

Mary MacKillop

*Discover the Life and Legacy  
of Australia's First Saint*



**Mary MacKillop**  
MUSEUM, ADELAIDE

Mary MacKillop



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
ADELAIDE

## A message from His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC

**THE LIFE OF MARY MACKILLOP** is the story of Australia's first and only canonised saint and a remarkable Australian.

Mary was a pioneer of schooling for the most marginalised children and a key figure in establishing universal education in Australia. She and her Sisters of St Joseph showed great resilience in overcoming the many obstacles placed in their path as they established their order.

Mary and her Sisters established a network of services for families and, in particular, troubled women and children that continues today through 440 schools in the Josephite tradition and a network of community services nationwide, in rural and regional, as well as metropolitan areas.

Whilst a figure of national significance, Mary is of particular historical relevance to South Australians. Her life and legacy are to be celebrated in the Mary MacKillop Museum and precinct at Kensington. A unique and engaging experience which encompasses a walking trail, contemporary activities and quiet spaces for reflection is planned. It will be a place that welcomes all people and embraces diversity in a spirit of celebration.

Mary MacKillop is a woman for all Australians who, through her example, remains relevant to us today as a woman of foresight and faith.

HON. HIEU VAN LE AC  
Governor of South Australia

# St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

**MARY HELEN MACKILLOP** (January 15, 1842 August 8, 1909), now formally known as St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, was an Australian nun who has been declared a Saint by the Catholic Church.

She was, by any measure, a remarkable woman. In 1866 at just 24 years old, and having battled against the odds, she co-founded with Father Julian Tenison Woods, the Sisters of St Joseph (the 'Josephites') in Penola, South Australia.

The Josephites are a congregation of religious sisters who established a number of schools and welfare institutions throughout Australasia, with an emphasis on educating children of the poorest rural families, comforting forgotten people and, in particular, serving in the most remote and the toughest towns and settlements scattered across Australia and New Zealand.

Mary MacKillop is the first and only Australian to



be recognised by the Catholic Church as a Saint. Her long path to official Sainthood began in 1925. Her Beatification was granted in January 1995 by Pope John Paul II.

Pope Benedict XVI prayed at her tomb during his visit to Sydney for World Youth Day 2008 and 18 months later she was canonised on October 17, 2010, during a public ceremony in St Peter's Square at the Vatican. This was attended by more than 8,000 Australians and celebrated at home by countless Australians.

The life and legacy of Saint Mary and her early Josephite Sisters are of great historical, spiritual and social significance. Mary is an Australian for all Australians. Her selfless contributions deserve fitting recognition in the re-developed interactive Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide where all Australians can celebrate and embrace her extraordinary life.





## A contemporary, innovative update

**MARY MACKILLOP MUSEUM** was established 22 years ago on sacred ground in Kensington, South Australia. It was here that Mary lived, walked, worked, prayed, laughed and anguished, from 1872 to 1883, during the early and troubled beginnings of the Sisters of St Joseph.

The Museum told a little of Mary's life story and showcased the early years of the growing congregation. Although the Museum has welcomed many visitors and pilgrims over the years, it is now time to redevelop it in a contemporary way that shares other aspects of the story, includes today's technology, and can offer hospitality to visitors and pilgrims.

The Sisters of St Joseph have commissioned a project to redevelop and reinvigorate Mary MacKillop Museum so that other aspects, facts and features of this significant Australian story can be told in contemporary ways.

An enthusiastic committee has been working closely with the Sisters for the past year, developing a strategy for the refurbishment of the museum. New displays will be created, while children and adult visitors alike can engage in a range of interactive experiences. Additionally, a book and gift shop and small café are to be established within the museum.

A vital component of a visit to Mary MacKillop Precinct in Kensington is the establishment of a walking trail that will include the reflective convent gardens, Mary's much-loved St Joseph's Chapel, plus many significant sites in the suburbs of Kensington and Norwood.

