

LEAVE A LEGACY OF OPPORTUNITY

A Guide To Leaving A Gift In Your Will



MARY
MACKILLOP
today

Your Legacy Their Future

Every day, we see the extraordinary difference that compassion, opportunity and education can make in a person's life. We also see the challenges many communities continue to face, both here in Australia and around the world.

At Mary MacKillop Today, we believe lasting change begins by walking alongside communities, listening deeply, and helping create the opportunities people need to shape their own futures.

A gift in your Will is a powerful expression of the values that matter most to you. It is a way to continue creating opportunity.

Thank you for considering this courageous and lasting act. Your legacy has the power to open doors, strengthen communities, and create lasting change long into the future.



– Jane Woolford,
CEO



Driven By Action Not Just Belief

Guided by the simple principle to *“never see a need without doing something about it”*, Saint Mary MacKillop laid a foundation of practical action and deep respect for every individual. Her life was defined by what she did.

Today, you can carry forward that mission. By including a gift in your Will, you join the Friends of Mary, a community determined to turn their values into real-world change.



*What will your
legacy make possible?*



Rising To Meet Today's Challenges

We support communities in Australia and overseas to create stronger futures.

While the world has changed since Mary's time, profound barriers remain. At Mary MacKillop Today, we use education, sustainable livelihoods, and community-led action to provide proven pathways out of poverty.

We believe lasting impact comes from equipping people with the foundations they need to overcome systemic barriers.

When people are given the resources and opportunities to shape their own futures, entire communities are transformed.

When you become a Friend of Mary, you provide more than a donation. You are choosing to stand alongside remote and marginalised communities for a lifetime, and beyond.

The most powerful tool for change

Education is a basic human right and a proven pathway out of poverty.

Your legacy can help open that pathway for generations to come.



The History Of Mary MacKillop

1842

Mary MacKillop is born in Melbourne, Australia.



1866

The Sisters of Saint Joseph are established, later the same year Mary and Fr Julian Tenison Woods open their first school in Penola, South Australia.

1871

Mary is excommunicated after standing firm in her beliefs and commitment to justice. The excommunication is later revoked.



1873

Mary travels to Rome seeking approval for the Josephite mission, helping secure the future of the congregation.



1880s–1900s

The Josephite mission expands across Australia and New Zealand, bringing education and support to remote and marginalised communities.

1909

Mary MacKillop dies in Sydney, leaving behind a legacy grounded in education, compassion and practical action.

1981

The Josephite mission expands into Peru, supporting communities experiencing poverty and inequality.

1994

The Sisters of Saint Joseph arrive in Timor-Leste, focused on combating widespread poverty through education.

1995

Mary MacKillop is beatified by Pope John Paul II in Sydney.



2010

Mary MacKillop becomes Australia's first Saint.



Today

Mary MacKillop Today works alongside communities in Australia, Timor-Leste, Fiji and Peru, creating opportunities through education, livelihoods and community development.



Equity In Education

Opening the door to full potential

Education is the foundation for a life of choice. We support learning at every stage - from early literacy and teacher training in remote villages, to First Nations scholarships and non-formal education pathways that meet people where they are.

INCLUSIVE EARLY EDUCATION (TIMOR-LESTE)

In remote Timor-Leste, many children still face barriers to accessing quality education. Despite the challenges, 12-year-old Marcia walks to school every day, dreaming of becoming a teacher.

Through our early education projects, children like Marcia receive the vital learning materials and support they need to thrive. By remembering Mary MacKillop Today in your Will, you help protect these classrooms for future generations, giving children the skills and confidence to shape their own futures.



"I want to go to school so I can get a good job and help my parents build a better house."

– Marcia,
Timor-Leste

Economic Independence

A foundation for sustainable livelihoods

Lasting stability grows from the ground up. Through small-business mentoring, skills training, and agricultural support, we invest in local initiatives that help build secure and sustainable futures.

PATHWAYS TO ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE (FIJI)



After a tropical cyclone destroyed his farm, a targeted financial grant allowed Josaia to replant his crops, rebuild his income, and eventually employ others in his village. Your future gift acts as a quiet promise that families like Josaia's will always have a way to rebuild.

*Your support restored
our confidence, dignity,
and the strength to
face life again.*

– Josaia,
Fiji

Active Citizenship

Positive change led from within

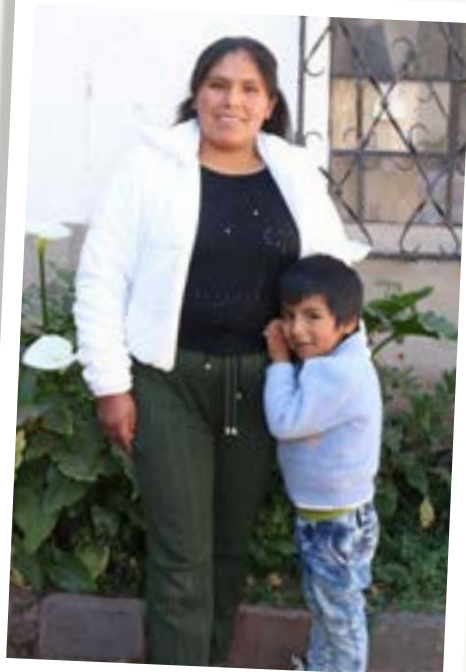
Communities are strongest when every voice is heard. We support leadership training and community participation, ensuring women and young people can step forward with confidence to advocate for their rights and shape their communities.

ENHANCING WOMEN'S AND YOUTH CIVIL RIGHTS (PERU)

After joining the School for Women Leaders, Ermenegilda found her voice. Today, she speaks up in local forums to challenge regional inequality. Your legacy ensures local leaders always have a platform to drive change from within their own communities.

