



# MANIFESTO



MARY MACKILLOP PLACE

OUT OF THE *Ordinary*

*"A place of Pilgrimage.*

*A safe and inspiring destination  
for people on their journey of life."*

## Who is the Mary MacKillop Place Pilgrim?

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*The Mary MacKillop Place Pilgrim is any person that finds Mary MacKillop Place aids them in connecting to their inner self, spirituality or religion.*



As such, the Mary MacKillop Place Pilgrimage is not just about a religious journey.

Whether taking respite in our “oasis” surroundings, participating in a yoga class or meeting, exploring faith or Mary MacKillop’s story; every encounter with Mary MacKillop Place is an opportunity for Pilgrimage, personal reflection and the exploration of new ideas.

**Mary MacKillop Place is a facilitator  
for everyone’s journey.**

So what do we offer those who visit  
Mary MacKillop Place?

# What it is we do

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*Mary MacKillop Place delivers authentic and unique offerings to those who interact with us.*

## **A Vehicle for Change, Self Empowerment and Development.**

Whether a member of the Mary MacKillop Place team, a Sister of St Joseph, from a regular worshipping community, a curious member of the public or a conference delegate, Mary MacKillop Place provides an “oasis” through which we can connect, develop, grow and achieve.

## **An Active Sacred Site.**

Unlike most other sacred sites, Mary MacKillop Place continues to actively carry out the work of Mary MacKillop.

As we make connections with a wide variety of people at Mary MacKillop Place, there is the intention to continue the legacy of Mary MacKillop with an inspired and evolving approach for generations to come.

## **“Paying it Forward.”**

The opportunity of “Paying it Forward” means that every team member who works at Mary MacKillop Place, or person or corporation who pays to use the facilities at Mary MacKillop Place, is contributing directly to the continuing works of the Sisters of St Joseph.

# Why the work of Mary MacKillop Place matters

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*The work undertaken at Mary MacKillop Place is directly influenced by the life, values and mission of Mary MacKillop.*

Mary MacKillop is the first Saint of Australia whose legacy is recognised by the public and Catholic faith community at Mary MacKillop Place; her home and burial place.

It is this legacy that transforms Mary MacKillop Place from being a collection of buildings into a unique and inspiring site and in turn, makes our offering and way of working uniquely ours.

We wish to bring this uniqueness to life in everything we do at Mary MacKillop Place; for each other and our customers and guests. We act with a unique sense of purpose at work, every day.

It is this purpose that defines our story and makes us who we are. It's what makes us strong as people, as colleagues and as an organisation and will ensure we can continue the legacy of Mary MacKillop for years to come.

We call this **The Philosophy of Mary MacKillop Place.**

It's a combination of what we do applied through what we believe.

THE MARY MACKILLOP PLACE PHILOSOPHY  
IS DEFINED BY SIX CORE BELIEFS

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## LOVE

GENEROSITY. RESPECT.  
ENCOURAGEMENT.

## EMPOWERMENT

THE ENHANCEMENT OF YOU AND YOUR SELF BELIEF  
AND DEVELOPMENT.

## FAITH

A CONNECTION TO GOD,  
YOUR INNER SELF AND OTHERS.

## COMPASSION

SUPPORT. ACCEPTANCE.  
UNDERSTANDING.

## ACTION

PRO-ACTIVE AND DISCIPLINED  
THROUGH A STRONG WORK ETHIC.

## HONESTY

BEING TRUE TO YOURSELF AND ONE ANOTHER  
TO ACHIEVE PURPOSE.