The refreshed and refurbished Mary MacKillop Museum and the new Mary MacKillop Walking Trail are designed to be a visual and educational experience that will move people, regardless of their culture or beliefs, to reach out in a spirit of care and compassion.



## The Vision

'The Vision', a 2016 portrait by acclaimed Brisbane artist Jan Williamson, welcomes you as you enter the redeveloped Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide.

*"The painting was commissioned to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the day that Mary MacKillop realised her calling and her vision to educate children and teach the love of Jesus. Fr Julian Tenison Woods shared this vision and promised to build a school for Mary in Penola. The rest depicts the history of the Josephite Sisters.*

*Mary chose to wear a simple black dress at this time. The rosary beads depict her strong faith, Fr Woods holds his Bible and they are connected by the vision of the schoolhouse in the misty background. The gum trees represent the locality of Penola and the countryside. If you look closely, you will see a cross between the two figures which also connects them. Mary was probably a little scared of the future but had the faith to pursue her vision."*

JAN WILLIAMSON - BRISBANE, 2016



# Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide: an interactive retrospective of a remarkable Australian

**THE EXCITING PLANS** for the newly redeveloped Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide promise an interactive, reflective and inspirational experience to engage people of all ages, cultures and beliefs.

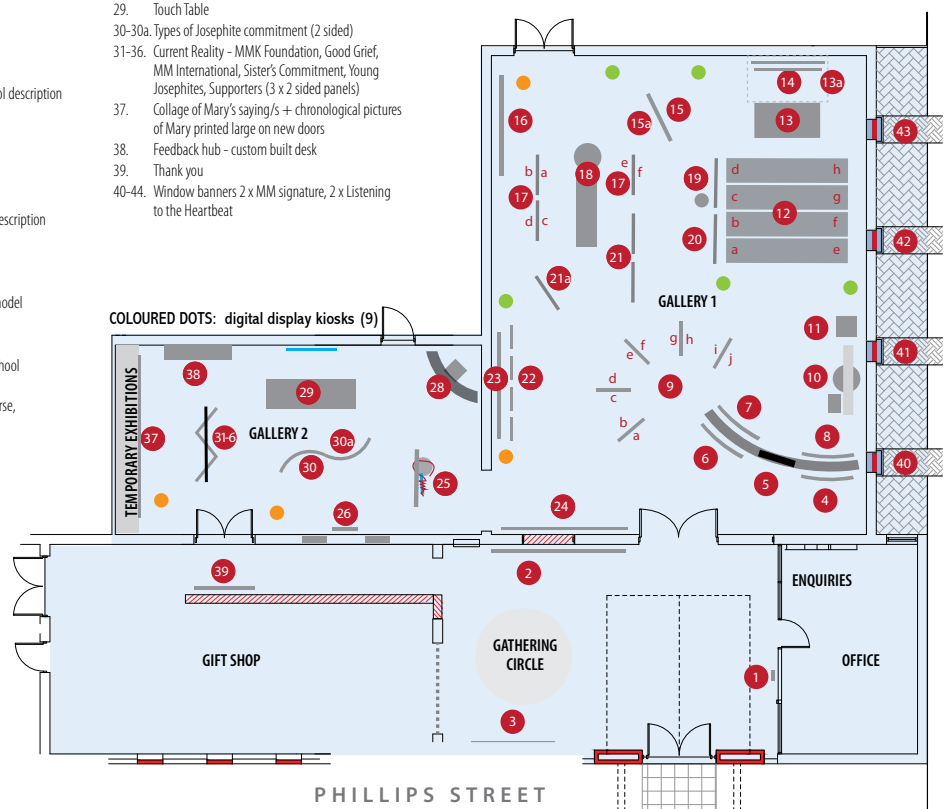
Showcased through the various media of electronic storyboards, historical objects, sound bytes, artefacts, digital display kiosks, a touch table and hands-on activities, visitors from far and wide can immerse themselves in the inspirational Mary MacKillop and Josephite Sisters' story, both past and present.

