

# Stepping Forward with Mary MacKillop – Finding a Path in the World Today

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*Revisioning Prayer*

*Come Holy Spirit*

*Holy Spirit of this Great South Land*

*God bless and unite your people  
And guide us towards a hope filled future*

*Give us the grace to see your face in one another  
And to continue the work of those who serve you so  
faithfully*

*Give us the courage to tell our stories  
And speak boldly your truth*

*Gives us ears to listen humbly to each other  
And a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

*Show us your way*

*Amen*

Adapted from Plenary Council  
Prayer, 2018.



St. Joseph's College  
Coomera

We are not living an era of change, but a change of era!

Pope Francis

10 November, 2015



We live at a time when we must set out on a journey into the future along paths that are not altogether clear.

Archbishop Coleridge  
Foreword  
To 2020 and Beyond  
19 January 2017

This is not a golden age, but it is a golden opportunity.

Archbishop Coleridge  
BCEO Staff Gathering  
February 2018

- Vision for Australia wide group of women committed to ministry for the poor
- Developed organisational skills: financial, human resource, quality assurance
- Built alliances and managed politics
- Engaged in capacity building
- Had to deal with the diversity and ambiguity of the Church
- Remained focussed and charitable through it all
- Was a woman of deep faith and highly developed spirituality

Tenacious



We must drive change.....not be driven by it

Live and lead from here

*That unknowable/untouchable is what charism is, a gift from God that enables us to make sense out of life and motivates us to live life fully. A charism touches the very core of our existence and colours everything that we do as human beings. It allows us to see things in new ways, and to understand them even more wonderfully. We absorb a charism as we absorb sunshine, and we radiate a charism as a light pierces the darkness.*

Charism

The young people we are educating today will become the leaders of the 2050s.

What will religion's contribution be to educating younger generations to peace, development, fraternity in the universal human community?

How are we going to educate them to faith and in faith?

How will we establish the preliminary conditions to accept this gift, to educate them to gratitude, to a sense of awe, to asking themselves questions, to develop a sense of justice and consistency?

How will we educate them to prayer?

WISDOM



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF BRISBANE

## ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE TO 2020 AND BEYOND



### OUR FUTURE

#### **A listening Church**

A people of faith, listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit and discerning what action this requires.

#### **A worshipping Church**

Celebrating the sacred mysteries in a way that nourishes and strengthens the life in the Spirit of all who gather with us.

#### **A communicating Church**

Delivering a simple effective message with consistent communication of the Good News which we have heard in listening to the Spirit.

#### **A serving Church**

Supporting those in need by Archdiocesan agencies seeking to work with parishes to give impetus to the Church's mission as the Spirit prompts.

#### **A healing Church**

Protecting and advocating for those who are vulnerable and bringing the healing power of the Spirit to those who have been subjected to Church related sexual abuse.

#### **An inclusive Church**

Being attentive to all members of the community, believing that the Spirit speaks and moves through all.

#### **A well-led Church**

Developing and forming current and future leaders who are able to discern the ways of the Spirit and help others to do the same.

#### **An innovative Church**

Enhancing governance structures and systems so that they are responsive and innovative, open to the surprises of the Spirit.

#### **A responsible Church**

Ensuring sustainable and effective use of resources in a way that respects creation, builds community and looks to the sovereignty of God.





