



Last night Australia time, in the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI confirmed that the cure of the lady from inoperable lung cancer through the intercession of Blessed Mary MacKillop is a true miracle.

The Sisters of St Joseph, the Congregation founded by Blessed Mary MacKillop in association with Fr Tenison Woods, Catholics and many people around the world are celebrating the good news. Today's announcement completes the investigation of the miracle.

The next step will be for the Holy Father to take the decision to canonise Blessed Mary MacKillop. Early in the Spring when His Holiness will meet in a solemn consistory with Cardinals and Bishops he will announce his decision. If it is positive, he will also announce the date for the ceremony which will take place in Rome.

The canonisation of Mary MacKillop next year will recognise her as a woman of God and a woman for people, especially those most neglected, vulnerable and suffering.

Mary is an inspiration still. Her memory is kept alive by so many. The recognition of her holiness is very relevant.

I have a word from the lady whose cure has now been declared a miracle by the Holy Father:

"This is wonderful news, I feel personally humbled and grateful to Mary MacKillop and the influence she has had on my life.

I understand that on a day like today you might have a thousand questions to ask about my story - and sometime in the future I do want to share that with you.

But today is not about my story.

Today is about Mary MacKillop. It is a day to celebrate and reflect on Mary's life, the work she did and the love she has shown to so many of us ordinary people around the world.

Mary MacKillop has always provided me with hope and inspiration, particularly during the most difficult times in my life. I hope this news today provides others, especially younger Australians, with inspiration and encouragement to live as generously and compassionately as Mary did.

Christmas is a time when we want to be with our families. Thank you for respecting my privacy and that of my family as we come together at this special time.

I wish you a safe and happy Christmas; a Christmas filled with family and dear friends."

Recipient of the second miracle in the Cause for Canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop
This person asks that her privacy be respected at this time

Sister Anne Derwin
Congregational Leader
Sisters of St Joseph
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