



A note to teachers

We hope this PowerPoint is a useful resource for you to introduce Mary MacKillop Feast Day to your class. We have included basic explanations on each slide which you can adapt for your year level, and more detailed explanations in the slide notes. We have provided Classroom Activities if you wish to use these following the presentation.

Who is Mary MacKillop?

- Mary MacKillop is Australia's first and only Saint.
- She was born in Victoria in 1842 and had 8 brothers and sisters.
- Mary became a Saint because she devoted her life to God and serving other people.



Mary Helen MacKillop was born in 1842 in Victoria to Scottish immigrant parents and grew up with seven brothers and sisters. At the age of twenty-four, she dedicated her life to God and took on the name "Mary of the Cross." Mary was an ordinary woman with an extraordinary dream and a big heart. Her dream was to give the poorest families and most neglected children access to education and safe shelter by opening schools. With what little resources they had, Mary and Father Tenison Woods turned an old stable into a school in Penola, South Australia. In 1866 Mary and Father Tenison worked together to set up the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (the Josephites). This was the first religious order to be founded by an Australian. As a passionate educator, Mary broke through the prejudice of the early 19th century to educate all—regardless of gender, race, faith, or wealth—while ministering to the vulnerable with compassion. She and the Sisters of St Joseph went wherever the need was greatest. They gave up everything to live and teach amongst the people they served.

Who is Mary MacKillop?

- Mary and Father Julian Tenison Woods started the Sisters of St Joseph in 1866.
- They opened schools all over Australia so children across the country could receive an education.
- Mary faced many challenges throughout her life but always looked after others, especially those from vulnerable communities.



Mary Helen MacKillop was born in 1842 in Victoria to Scottish immigrant parents and grew up with seven brothers and sisters. At the age of twenty-four, she dedicated her life to God and took on the name “Mary of the Cross.” Mary was an ordinary woman with an extraordinary dream and a big heart. Her dream was to give the poorest families and most neglected children access to education and safe shelter by opening schools. With what little resources they had, Mary and Father Tenison Woods turned an old stable into a school in Penola, South Australia. In 1866 Mary and Father Tenison worked together to set up the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (the Josephites). This was the first religious order to be founded by an Australian. As a passionate educator, Mary broke through the prejudice of the early 19th century to educate all—regardless of gender, race, faith, or wealth—while ministering to the vulnerable with compassion. She and the Sisters of St Joseph went wherever the need was greatest. They gave up everything to live and teach amongst the people they served.

What is a Feast Day?

- All Saints have a Feast Day to remember and pray for them.
- Mary MacKillop's Feast Day is on 8 August, which was the day she died.
- This year is the 10-year anniversary since Mary officially became a Saint.



Feast Day 2018 Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney

All Saints have dedicated Feast Days when they are remembered with special mention and prayers. Mary MacKillop's Feast Day is on 8th August, which is the day she died. This year is extra special because it's the 10 year anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary of the Cross – the day Mary became Australia's first Saint. Mary's Feast Day is a wonderful time to reflect on the qualities and actions that set her apart, and how her legacy continues to be relevant today. Education in Australia is what it is today, thanks in large part to the dedication and determination of Mary and the Sisters of St Joseph. Mary believed in the power of education to lift communities out of poverty, famously saying, "I'm a teacher, let's start today!"

What does it mean to be a Saint?

- Saints were once people just like us.
- People who become Saints have devoted their life to God and serving others.
- Canonisation is when the Pope declares the person a Saint at a very special ceremony in Rome.



Mary MacKillop Chapel, North Sydney

One of the most inspiring things about Saints is that they are people who lived in the world just like us. As we can see with Mary's life, Saints dedicated every day to honouring God and sharing His love by serving others. Canonisation is when the Pope declares that a person, who has died, practiced heroic virtue and devotion to God during their life. The act proclaims that the person is now with God in heaven, intercedes for us before the Lord, and is to be publicly recognised by the whole Church. On 4th August 1909, Cardinal Moran visited Mary MacKillop as she was preparing for death. He gave her his blessing and, as he left, said, "I consider I have this day assisted at the deathbed of a Saint." Mary died a few days later on 8th August 1909. At her funeral Mass, people rushed to touch her body with rosaries, which was a practice very unusual in Australia. When she was laid to rest at Gore Hill, many people even took samples of earth from her grave as a precious reminder. Her remains are now in the Mary MacKillop Memorial chapel at North Sydney. Mary MacKillop was canonised on October 17, 2010 at Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome.

Feast Day

MARY MACKILLOP
today

Who is Mary MacKillop Today?