# VISIONBEYOND2020

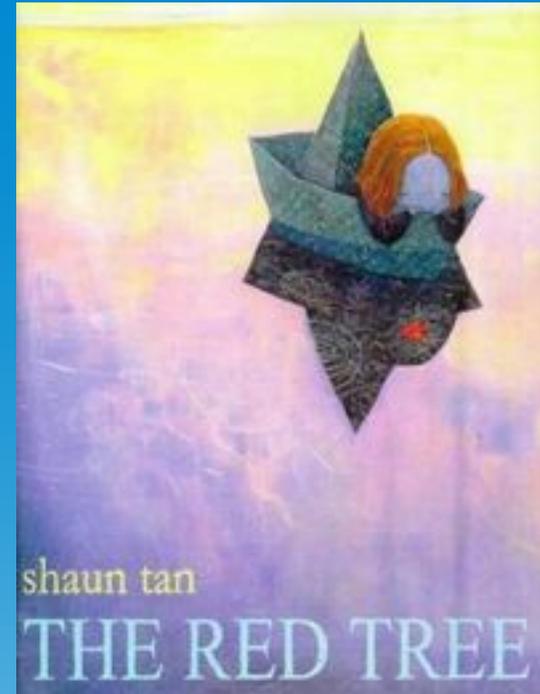
*A journey led by the Spirit*

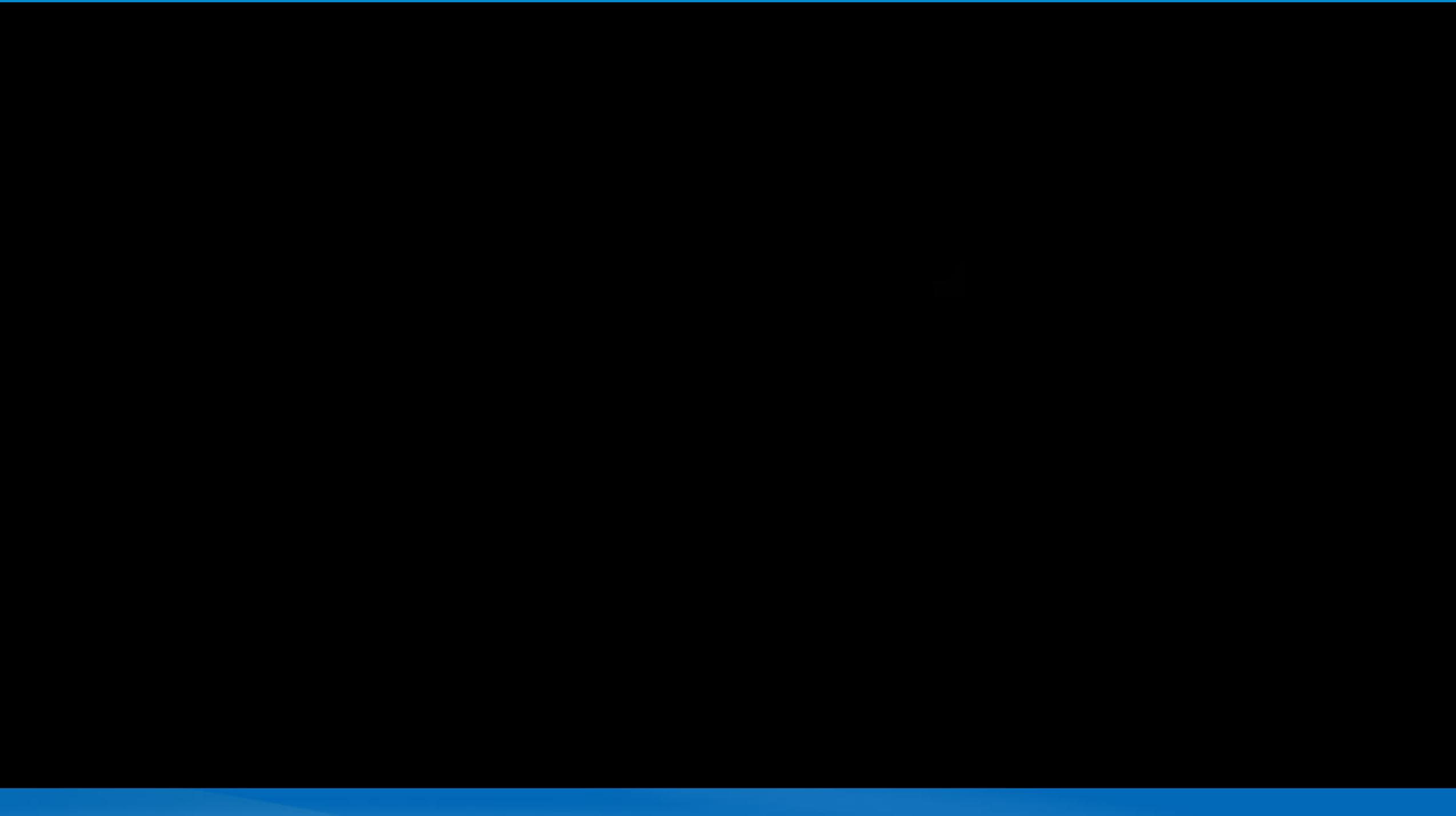
UNDERSTANDING

*The Church of our day can be likened to a beached whale. We can no longer lie inert and doomed, in a vain attempt to survive out of our element. On the one hand, we cannot just lie there, hoping to get a free ride on the tide of the great institutions that were the gift of past intrepid generations. There is no clinging to the shore of some artificial identity. The challenge is to move out into the shore-less mystery of God; so to enjoy the freedom and bounty of that ocean.*

COUNSEL

# FORTITUDE

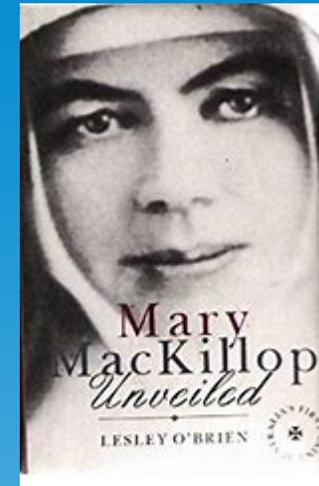




KNOWLEDGE

PIETY and WONDER

*The story told on the following pages is surely the stuff of some of our best rebels and fighters. It is a marvellously rich tapestry of guts, impulsiveness, grit, compassion and dreams. The unveiled Mary emerges as magnificent.*



Geraldine Doogue in : Mary  
MacKillop Unveiled by Lesley  
O'Brien

- We live in interesting times, times in which news schools are keen to adopt the charism that we have spent the weekend discussing
- We are not alone in trying to determine what the future will be. Most agencies of the Catholic church are engaged in the process of renewal and revisioning. The Josephite Associates are certainly not alone in this
- Charism, whilst a little understood word, is a powerful influence for good
- We live in a world which demands much from us but so did Mary of the Cross MacKillop. We explored the attributes she possessed, attributes needed now and into the future
- We also have the gifts of the spirit to sustain us and provide us with nurture and support as we move forward. We looked at the possibilities provided in harnessing them.

Recap

*The future is meant to be a promise, not a threat.*

*Will the world be entirely optimistic.? Probably not.*

*Will it be deeply pessimistic? That's equally improbable.*

*The world of the future will probably be a beautiful mess.*

Tony Ryan (2018)  
From a paper written as a  
Stimulus Paper for the BCE  
Future Vision Project.

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*A beautiful bright light shines at the end of this path and a few more windings will bring us to it.*

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Mary MacKillop, 1907

Thank-you

Questions