



Saint Mary MacKillop, a pioneer in the Australian Church

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH 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 9** curriculum unit, ***The Catholic Church in Australia 2b*** 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. Chapters 6 & 7.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Matthew 25:35-37

OVERVIEW

Mary MacKillop was a key contributor to the Catholic Church in Australia. In 1866 Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph. They set about providing schooling for children of poor families in outback areas of Australia and in working class suburbs. They worked in solidarity with their communities supporting them in their needs.

ACTIVITIES

Students will:

- participate in a tour of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Museum where they will research the lived experience of gospel values of the Sisters of St Joseph and identify their contribution to the Catholic Church in Australia; and
- investigate using primary documents, problems associated with accessing Catholic education in Mary's time and how Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph overcame these problems.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the conclusion of this program students will have:

- Identified and understood reasons why the British Government took on the role of education in the early Australian colonies.
- Identified and understood reasons for a separate Catholic education system independent from the State system.
- Examined and explored the uniquely Australian economic, social and geographical context in which the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart were founded.
- Developed an understanding of Mary and the Sisters of St Joseph's as key pioneering women, the challenges they faced and the manner in which they treated all with dignity.
- Recognised how Mary MacKillop ensured that God's Word is honoured in the lived tradition of our Australian Catholic Church.



INDICATORS OF LEARNING

By participating in the MMHC program, *The History of the Catholic Church in Australia*, the following indicators of learning will have been satisfied.

VALUES AND ATTITUDES

- discuss the contribution of different personalities [Mary MacKillop] and groups [Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart] from the story of the Catholic Church in Australia

KNOWLEDGE

- outline the major events, personalities [Mary MacKillop] and groups [Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart] contributing to the emergence and development of the Catholic Church in Australia

SKILL

- summarise events, trends and individual/group [Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph] contributions from the story of the Catholic Church in Australia
- investigate the relationship between Protestant and Catholic Australians as the colony developed [Sectarianism]