Mary MacKillop Today is a not-for-profit organisation that continues the work of Mary MacKillop and The Sisters of St Joseph by delivering programs in Australia and overseas that focus on education, health, financial support and livelihoods.



Find out more: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/what-we-do/our-projects/

In the spirit of Saint Mary MacKillop, Mary MacKillop Today focuses on empowering communities through education, health, financial inclusion, and livelihoods. Our Mission Guided by the Gospel, we stand with the marginalised poor, rural and remote peoples, in Australia and internationally, so they can realise their potential and participate fully in their communities. We seek to empower and transform lives through self-determination, access to education, and the learning of practical life skills. Together, we can carry on the work of Australia's first Saint, Mary MacKillop, and share God's love through practical help for people in need.

Mary MacKillop Today: Australia

Mary MacKillop Today works on projects in Australia such as:

- Providing financial support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students attending university.
- Supporting young Aboriginal Australians through a program called Equine-Assisted Learning where students interact with horses.
- Giving financial support to those in need.



Equine Assisted Learning Program, WA

Some of Mary MacKillop Today's projects include:

- Closing the gap on Indigenous Australian education through a First Nations Tertiary Scholarship program to break down financial barriers and help people pursue a higher education.
- Supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of young Aboriginal Australians through evidence-based Equine Assisted Learning, where students step outside the classroom to learn through interaction with horses.
- Giving people in economic hardship the opportunity to become financially independent and stable through our Financial Inclusion Program.

Mary MacKillop Today: Overseas

Mary MacKillop Today have projects in Timor-Leste, Peru, Papua New Guinea and Fiji such as:

- Providing education to children and adults.
- Helping people with disabilities to access services.
- Teaching people about health and nutrition.
- Training adults in new skills so they can earn an income.



Inclusive Communities Program, Papua New Guinea

Mary MacKillop Today runs projects across Timor-Leste, Peru, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji include:

- Giving children education opportunities in the most remote and poor areas by visiting schools, disability centres, and informal 'squatter' settlements with creative learning activities.
- Improving the skills of teachers in remote communities because it is difficult to teach if they never received a quality education themselves.
- Fighting preventable diseases in schools by providing teachers with the knowledge and resources they need to share vital health information with their students.
- Educating and mentoring parents in poor communities so they can play an active role in their children's learning at home.
- Helping women to learn the skills they need to earn a fair income of their own.

What is the Mobile Kindy in Fiji?

- Mary MacKillop Today have partnered with a local Fijian organisation, Child Benefit, to run The Mobile Kindy in Suva, the capital of Fiji.
- Trained volunteers take fun educational kits out to small villages in Fiji and set up classrooms.
- The volunteers run learning activities for small children and their parents.
- Parents also learn about health and how to care for their children.



Child Benefit's Mobile Kindy, Fiji

How does The Mobile Kindy work?

- The Mobile Kindy visits participating settlements 2-3 days each week
 - Community-based volunteers are trained with the skills they need to teach basic early childhood classes for the children
 - Children get to learn and play during interactive classes
 - Parents come along to parent education sessions every few months to focus on things like health and sanitation, child development, child protection and positive discipline
- What are the benefits of Mobile Kindy?
- Children have access to high quality early childhood education in their community
 - Parents learn new skills and knowledge to support their children's learning and development
 - Whole communities understand the importance of early education in building positive futures for children

Why does Fiji need The Mobile Kindy?

- Many people in Fiji live far away from big cities that have schools and healthcare facilities.
- This makes it very hard for children to go to school because it is too expensive or too far away.
- 30% of Fiji's population live in poverty
- Watch the Video of the Mobile Kindy in a settlement in Fiji called Nauluvatu. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4Rts6Hk4wQ>



Child Benefit's Mobile Kindy, Fiji

In Fiji, people from remote islands often come to the city in search of work and end up living in informal 'squatter' settlements - where houses are cobbled together using whatever materials can be found. In these communities, many young children go without access to quality education. Often, the fees of pre-primary services are unaffordable for families, and children don't have any formal identification to enrol. The funds your school raises will support the Mobile Kindy run by our local partner, Child Benefit. You'll give vulnerable children across three informal settlement communities in Fiji the chance for safe, quality Early Childhood Education - so these kids don't miss out.

Feast Day

MARY MACKILLOP
today

Thank You

Thank you for the generous support of Mary MacKillop Today and Child Benefit's Mobile Kindy in Fiji.

We are a valued partner of the Australian Government, receiving flexible funding under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) each year to implement development and poverty alleviation programs overseas.



Child Benefit's Mobile Kindy, Fiji