A planned book and gift shop and café will offer visitors an opportunity to browse, discover meaningful mementoes of their visit, and to then relax over a cup of coffee in a peaceful setting that looks out into the reflective convent gardens and the adjacent Mary MacKillop Park.

An important aspect of this refurbishment project will be the development of school curriculum resources designed to aid teachers in helping their students to better understand and learn more about the Josephite story, the legacy of our pioneer women and how it continues to impact society today.

1. Acknowledgement of country
2. Painting and Welcome
3. Image of Mary and saying
4. Founding - Mary and Julian
5. Door
6. Early Penola Years
7. Mary
8. Julian
9. Early sisters x 10
10. Mannequin in habit and trunk - Josephite symbol description
11. Sleeve
12. Mary - the communicator x 8 panels
13. Artefacts/letters/timetable underneath
- 13a. Mary's desk fixed high to wall
14. Crosshatch writing
15. Love in all things explanation - Josephite Crest description
- 15a. General Education Statement
16. List of all early schools
17. 6 early schools (3 x 2 sided panels)
18. Cabinet with school memorabilia and uniform model
19. Pt Augusta + lantern
20. Governor Daly's grandson
21. Motor missions (2 panels), reverse - Summer School (2 panels)
- 21a. Social Welfare 1 side, Evolving Ministries on reverse,
22. Early benefactors (4 boards)
23. Overarching benefactors statement on wall
24. Canonisation
25. Listening to the Heartbeat logo, introductory explanation
26. Artefacts explanatory text
28. Sculpture of bust
29. Touch Table
- 30-30a. Types of Josephite commitment (2 sided)
- 31-36. Current Reality - MMK Foundation, Good Grief, MM International, Sister's Commitment, Young Josephites, Supporters (3 x 2 sided panels)
37. Collage of Mary's saying/s + chronological pictures of Mary printed large on new doors
38. Feedback hub - custom built desk
39. Thank you
- 40-44. Window banners 2 x MM signature, 2 x Listening to the Heartbeat

COFFEE SHOP ←







## *Sustainability*

The people and organisations involved with the redevelopment, preservation and future operation of Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide are committed to its growth and future financial sustainability.

The museum's sustainability is dependent upon the updating and extension of the existing spaces to create a truly inspiring world-class, interactive, cultural precinct. Consequently, a Project Reference Group and a Fundraising Task Force have been established by the Regional Leadership Team of the Sisters of St Joseph.

The group's multi-skilled members are entrusted with steering the redevelopment of Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide, its environs and the establishment of a Mary MacKillop Walking Trail that will, ultimately, make a significant contribution to the immediate Kensington/Norwood community and beyond.



## Mary MacKillop Walking Trail



Mary MacKillop Museum and café



Saint Joseph's Chapel - much loved by Mary MacKillop



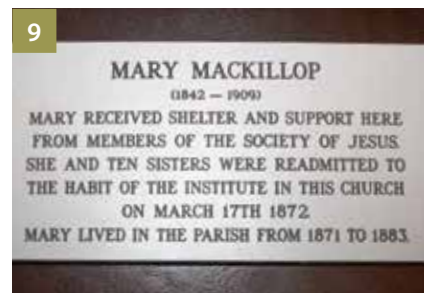
Convent gardens: including the Aboriginal Garden. More reflective spaces to be developed



