

Be ***Fierce*** for ***Fair***

CELEBRATE SAINT MARY MACKILLOP'S FEAST DAY  
Fundraising Toolkit for Schools

MARY  
MACKILLOP  
*today*

This guide contains tips and ideas to help your school fundraise in honour of the Feast Day of Saint Mary MacKillop.

# CEO Message

## Welcome to your 'Fierce For Fair' Fundraising Toolkit

Thank you for being part of a dedicated group of schools helping to transform lives through education this Feast Day.

Saint Mary MacKillop believed deeply in the power of education to lift communities out of poverty. When she saw injustice, she acted with courage and compassion to ensure children had fair access to learning.

Her Feast Day on 8 August is a special opportunity for schools to reflect on the values that set Saint Mary apart — and how her legacy continues today through the work of Mary MacKillop Today.

This August, we invite your school to mark Feast Day by holding a fundraising activity to support children's education in Timor-Leste. Your efforts will fund the Mary MacKillop Today Inclusive Early Education Program.

By taking part, you are continuing Saint Mary's extraordinary legacy — transforming lives through learning so that every child has the chance to thrive. Thank you for your support.

With gratitude,



Jane Woolford  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mary MacKillop Today



## GET INSPIRED

### How your efforts will make a difference

Did you know that around the world, 273 million children are out of school? Education is more than learning to read or write — it's a powerful tool to break the cycle of poverty. It's also a basic human right that every child deserves.

In Timor-Leste, one in five children with a disability cannot access education. Maria is one of them. Nine years old and full of determination, she makes the long journey to school every day — guided along narrow paths and across rivers — because she refuses to give up on learning.

Every dollar your students raise will help give children like Maria in Timor-Leste access to books and educational materials through the Mary MacKillop Today Inclusive Early Education Project.

This project works with teachers and communities to create welcoming classrooms where every child can participate, learn and belong. It equips teachers with training and creative tools — including books, puppets, arts and crafts, and musical instruments — to help them teach in more inclusive and interactive ways.



*I cannot see, but I can learn just like my other friends*

Maria, aged 9

[1] Unesco Institute for Statistics, 2024

## How your fundraising can help

\$30



Can provide locally produced storybooks written in Tetun, the local language, to help children in Timor-Leste learn to read and write.

\$50



Can support teacher training in health and hygiene literacy to help prevent disease in Timor-Leste schools.

\$100



Can supply interactive games, music, and other engaging resources to teach children about healthy eating and hygiene.

\$200



Can help keep the Inclusive Early Education Project bus on the road, bringing fun, creative learning experiences to children and school communities across Timor-Leste.

# GET INSPIRED

## Stories of hope

### Meet Maria

Maria lives in a remote mountain village in Timor-Leste. She became very sick when she was just two months old and now lives with a visual disability. Every day, she makes the long journey to school — guided by others along narrow paths and across rivers — because she loves to learn and refuses to be left behind.

Maria is now in Grade 3. Though she cannot write because of her disability, she grasps ideas quickly and approaches every challenge with determination.

Through the Mary MacKillop Today Inclusive Early Education Project, children like Maria are supported with adapted learning materials, teacher training, and accessible classrooms — so that every child can participate, learn and belong.

Today, Maria dreams of a future where every child gets a fair chance at education



*“When I grow up, I want to be a nun so I can help other children like me.”*

— Maria, aged 9.

### Meet Joaquim

Joaquim is nine years old and is in third grade. He lives in a remote part of Timor-Leste. This doesn't stop Joaquim from making sure that he gets to school every day, walking long distances with his friends. At school, he studies maths, Tetun literacy, Portuguese and health literacy. All the subjects he knows he needs for a brighter future.

After school, Joaquim needs to help his mother and father in the fields, working hard before opening any of his study books. Knowing how important his education is, Joaquim borrows books from his teacher to bring home to try and learn everything he needs for school the next day.

The books from his teacher are vital resources that the **Inclusive Early Education Project**, through your generous support, brings to Joaquim's school.



*“Our new teacher is teaching us how to be good people - helping us to learn to be good for the future.”*

— Joaquim, aged 9.