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## Beliefs in action

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*Here's how we bring this to life for us and our customers.*

*A couple were staying at Mary MacKillop Place while the husband undertook medical treatment at the Royal North Shore Hospital for a number of weeks. During their first week at Mary MacKillop Place, Sr Brigitte happened upon a staff member, Anna, talking to the couple. It was nearing the end of her shift and they were sitting outside reading and having a cup of coffee. Anna introduced Sr Brigitte to the couple and they then shared their story with Sr Brigitte. They commented on the friendly staff of Mary MacKillop Place and found the serenity of the gardens and place peaceful.*

### **Why is this story so important?**

Anna always feels empowered to speak with guests and make them feel comfortable. Through her honest and compassionate interaction with the couple, she was able to give support and understanding of their situation. She was also in a position to advise other staff of the couple's circumstances. Our guests continued to stay at Mary MacKillop Place for the six week duration and felt welcomed in a very hospitable environment. They felt comfortable to venture into the dining room anytime for a 'cuppa' and biscuit and knew that staff were right by their side when they needed them.

*When Jack joined the team at Mary MacKillop Place he began working in the kitchen with Chef Adam. As part of his role, Chef is required to train new staff and have them work under his supervision to ensure food and beverage service standards are met. Although Chef had already spent time training Jack in the kitchen, Jack believed he required further time to really perfect the menu which Chef was happy to facilitate.*

### **Why is this a special story?**

This is a fantastic example of team initiative and support. Jack felt comfortable to be honest and ask for extra guidance and felt empowered when this was given. Chef demonstrated great leadership, compassion and patience with his support.

This behaviour sets a wonderful example for the wider team and is reflected in the visitor experience.









TRANSFORMATION CAN OCCUR IN THE MOST UNEXPECTED MOMENTS.  
WE CELEBRATE LIVES LIVED WITH PURPOSE.  
**EMPOWERMENT HELPS US LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL.**  
WE'RE PROUD TO BE OF SERVICE.  
WE RESPECT ONE ANOTHER, OUR VISITORS AND OURSELVES.  
**TOGETHER, WE'RE STRONGER.**  
WE PROUDLY SUPPORT SELF DISCOVERY, AND CALL THIS 'PILGRIMAGE'.  
**COMPASSION IS THE PATH TO GREATER UNDERSTANDING.**  
WE TURN OPPORTUNITIES INTO ACTIONS.  
WE SHARE OUR AUSTRALIAN SPIRIT WITH THE WORLD.  
**WE CONTINUE MARY MACKILLOP'S LEGACY IN ALL WE DO.**  
OUR LIVES CAN TRANSFORM WHEN WE  
SEARCH INSIDE WITH TRUTH AND AWARENESS.  
'PILGRIMAGE' IS A UNIQUELY PERSONAL JOURNEY FOR EACH OF US.  
**WE ARE OUT OF THE ORDINARY.**  
**WE RESPECT TRADITION, WHILE BEING OPEN TO NEW IDEAS.**  
MARY MACKILLOP PLACE INSPIRES BELIEF  
IN SELF, IN OTHERS AND IN GOD.  
WE CAN BE CHARITABLE THROUGH BEING BUSINESS-MINDED.  
**WE STRIVE TO SUPPORT THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH IN**  
**'NEVER SEEING A NEED WITHOUT DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT'.**  
OUR COMMUNITY IS MADE UP OF  
PEOPLE IN NEED AROUND THE WORLD.



# What we achieve by acting with a belief system and delivering on our philosophy

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- An experience that is “Out of the Ordinary” for our guests.
- A natural alignment with the values and legacy of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph.
- Financial sustainability to continue the work of Mary MacKillop Place and the Sisters of St Joseph.
- A clear execution of our mission and the way that differentiates us in the marketplace.
- A respect and consideration for the community who interacts with Mary MacKillop Place.
- A consistent process for delivering our promises to the Mary MacKillop Place community.
- A contribution to, and protection of, the integrity of Mary MacKillop Place.
- A respect for one another in our individual roles at Mary MacKillop Place.
- A sense of unity in the overarching motivations of our workplace – as individuals and as a collective.
- A reference point for us to consider in our day to day activities when we need inspiration or are challenged.
- A welcoming and supportive environment for all Pilgrims and customers.
- Encouragement of personal motivation, empowerment and reflection.
- A unique “oasis” providing respite from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

*Thank you for contributing  
to the spirit and legacy of  
Mary MacKillop Place  
and the Sisters of St Joseph.*



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