



MARY MACKILLOP PLACE NEWSLETTER • 2022

Feast Day Edition

Covid-19 has provided our world with many challenges and continues to do so. Here in Australia, we have also faced bushfires and floods. The cost to individuals, families and businesses has been great as loss of loved ones, homes and incomes has confronted many.

Mary MacKillop knew what it was like to be without a home, to experience ongoing illness, to have to rely on family and friends to provide for her and the family. Yet, in all of life's challenges Mary was able to see God present in all the events of her life. In 1894 She wrote, "How good God is to us all."

In these times it can be challenging to see God present and active. Perhaps we can put our hands into Mary's, asking her to walk with us, as we continue to negotiate life's journey. To be for us a guide and model of trusting in "our good God," to use Mary's words.



As the 8th August approaches we are pleased to say that we will once more be having a public celebration of the Feast Day of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

We invite you to join us in honouring Mary.

Masses will be celebrated at 8am, 10am and 1pm. We may face the challenge of rain but we are putting plans in place so that our Masses can go ahead. The Chapel will be open for private prayer and visits to Mary MacKillop's Tomb from 9am - 3.30pm.

As Feast Day draws nearer let us pray:

*Provident God, relating, connecting,
encompassing, embracing, giving abundantly,
bless us with welcoming hearts and unity.*

(Josephite Prayer Book Vol 2.)

Annie Bond rsj, Assistant Director-Faith & Liturgy

INSIDE ►



LEGACY OF
MARY MACKILLOP

A message from
**SISTER
COLLEEN**



MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP UPDATES



A message from SISTER COLLEEN

For the past two years our celebration of Mary MacKillop's Feast Day has been interrupted by COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions. This year we hope to celebrate on Monday August 8th, but again we are faced with the dilemma created by a new wave of the virus and the prediction of significant falls of rain. Hopefully we will know what is possible by the time this newsletter goes to print.

Since fully reopening all our accommodation and conference facilities in February we have faced many challenges. The lack of hospitality staff has impacted on our services. As many of you would be aware of, this is a common issue across the whole of the hospitality sector. We continue to seek for new members of staff so that we can provide the best possible service to our guests as our numbers in accommodation and conferencing increase. Mary MacKillop reminds us to *'be calm and full of hope'* as we face these challenges.



On July 3rd the Opening Mass of the Second Plenary Council Assembly was celebrated in the Mary MacKillop Chapel. It was fitting that this opening Mass be celebrated beside the tomb of Mary MacKillop, Patron of the Council. Members of the council – the Apostolic Delegate, visiting Cardinals, Bishops, Priests, and Lay People all gathered to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their discernment and decision-making. Following the Eucharistic



Celebration, light refreshments were served in the new Anderledy Lodge dining room. Despite the wet and cold evening, we were privileged to share our hospitality with them. This was our contribution to assisting the work of the Spirit in the Australian Church.

On June 24th, the new Mayor of North Sydney, Zoe Baker visited Mary MacKillop Place. Hers is the only Council area in Australia with the tomb of a Saint. She was aware of MMP and was very pleased to be given an overview of the history of the site as well as an understanding of the current ministry and operations. The visit concluded with a tour of the site taking in the new and heritage buildings. We hope that her interest will continue in a whatever way North Sydney Council can assist and support MMP.



I take this opportunity to wish each and every one blessings for the Feast of Mary MacKillop. May she continue to companion us 'travellers' on our life journey and may she inspire us to reach out in whatever way possible to those in need.

Colleen Keeble rsj,
Director.

Stories from

THE CURATOR'S OFFICE

COLLECTION STORY : A WOMAN'S HISTORY REVEALED

A museum archive can bring the past up front and centre when a person's life is revealed through a chain of dated documents and related objects. In this article we look at the material that charts the life of one woman and the connected events in the development of Sydney's health care.

The MMP Museum holds archives of Catholic families living in the turbulent years from the turn of the century to the 1950s. One such family is the Hardings [nee Reeves]. This collection of personal documents, an obstetrics medical case, and medical papers was gifted to the Museum in the 1990s by Miss Ignatius Harding, the daughter of Violet Lucy Harding, a midwife, wife and mother who served as a nurse from the 1920s - 1960s.

