



*Strategic Directions*

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**



MARY MACKILLOP PLACE

OUT OF THE *Ordinary*

For more information about Mary MacKillop Place visit  
[www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au)

## With thanks to:

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- Board, Management, Staff and Volunteers of Mary MacKillop Place
- Aboriginal Elders
- Conference participants, Visitors and Pilgrims:  
Chapel, Museum, Café, Accommodation and Conference facilities, Schools
- Other Church groups  
ACBC, Catholic Mission, Truth, Justice & Healing Council, National Office of the Participation of Women, ACU, Sydney Catholic Schools
- Government representatives – local, state and federal
- Independent Consultants
- The Congregational Leadership and other Sisters of Saint Joseph.



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# Oasis





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## We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Cammeraygal people of the Eora nation

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They have walked and cared for this land for thousands of years, and their descendants have maintained their spiritual connections and traditions.

We acknowledge their rich heritage which has been passed on since the Dreamtime. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and future. We acknowledge the wrongs done to them by newcomers to this land and seek to be partners with them in continuing to move towards reconciliation, unity and peace.







Oasis



*There where you are,  
you will find God*

Mary MacKillop, 1871

## Welcome to Mary MacKillop Place

Perhaps you know that Mary MacKillop came to live in Alma Cottage, North Sydney in 1884. On May 9th of that year she wrote to Sister Monica Phillips about the oasis in which she found herself:

*The place is beautifully retired: though near one of the chief streets, it is as quiet as if miles from other people. We have no noise, bustle or excitement, have a nice little garden and paddock with high fences, and little birds singing around us.*

St Joseph's Convent, North Sydney eventually spread across 7-11 Mount Street and became home for the professed Sisters of St Joseph, the Novitiate for novices and a Teacher Training College for Sisters and eventually lay people.

In 1995 with the visit of Saint Pope John Paul II to Sydney for the beatification of Mary MacKillop, St Joseph's Convent was opened to the public and renamed as local Aboriginal people had suggested - 'It's her place, so it should be named Mary MacKillop Place'.

Since that day it has been known to all as her place, Mary's resting Place, unique of all places in our land and carrying the description 'out of the ordinary'. Mary MacKillop Place has welcomed thousands of pilgrims and visitors, including Pope Benedict XVI for World Youth Day in 2008.

A special moment here at Mary MacKillop Place was the canonisation of Mary MacKillop in 2010 where we hosted many people to share in the celebrations. This out of the ordinary place has been described by so many as an oasis, just as it was for Mary MacKillop in 1884. Mary MacKillop Place continues to welcome everyone to 'her place' today, and into the future.

Now, 8 years since Pope Benedict XVI declared our Mary, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, saint for the universal Church, the Board of Mary MacKillop Place asked - *where are we going now?* And so began our strategic thinking.

Over 790 people responded to the Board's invitation to engage in the strategic thinking for the treasured icon known as Mary MacKillop Place. We are most grateful for the wealth of creative thinking offered by these people and trust they recognise their contributions in the pages that follow.

On behalf of the Board, we are pleased to present the strategic directions for Mary MacKillop Place towards 2023.

**Anne Derwin rsj**  
Chair, Mary MacKillop Place Board

**Colleen Keeble rsj**  
Director, Mary MacKillop Place





*Let us really love one another*

Mary MacKillop, 1890



Mary MacKillop Place participates in the Mission of God, tells the story of Mary and her Sisters and calls all to a radical Gospel living

Mary MacKillop Place offers a gathering place for all to experience healing and hospitality in a peaceful oasis. Mary MacKillop Place fosters relationships built on respect, love and mutuality

Mission

Welcome

Our Vision

Mary MacKillop Place:  
A sacred place of  
welcome, encounter  
and journey

Pilgrimage

Mary MacKillop Place affirms and reimagines the Pilgrim experience

Mary MacKillop Place nurtures an expansive church, celebrating and connecting the heart of the Gospel to the lives of the People of God

Heart-Centred  
Church

Sustainability

Mary MacKillop Place ensures sustainability, good governance and positive relationships through ethical and prudent stewardship of resources

Oasis

# Oasis

*We must teach more by example than word*

Mary MacKillop, 1867







## Mission

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Mary MacKillop Place participates in the Mission of God, tells the story of Mary and her Sisters and calls all to a radical Gospel living.

### Goals

- Inculturate a living spirituality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Reimagine how people engage in the story of Mary MacKillop and her Sisters.
- Accompany all people, particularly those who are poor and vulnerable.
- Nurture wisdom, growing as a missionary centre of learning. *Evangelii Gaudium, 5*
- Foster diverse relationships.

## Welcome

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Mary MacKillop Place offers a gathering place for all to experience healing and hospitality in a peaceful oasis. Mary MacKillop Place fosters relationships built on respect, love and mutuality.

### Goals

- Explore ways to ensure that Mary MacKillop Place is known as a place of hospitality.
- Invest in and grow the pastoral care experience.
- Create spaces of peace, tranquility and encounter.

## Heart-Centred Church

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Mary MacKillop Place nurtures an expansive church, celebrating and connecting the heart of the Gospel to the lives of the People of God.