Dr Benson's Memorial

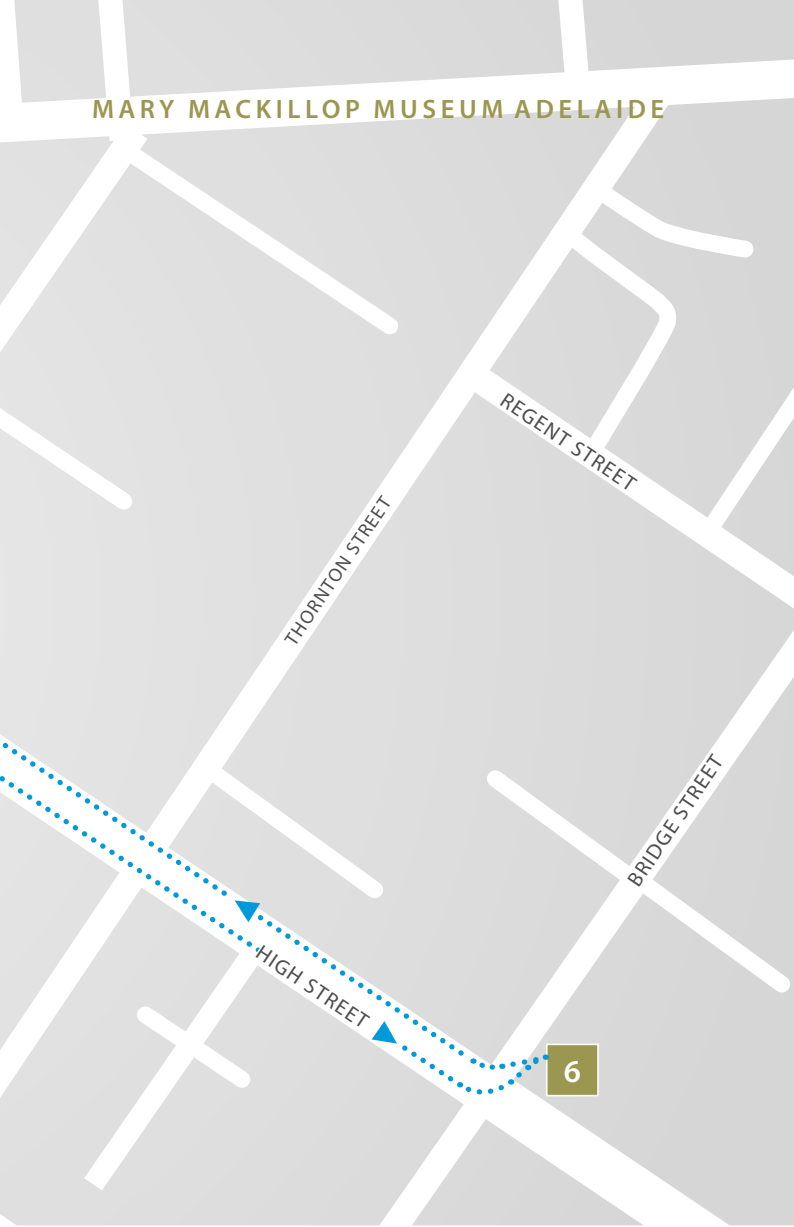


St Ignatius' Church - where Mary MacKillop was sheltered and supported by the Jesuits during her excommunication.



Plaque recalling the lifting of Mary's excommunication - ritualised in St Ignatius' Church





## The Vision

The Mary MacKillop Walking Trail, to be developed in two stages, will be a joint project of the Norwood, Payneham, and St Peters Councils and the Sisters of St Joseph. Additional historical sites connected to the early Josephite story may be identified and incorporated into the Trail over time.

Mary MacKillop Museum and Walking Trail experiences will touch visitors' hearts deeply.

It is hoped that:

- The courage, compassion, resourcefulness and resilience of Mary and her early Sisters inspire them to 'choose life' for themselves and others.
- They resolve to make a difference, to respond to needs of the less fortunate in their own part of the world, according to their own capabilities and resources.
- The world be a better place because people have come to know the Mary MacKillop and Josephite story a little deeper through their visit to Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide and its environs.



Mary MacKillop Park: Mary MacKillop monument and tribute to Max Harris, avid promoter of Mary MacKillop as 'A Saint for All Australians'



Mary MacKillop College  
Statue of Mary MacKillop



St Joseph's Memorial School, Kensington



Icon of Mary MacKillop in St Ignatius' Church, Norwood



Statue of St Ignatius in front of the Church



The Refuge - former Josephite shelter for homeless and vulnerable women - now incorporated into St Ignatius' College

# The Josephite Story



**MARY MACKILLOP'S LEGACY** is international. Currently, there are more than 750 Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart: a vibrant group of women scattered across Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Scotland, Peru, Brazil and Timor Leste.

