



PO Box 57  
Kent Town, SA 5071  
[sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au)

## Spring 2020

September 2020 Newsletter

### Remembering the Canonisation

By Amanda Taverna



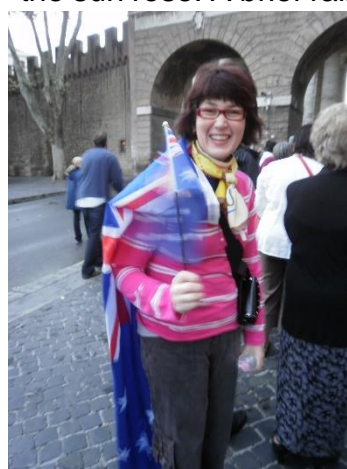
It's hard to believe that the canonisation of Mary MacKillop took place 10 years ago. It was the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2010 to be precise, and my recollection of the day is as clear to me as if it were yesterday and not 10 years ago. You see, I was chosen as a

member of a small delegation that travelled to Italy for the canonisation to represent Catholic Education South Australia (CESA).

After landing in Rome a few days before the actual canonisation, my new CESA friends and I embarked on a walking pilgrimage. We followed in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop, visiting many of the places she had been to when she travelled to Rome in 1873 to seek approval for the Rule she hoped would govern her Sisters' way of life. As a first-time visitor to Rome, it was not difficult to imagine some of what Mary may have felt. Trying to gain your bearings in a foreign city, where yours is not the native language, poses some problems. At least I arrived in Rome with my return plane ticket; Mary did not even have her fare home! She knew no-one; I at least had my travel companions.

The rising sense of anticipation of what was still ahead increased. We attended a vigil celebration before Mary's canonisation at the *Auditorium Conciliazione* and, upon leaving, looked down the street towards *St Peter's Basilica* to see Mary's face smiling brightly upon us (see photo above). The banners of the saints that were to be canonised had been raised and hung from the front of St Peter's. Mary looked radiant and full of love, with that familiar, gentle smile on her face. For me, this was one of the highlights of my pilgrimage; a moment I found very emotional.

The next day, Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, we were up early to line up outside the Vatican as the sun rose. A brief rain shower did nothing to



dampen our spirits. I am not embarrassed to say that I wore my Australian flag as a cape. I was filled with unbridled pride. While waiting, we chatted with those around us, trying to ascertain which saint they were there to "support". A group of three from Britain in

front of me were there for Mary MacKillop too! Even more exciting was that they were distant cousins!



*'If we have love in our hearts, we shall have God with us.'*  
MMK 1890

cont next page

The canonisation ceremony itself was deeply reverent. There were cheers as the Pope named each of the six saints but there was a sense that this was in keeping with the occasion and certainly not out of order. While the liturgy that followed was mainly in Latin, I found the familiar ritual comforting and reassuring, but also somewhat surreal. As the ceremony drew to a close, I turned around to see the magnitude of the crowd behind me. This truly was a momentous occasion!

Perhaps my happiest memory of my pilgrimage to Rome came on the Monday following the canonisation, when a huge contingent of St Mary's supporters converged on the *Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls* for the Mass of Thanksgiving.



A couple of Aussies at the Mass of Thanksgiving.

I felt such elation and joy. We were all of one mind and one heart; there to give thanks for **our St Mary of the Cross MacKillop**. The rich resonance of our voices filled the great church and as the Mass ended, the smiles on our faces could not be matched, except perhaps by those of the Sisters of St Joseph themselves!

My pilgrimage to Rome was a once in a lifetime experience. It was incredibly humbling to be a witness to this piece of Australia's history; the canonisation of a proud nation's first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

It would be brilliant to be gathering with fellow Josephite friends and companions to acknowledge the anniversary of Mary's canonisation. Unfortunately, our planned celebration cannot go ahead at this time, due to the uncertainty brought about by COVID-19. Like Mary, who was filled with hope on her journey to Rome seeking approval for the Rule, may we too be filled with hope that we can gather together at a time in the not too distant future.