As the curator I have become connected to this family's story, which interweaves with the history of the Sisters of Saint Joseph through a shared compassion to serve others. Miss Violet Lucy Reeves completed midwifery training at St Margaret's Hospital for Women, Darlinghurst on July 7th, 1920. She carried out this profession as a Domiciliary Midwife

after moving to the South Coast of NSW following her marriage to Mr Harding.

The Museum has a number of documents signed by the matron of St Margaret's Hospital, Gertrude Abbott, a formidable woman who founded St Margaret's Hospital in Sydney.

Gertrude Abbott [1846 - 1934] was one of the first women to join the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Four years later she left, taking the name of Mrs Gertrude or Mother Abbott.

Gertrude and three other former Sisters followed the co-founder of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Father Julian Tenison Woods to Sydney, where they attempted to start a contemplative order, supporting themselves by taking in needlework. Using an inheritance from Woods, Gertrude Abbott established St Margaret's, a non-denominational maternity home in 1893, and for the next 30 years was involved in its management, and as Matron in the 1900s.

Nurse Reeves was a young woman boarding and training in the newly established hospital just after the end of the First World War.

Edwina Huntley, Curator,
Mary MacKillop Place Museum



Environment: Sustainability

In 2016 Mary MacKillop Place started its journey to become more sustainable.



One of the first tasks we achieved was to reduce our use of single use plastics and to implement a better recycling system.

From 1st June 2022 our NSW government has started its journey, six years after MMP. Lightweight plastic bags are now banned. The ban will not apply to all bags: bin liners and fresh produce bags for example are exempt.

From 1st November plastic straws, stirrers, and swizzle sticks, including forks, spoons, knives, sporks, splayds, chopsticks, and food picks, plastic bowls and plates, polystyrene clamshell, cup, plates, and bowls. Plastic cotton buds and microbeads in cosmetics will also be banned.

The ban applies even if these items are made from biodegradable, compostable, or bioplastics. Scan the QR code for more details.

Ask yourself what else can I do to stop the destruction being caused to our planet. Do not wait, start today saying no to all single use plastics.

Ross Handsaker, Environmental & Technical Manager.



SPOTLIGHT ON ANDERLEDY LODGE



It has been 9 months after the official opening of the brand new Anderledy Lodge. Our 51 new modern and spacious rooms together with the Temuka Apartments, all ensuite, are once again being utilised by our community and other guests and as always providing quiet and comfortable accommodation. Our complimentary breakfast is still popular with our patrons, who are very pleased with the return of the pancake machine - especially in these colder months.

When we re-introduced our Conference facilities early in 2022, our accommodation occupancy increased substantially and is filling up fast with many dates almost fully booked during the months of August til November - some dates with only a few rooms left to book!



With occupancy looking very encouraging for the future, we look forward to welcoming you at your next stay at Anderledy and Temuka where we will endeavor to provide value for money, comfortable clean rooms, a wonderful breakfast and a helpful team to support!



For Bookings, call us on 89124800 or email anderledy.reservations@mmp.org.au
Trent Kerr-Smith, Hospitality Manager.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GIFT SHOP

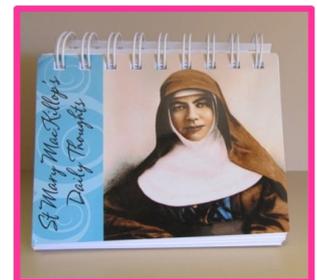


Saint Mary MacKillop Statue

A beautiful 30cm statue of Saint Mary MacKillop inspired by the full size sculpture of Mary located at Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel in North Sydney. Only \$35 each. Order yours fast as stock runs out very quickly!

St Mary MacKillop's Daily Thoughts Calendar

Through this perpetual calendar we can journey through the year with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.



This calendar contains a selection of quotes from Mary's letters giving us a taste of her thoughts and spirituality. It sells at \$24.95 and would be perfect on a desk or bedside table for daily inspiration.

For all merchandise visit the MMP Gift Shop, order by email museum.shop@mmp.org.au or telephone 02 89124894.

The Legacy of Mary MacKillop Place - a place of Pilgrimage

Would you like to continue Mary MacKillop's legacy and ensure that her legacy and that of the Sisters of Saint Joseph continues into the future?

Your gift is welcome now, or you might consider regular monthly gifts, or a bequest in your will.

If you are interested in supporting MMP, please contact trish.downey@mmp.org.au for more information.



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