The Josephite Sisters were a uniquely Australian group of women, who were drawn from all levels of colonial society to help educate children in outback areas, provide homes for orphans, care for single mothers, and shelter the aged and homeless.

Affectionately known as the 'Brown Joeys', the Josephites differed from other congregations of nuns in Australia during the late nineteenth century, venturing out in groups of two or three to rural areas where there was often no established Catholic Church structure to live (as they still do today) among the people, sharing their daily lives and responding to their needs.

Today's Josephite Sisters engage in pastoral work as well as professional roles, including teaching, administration, social services, law, psychology, nursing, aged care, community development, adult education and support for new arrivals in Australia and New Zealand, to name just a few.

The Sisters of St Joseph celebrate that, across the world, countless people have embraced Mary's spirit - 'charism' - in many places and in a myriad of ways.

The Sisters affirm that Mary's special spirit is alive in them, and in the hearts of countless people, in crowded cities, struggling towns and poor villages around the world. They believe women, men and children with 'Josephite hearts' bring God's love, healing and hope in myriad ways where loving kindness and compassion are needed.

## *Our Gift*

Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph, recently reminded the Sisters of words written by Father James Fitzpatrick OMI at the time of Mary MacKillop's canonisation, October 17, 2010:

"You are called to teach the church and world who Mary is, what she stands for and what she can show the world today. You are privileged to offer Mary as your unique gift to the whole church. The world will be so much richer because of your giving, your offering of your Mary to the present life of the wider church and society. Share your gift with a sense of joy and awe."

The South Australian Sisters believe that the redevelopment of Mary MacKillop Museum and the establishment of the Kensington/Norwood Walking Trail are proactive ways of responding to this mission.

# Contributing to this important redevelopment

**A FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN** has been established to cover the cost of redeveloping Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide and environs.

Already, substantial pro-bono and in-kind assistance is being provided by Sisters of St Joseph, South Australian business leaders and the wider community.

The ongoing contribution of their time and expertise reflects the significance of the project and the appreciation of its potential benefits to South Australia and beyond.

## How you can help

**THE APPEAL COMMITTEE** is seeking support from individuals, families, schools, parishes, Josephite Old Scholars, Josephite Associates, organisations, and corporates who recognise the significance of the contribution that Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop has made to the lives of countless Australians - and to people across the globe.

Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide and Walking Trail will only become a reality with your financial support.

- Your donation will allow us to continue to share the vision of Saint Mary MacKillop and inspire people to maintain her legacy – currently and into the future.
- All donors to the appeal will be appropriately acknowledged.
- 100% of donations will be applied to the cost of the Museum Project
- All donations are tax deductible.

### CHEQUES:

Please make payable to:

Mary MacKillop Place – Museum Gift Fund 2

### MAIL TO:

Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide  
PO Box 57, Kent Town South Australia 5071

### EFTPOS:

Account name: Mary MacKillop Place –  
Museum Gift Fund 2

Account No: 062-217 1083 5546

Reference: MMM \_\_\_\_\_ (your name)

For acknowledgement please email your details to [rebecca.reiner@sosj.org.au](mailto:rebecca.reiner@sosj.org.au)

### OTHER

Should you wish to make a gift by credit card or regular direct debit, or make a bequest to Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide, please contact:

Sr Mary Ryan RSJ

Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide

PO Box 57, Kent Town SA

Phone 08 8130 5900 or 0409 023 331

Email [mary.ryan@sosj.org.au](mailto:mary.ryan@sosj.org.au)

*Thank you for your generosity.*



# Mary MacKillop



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Crowd funding: [chuffed.org](http://chuffed.org) - search Mary MacKillop

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