I have learned to value myself as a woman and to recognise my worth.

– **Ermenegilda, 23,**
Peru





Yawardani Jan-ga (Horses Helping) participant in Broome

The Friends Of Mary

Turning values into action that lasts beyond a lifetime

A gift in your Will is a deeply personal choice, but it is not one you make alone. It connects your story to a community of people who share your compassion, your belief in human dignity, and your commitment to creating opportunity for others.

When you choose to protect this mission, you are in meaningful company.



Darcy's journey began in a regional classroom at St Joseph's in Numurkah, where the genuine warmth of the Josephite Sisters shaped the person he would become. He grew up believing that compassion isn't just a feeling, it's something you do.

When Darcy looked at the challenges facing remote villages today, he didn't wait for others to step in. He used his Will to take a stand. Because of Darcy, the same kindness he experienced as a child will be waiting for a student tomorrow.

*I want to help keep
Saint Mary's legacy alive
well into the future.*

– **Darcy**, Friend of Mary



While facing a leukemia diagnosis, Chris found unexpected strength in Mary's unwavering devotion to others. He knew he wanted to pass that exact feeling on.

By remembering Mary MacKillop Today in his Will, Chris is actively putting the tools for a better life directly into the hands of isolated families, ensuring they have the means to thrive on their own terms.

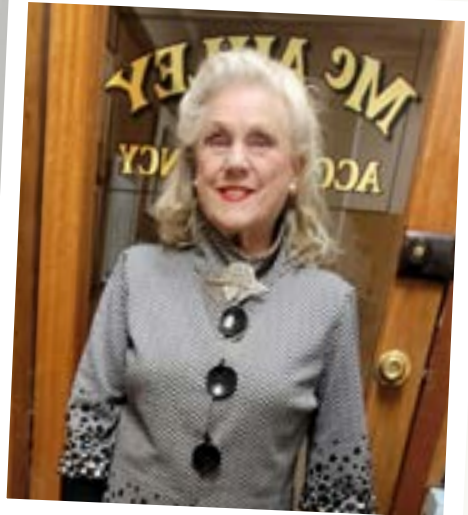
When you provide tools, you transform a community.

– **Chris**, Friend of Mary

To Patricia, Mary proved that a single person with enough heart can shift the landscape of poverty. Inspired by that resilient spirit, Patricia's future gift is her way of rolling up her sleeves for the next generation. She is ensuring that long into tomorrow, local communities will always have a steady, faithful friend in their corner.

Mary is the Saint of Can-Do.

– **Patricia**, Friend of Mary



Like Darcy, Chris, and Patricia, your life is defined by the values you put into motion. This is your community. Will you walk with us?

Including A Gift In Your Will Is Simple

STEP 1

Choose your gift type

STEP 2

Include wording in your Will

STEP 3

Let us know



Turning your values into action through your Will is simpler than you may think.

To ensure your wishes are legally binding, we recommend speaking with a solicitor.



Ways To Give

You can choose how your legacy supports future generations

You do not need to be wealthy to leave a gift in your Will.
Gifts of all sizes and types can create lasting impact.

Including a gift to Mary MacKillop Today in your Will allows you to care for your loved ones while also supporting the causes and communities that matter most to you.

HOW YOU'D LIKE YOUR GIFT TO HELP



A Legacy of Opportunity

(General Purpose): This flexible option allows us to direct your gift to the areas of greatest need and opportunity. If your goal is to create practical, lasting change wherever it is needed most, this is a powerful way to give.



A Legacy of Purpose

(Specific Impact): You may choose to support a particular program, community, or country that holds special meaning for you.

TYPES OF BEQUESTS



A Share of your Estate

(Residuary): Leaving a percentage of your estate after your loved ones have been provided for. This is often the most effective way to create lasting impact, as it keeps pace with inflation over time.



A Fixed Sum (Pecuniary):

Leaving a specific dollar amount in your Will.



A Specific Asset:

Leaving a gift such as property, shares, or other valuable items.

Suggested Wording For Your Will

To include your chosen gift to Mary MacKillop Today when preparing your Will, you may provide your solicitor with the following wording:

“I give and bequeath to Mary MacKillop Today (ABN 88 808 531 480),

the residue, or

[...] percent of my whole estate, or

[...] percent of the residue, or

the specific sum of \$[...]

to be used for general purposes.

I declare that an authorised receipt from Mary MacKillop Today will be a sufficient discharge for the executor(s) or trustee.”

Let Us Know

If you have chosen to include Mary MacKillop Today in your Will, we would love to hear from you. It gives us the opportunity to thank you personally and share stories of the lives your legacy will help transform in the years ahead.

As a Friend of Mary, you become part of a community committed to creating lasting opportunity through education, dignity, and compassion.

Your Gift To Future Generations

**Bridging the gap between seeing a need
and creating lasting change.**

Values are defined by what we choose to do next. Saint Mary MacKillop did not simply hope for a better world, she helped build it.

By joining the Friends of Mary, you turn your values into action that extends beyond a lifetime. Your generosity helps future generations gain the education, opportunity, and confidence to shape their own futures.

LET'S START A CONVERSATION

If you are considering leaving a gift in your Will, or have already included one, we would be honoured to connect with you. Every conversation is held with the utmost care, confidence, and respect.

Phone us on: 02 8043 8700

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marymackilloptoday.org.au



Scan the
QR Code
to learn
more.

MARY MACKILLOP
today



*“Little did either of us then dream of what
was to spring from so small a beginning.”*

– Saint Mary MacKillop, 1891

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