



Saint Mary MacKillop, leading the way in justice

WORKING FOR JUSTICE IN AUSTRALIA

The Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre is an educational resource for teaching the Victorian RE curriculum through the story of Mary MacKillop, Julian Tension Woods and the Sisters of St Joseph's and their contribution to Catholic schooling and social welfare in Australia.

This program provides a direct response to the **Year 10** curriculum unit, **Working for Justice in Australia 5B** as outlined in *Coming to Know, Worship and Love: A Religious Education Curriculum Framework for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne*, Catholic Education Office, Melbourne, 2018, Chapter 12.

You have been told... what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.
(Micah 6:8)

OVERVIEW

In 1891 Pope Leo XIII's Encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* wrote of the requirement of employers to ensure remuneration for work was sufficient to support a family, otherwise, workers are simply the 'victim of force and injustice'. Mary MacKillop aware of the consequences of such injustices, responds to the exploited people's needs, by establishing schools and providing food and shelter.

ACTIVITIES

Students will:

- use primary documents to research the social and working conditions of exploited men and, in particular, women in Melbourne in the 1890s and compare this to the poor today;
- be given time to explore the galleries of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Museum to discover the many ways Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph's overcame injustice in Australia and continue to do so today; and
- match the work of Mary MacKillop with Biblical references and Catholic Social Justice Teachings and the work of *Mary MacKillop Today*.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the conclusion of this program students will have:

- Identified and explored how Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph responded to the Gospel calling to treat all human persons with dignity and give preferential option to the poor.
- Investigated and reflected upon the causes and consequences of systemic injustices in our society as described in Mary MacKillop's experience of poverty in 1890s Melbourne.
- Described and compared central aspects of justice in the Scriptures and in Catholic social teaching that applied to the work of Mary MacKillop.
- Explored and appreciated the work of *Mary MacKillop Today* which continues working for justice in Australia in the spirit of Mary MacKillop.



INDICATORS OF LEARNING

By participating in the MMHC program, *Working For Justice in Australia*, the following indicators of learning will have been satisfied.

KNOWLEDGE

- describe central aspects of justice in the Scriptures and in Catholic social teaching
- describe ways in which people living with injustice struggle against it
- outline the work of an individual or organisation [Sisters of St Joseph and Associates] working for justice in Australia

SKILL

- apply the message of biblical passages and/or aspects of Catholic social teaching to an issue of injustice
- gather information on the causes and consequences of various forms of injustice