### Goals

- Celebrate the sacred rituals, liturgies and sacraments of our faith.
- Create time and space for the Church in Australia to experience healing and reconciliation.
- Lead initiatives which affirm the role of Women in the Church.
- Become a place of ecumenical cooperation and connections.

## Pilgrimage

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Mary MacKillop Place affirms and reimagines the Pilgrim experience.

### Goals

- Develop a theology and spirituality of pilgrimage.
- Integrate a sense of the pilgrim experience into all aspects of Mary MacKillop Place.
- Design diverse experiences of pilgrimage which people can encounter.

## Sustainability

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Mary MacKillop Place ensures sustainability, good governance and positive relationships through ethical and prudent stewardship of resources.

### Goals

- Establish Mary MacKillop Place as a leader in 'integral ecological' practice. *Laudato Si, Chapter 4.*
- Discern the future model of governance for Mary MacKillop Place and other heritage sites of the Sisters of St Joseph.
- Explore opportunities for partnering with other Church bodies.
- Develop an overall plan for long-term sustainability.

## Evaluation

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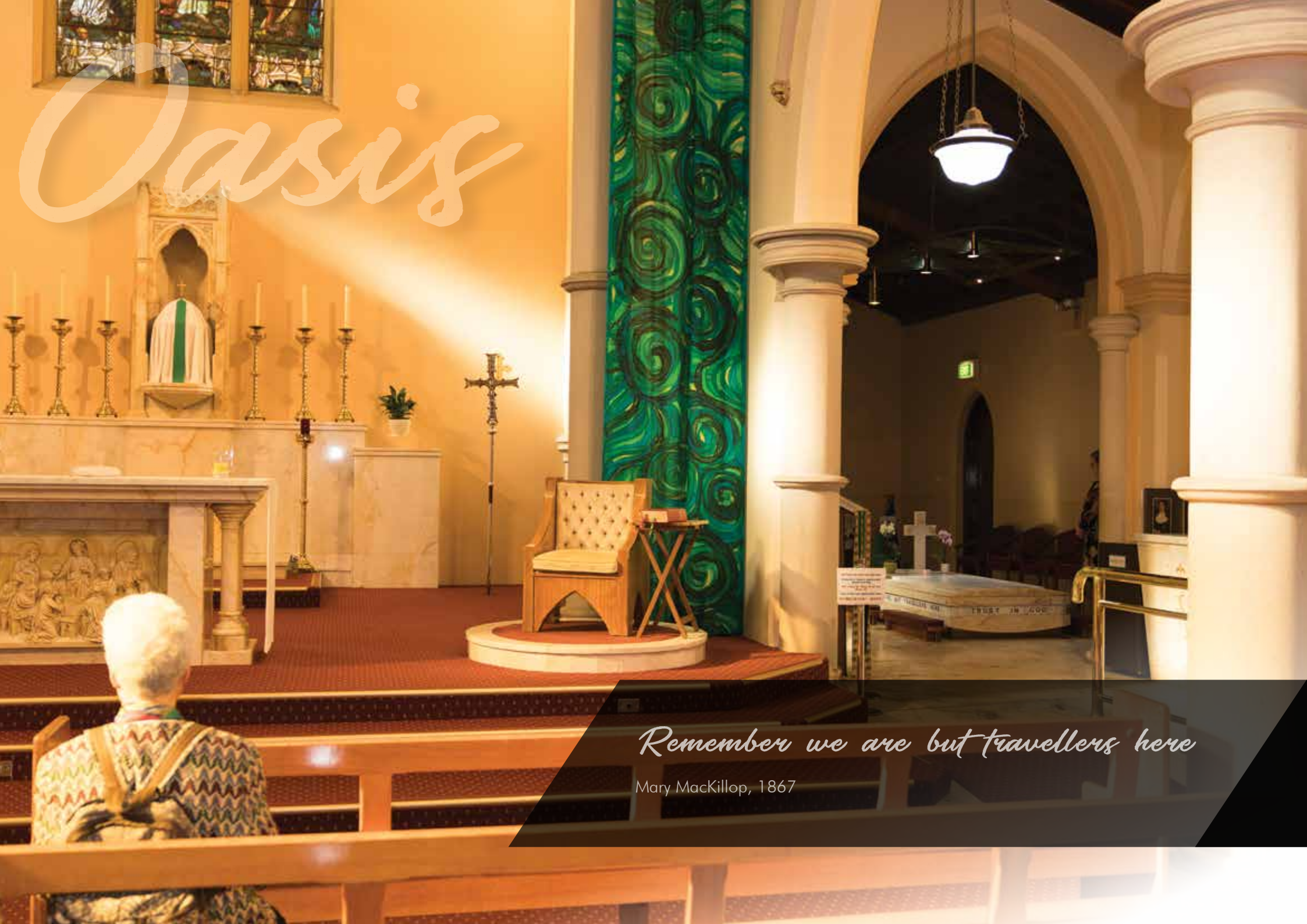
Mary MacKillop Place evaluates and reflects upon the effectiveness of its strategic plan using processes that are open, adaptive and reflective.

### Goals

- Conduct evaluations at agreed intervals as determined by the Mary MacKillop Place Board.
- Monitor, analyse and reflect openly with stakeholders, ensuring the effectiveness and adaptability of the Mary MacKillop Place strategic plan.







Oasis

*Remember we are but travellers here*


Mary MacKillop, 1867




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