# Let's get started!



1

## Pick a date for your fundraiser

**Feast Day is on 8 August**, so you might like to hold your fundraiser around this special day.



2

## Choose how your school will fundraise

Check out some fun and easy **fundraising ideas on page 6** – there's something for every school!



3

## Teach your students about the cause

It's important for students to understand why they're fundraising. Encourage them to read information Timor-Leste and the Inclusive Early Education Project to see the impact of their efforts.



4

## Spread the word

Encourage students to share their fundraiser with family and friends. You can also:

- Add a notice in the school bulletin or newsletter
- Post updates on your school's social media channels
- Don't forget to tag **@MaryMacKillopToday** or use **#MaryMacKillopToday** to help spread the word!



5

## Hold your fundraiser

Enjoy the day! While you're raising funds for a great cause, this is also a chance to have fun and create special memories for your school community.



6

## Donate and celebrate!

Send in the funds raised and take a moment to congratulate your students, staff, and supporters for making a difference through the power of education.

You could also use our QR Code:



### Participation is easy. Simply...



**Plan** - Pick a date and choose a fun fundraising activity all will enjoy.



**Register** - Let us know about your fundraising by emailing us at [feastday@marymackilloptoday.org.au](mailto:feastday@marymackilloptoday.org.au).



**Fundraise and Celebrate** - Share your page, hold your fundraiser, and enjoy making a real difference to children in need.



# Fundraising event ideas at school

Getting your students involved is a great way to raise money and awareness. Here are some fun and meaningful ideas to get you started:



## 1 20 DAYS OF KINDNESS CHALLENGE

Kindness comes in many forms – from a smile to helping someone in need. It's an act of love that everyone can participate in.

The 20 Days of Kindness Challenge invites students to complete 20 simple acts of kindness across four weeks. Students can ask family and friends to sponsor them for each act they complete. Download our Kindness Planner from our website [HERE](#) for activity ideas and to help your students plan their acts of kindness. We'd love to see your students in action! Send us your photos to [feastday@marymackilloptoday.org.au](mailto:feastday@marymackilloptoday.org.au).



## 2 BOOK WEEK

Host a Fancy Dress Day at your school where students dress up as their favourite book character - with a special focus on Saints or characters connected to faith - in exchange for a \$2 coin donation.



## 3 GUESSING COMPETITION

Set up a jar of jellybeans or lollies and ask students to guess how many are inside - \$2 per guess. The closest guess wins the jar!



## 4 MORNING TEA OR CAKE STALL

Sell homemade baked goods to students, parents, or staff, with all the proceeds supporting Mary MacKillop Today's work in education.



## 5 BOOK SWAP DAY

Encourage students to bring in pre-loved books to swap or sell for \$10 each. All proceeds will support children in Timor-Leste through **the Inclusive Early Education Program**, helping to give them access to storybooks in their own language.

Need any support or have questions? Contact us at [feastday@marymackilloptoday.org.au](mailto:feastday@marymackilloptoday.org.au) or call us on (02) 8912 2777.

# Thank you for being 'Fierce for Fair this feast day

Thanks to your school's incredible fundraising, you are helping to give the gift of education to thousands of children, helping to transform lives and continue Saint Mary MacKillop's powerful legacy.

We'd love to see your favourite moments from your fundraising activities! With consent, we may even share your photos on social media to show the amazing difference your school is making.



Please send your photos to:  
[feastday@marymackilloptoday.org.au](mailto:feastday@marymackilloptoday.org.au)

## Follow us

From **mid-July to mid-August** we'll be sharing Feast Day stories, videos and updates across our social media platforms.

Be sure to follow along and see the impact you're making.

We'll also be posting Feast Day stories, videos and updates you've shared with us - so keep an eye out!

Make sure you follow us to keep up to date.

For details on payment methods [click here](#). Please deposit your school funds by 31 August or contact us for more details – (02) 8912 2777.

## Inclusive education

Inclusive education includes children with disabilities. It is important to create a supportive environment for everyone to learn.



*With Mary MacKillop Today we receive resources to help us, which greatly benefits the children.*

Maria, Teacher, Timor-Leste



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