## Living in the Spirit of Mary MacKillop

- **Mary MacKillop Precinct – Bethany, Chapel and Museum**

Although there will be no 8<sup>th</sup> of the Month Masses for the rest of this year, the Museum and Gift Shop are open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 4pm.

- **St Joseph's Old Scholars Association**

An invitation to our Annual Spring Luncheon is extended to all (female or male) who have ever been connected to a Josephite school or college in Australia, as a student or teacher and/or have a connection to Mary MacKillop:

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October

11.45am for a 12 noon start

Lockleys Hotel, 493 Henley Beach Road, Lockleys

A Seniors' Menu is available for \$17.90 which includes a complimentary drink

Seating will not be allocated

Bookings by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Contact Josie (8295 3667) or Joyleen (8337 9500)

- **Mary MacKillop Old Scholars Association**

If interested in a reunion on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October please email [MarymackillopOSA@outlook.com](mailto:MarymackillopOSA@outlook.com)

Newsletters and our popular Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179768134304>) keep people in touch with each other. Make contact and share your news.

- **Josephite Associates**

We look forward to gathering next year, hopefully making a start with an event in February.



## Josephite Companions

Read the accompanying *Newsflash* – our IJALT September Newsletter. This outlines the change of name from Josephite Associates to **Josephite Companions**, together with a new **emblem** and **Companions' Prayer**.

This is a significant moment in our history, and we look forward to celebrating the occasion in the new year. A video of the launch of this change on 17<sup>th</sup> October will be at <https://www.sosj.org.au>

## ~ 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October ~

\* **Sisters of St Joseph** invite you to celebrate the wonderful life and inspirational legacy of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Commemorative prayers, videos and a global vigil to honour Mary throughout September and October can be found at <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary/>

### \* Archdiocesan Events:

- Archbishop O'Regan will unveil and bless a new statue of Mary MacKillop in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 10am during a Liturgy of the Word
- A local bus tour led by Sr Patricia Keane will leave the Cathedral at 11am highlighting places of significance to Mary MacKillop
- An overnight pilgrimage to Penola will depart Adelaide on Saturday morning, returning Sunday evening

For more information or bookings contact Archdiocesan Events: 8210 8220 or [events@adelaide.catholic.org.au](mailto:events@adelaide.catholic.org.au)

# ∞ COURAGE ∞

## Scripture – Jeremiah 18:6

“Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand.”

## Reflection

It is through the gift of courage that, with confidence, we can open ourselves to the challenge of being moulded and shaped. Through this moulding clay, we are reminded of God, the great potter, who works each day shaping and moulding us through the experiences of our lives, and it is our task to become more aware, more conscious of the loving presence of God in all we experience. The most fundamental way that Jesus ‘held His centre’ was to be completely open to God’s love; to have the courage to be open to the totality of that love, and trust where it would take him. He did this through prayer and through his every choice, day after day.

Mary MacKillop too was *completely open to God’s love*. Mary’s great faith in God helped her to have the courage and perseverance in overcoming obstacles especially during her most difficult times.

## From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

Have courage no matter what your crosses are. 1890

Let no obstacle deter us from proceeding with courage. 1893

May God give you patience and courage in your sufferings. 1904



## Pause for Reflection

How have the crosses in your life called forth courage within you?

## Prayer

God our Comforter, You stand with us in all our sorrows and difficulties. May we, like Mary MacKillop, respond with faith and courage in all the hardships that we face in our life. St Mary of the Cross, accepting of the cross in life, pray with us. Amen.

## Action

Be kind to one another, especially someone who is weak or vulnerable. Recognise that God is working through you.

Hold within your hand a challenge that is facing you at this time. Believe that God is with you and will not let you down. Ask God for the courage you need to face this challenge or carry this burden.