,
 1. Stanislaw Soltys, from Poland, a priest of the Order of Canons Regular of the Lateran
 2. Andre Bessette, from Canada, Brother of the Congregation of the Holy Cross

3. Candida Maria de Jesus Cipitria y Barriola, from Spain, Foundress of the Congregation of the Daughters of Jesus
4. Mary of the Cross MacKillop Foundress of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart
5. Giulia Salzano, from Italy, Foundress of the Sisters Catechists of the Sacred Heart
6. Battista Da Varano, from Italy, member of the Order of Saint Clare.

The Prefect uses the formula *Most blessed Father, The holy Mother Church, asks your Holiness that the names of the blessed ones be written in Book of Saints and thus be invoked as such by all Christians.* (He actually lists the names again).

- The Prefect then presents a brief biography of each of those to be canonized.
- Prayer and Litany of the Saints follows with the concluding prayer to the Litany
- **THE HOLY FATHER SOLEMENLY PRONOUNCES THE OFFICAL FORMULA OF CANONIZATION.**

In honour of the Holy Trinity, for the glory of the Catholic faith and the development of the Christian life, with the authority of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and of Ourselves, after long reflection, invoked divine assistance many times and listened to the opinion of many of our Fathers in the Episcopate (Bishops) declare and define as Saints the Blessed Stanislaw Soltys, Andre Bessette, Candida Maria de Jesus Cipitria y Barriola, Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Giulia Salzano, Battista Da Varano and inscribe their names in the Canon (list) of the Saints and establish that throughout the Church they be honoured devoutly among all the saints.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- ALL RESPOND with the sung AMEN
- The relics of the new Saints are brought to the altar. For Mary MacKillop the reliquary will be carried by Kathleen Evans, accompanied by Sr Niesha Allport from Penola and Mr Ronald Campbell from Scotland and a relative of Mary MacKillop. The reliquary is in the shape of a Cross carved from a Red gum fence post from Penola. The relic, some strands of Mary's hair, is enclosed in brilliant cut faceted antique glass.

- The choir /cantor sings alleluia 3 times
- The assembly repeats the above alleluia 3 times
- The choir/cantor sings a brief acclamation.
- The Prefect, Archbishop Angelo Amato, and the Postulators, Fr Emilio Dunoyer, Mr Andrea Ambrosi, Sr Anna-Maria Cinco Castro, Sr Maria Casey, Dr Nunzio D'Elio and Fr Giovangiuseppe Califano thank the Holy Father for the proclamation and request that arrangements be made to have the Apostolic letter regarding the Canonization event written.
- The Holy Father responds – *may this be so!*
- The Prefect, Archbishop Angelo Amato, and the Postulators exchange an embrace of peace with the Holy Father
- THE EUCHARIST FOLLOWS AS NORMAL – the Gloria, the opening Prayer, the Readings which will be of the 29th Sunday of the year.

Sr Anne Derwin will read the first reading in English. The psalm will be read in Spanish. The second reading will be in French and will be read by a Canadian. The Gospel will be read in Latin and Greek. The Holy Father will give the homily, mainly in Italian but with some of the other languages of the new saints.

NOTE: All the formal canonisation parts happen before the Gloria.

There will be five people to receive Holy Communion from the Holy Father. For Mary MacKillop there will be twenty five priests and deacons to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion to the pilgrims in St Peter's Square.