

Mary MacKillop

WALK

The Kensington – Norwood
connection to Mary's
story and legacy

MacKillop



Mary MacKillop: Circa 1880
© Trustees: Sisters of Saint Joseph

MARY HELEN MacKILLOP was born in Melbourne in 1842. The oldest of eight children of Scottish immigrants, Mary worked from an early age to help support her impoverished family.

Aged 18, Mary moved to Penola in South Australia to become a governess. Here she met Father Julian Tenison Woods. They shared a passion for providing Catholic education for children from poor families and in 1866 founded a new religious order, the Sisters of St Joseph (also known as Josephites).

In mid-1867 Mary arrived in Adelaide where young women flocked to the new Sisterhood. Their work immediately expanded beyond education to social welfare as they responded to the needs of the city's poor.

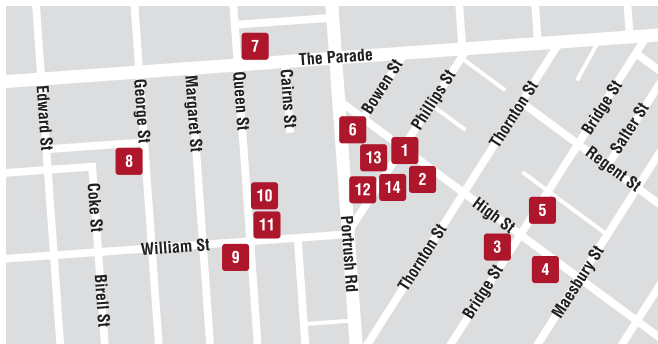
Kensington and Norwood became an important part of Mary's story. She lived here for 11 years (1872–1883) and directed the rapid growth of the fledgling order from the Convent in Portrush Road. She and her Sisters were much-loved figures in the local community, ministering to the destitute, homeless and unloved.

"The heart and soul of Mary MacKillop and the Josephite Order are an essential part of the rich history of the district."

The Norwood Parade Cultural Heritage Walk, Plaque #1 (Mary MacKillop Walk, Stop 7)

Mary MacKillop WALK

The Kensington – Norwood connection to Mary's story and legacy



THE WALK STARTS AND FINISHES AT STOP 1

Please Note:

Although this Kensington-Norwood Mary MacKillop Walk has been created to begin and end around Mary MacKillop Precinct, 19 Phillips Street, Kensington, you may prefer to commence and finish at other points along the route.

- 1 Mary MacKillop Park & Memorial to Max Harris:** High Street, Kensington, between Mary MacKillop Museum and Mary MacKillop College
- 2 Mary MacKillop College:** 10-14 High Street, Kensington
- 3 Kensington Village:** Bridge Street, Kensington: Council Heritage Board outside former Rising Sun Hotel
- 4 Dr Benson's house:** 50 High Street, Kensington
- 5 St Joseph's Memorial School:** 46 Bridge Street, Kensington (near corner of High Street)
- 6 Doctor Benson's Memorial:** South-east corner of High Street and Portrush Road, Kensington
- 7 The Parade Cultural Walk plaque:** North-east corner of The Parade and Queen Streets, Norwood
- 8 Site of former home of James Dominick Woods:** 75 George Street, Norwood
- 9 Site of former cottage:** South-west corner of Queen and William Streets, Norwood (diagonally opposite Saint Ignatius' Church)
- 10 Site of former Catholic Refuge:** 62 Queen Street, Norwood (now Saint Ignatius' College)
- 11 Saint Ignatius' Church:** North-east corner of Queen and William Streets, Norwood
- 12 Mary MacKillop Precinct:** 286 Portrush Road, Kensington **Aboriginal Garden**
- 13 Mary MacKillop Precinct:** 286 Portrush Road, Kensington **Saint Joseph's Chapel**
- 14 Mary MacKillop Museum and Café:** 19 Phillips Street, Kensington

1 Mary MacKillop Park & Memorial to Max Harris

Location: High Street Kensington, opposite the end of Phillips Street



After reading the Council Heritage Walk Board walk straight ahead of you towards Mary MacKillop Park. See the monument which honours Mary, who lived just a few metres from here, for 11 years (1872–1883).

There is also a tribute to one of her most ardent promoters, noted poet and journalist, Max Harris AO (1921–1995).

Once Max had discovered Mary's inspirational life story and legacy he became an advocate for her recognition as 'a Saint for all Australians', writing numerous articles about her in national publications. Max's ashes are interred here in the park.

For more about Max Harris see:

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/harris-maxwell-henley-max-29615>

2 Mary MacKillop College

Location: 10 High Street Kensington

This secondary college for girls is committed to Mary's values.

The College logo 'In Omnibus Caritas' ('In all Things Love') is inspired by a line from a letter written by Mary to the Sisters shortly before she died in 1909: 'Love one another, bear with one another and let charity guide you in all your life.'

The logo, designed in 1926, was adopted by all the South Australian schools conducted by the Sisters of Saint Joseph.



Continue east along High Street to Bridge Street.

3 History of Kensington Village

**Location: corner High and Bridge Streets
(outside the former Rising Sun Hotel)**



Council Heritage Walk Board:

Here you will find a map and details of the development and demise of the formerly bustling Kensington Village, from its establishment in 1838, only two years after the foundation of the province of South Australia.

Notice the architecture of historic buildings in the area: homes, former businesses—for example, the ‘Druggists’, the Village Post Office, the ‘Rising Sun’ Hotel.

This is the local community in which Mary and her Sisters were so immersed.



Return to High Street, turn right, walk to number 50.

4 **Doctor Benson's House**

Location: 50 High Street, Kensington

Dr John Benson was a popular local doctor. Famously kind, he often provided free services to the poor, including the Josephites. Mary often called upon his generosity.

He lived here from 1867 until his death at the age 39 in 1877. On the night before his death a throng of local citizens held a vigil here.

Mary, who was with him on his deathbed, wrote: "I feel his death more than words can express ... He has left very little provision for his wife and children; his too-generous heart never having allowed him to save."

His wife said to Mary, "He told me you would be kind". And she was, arranging for free education for the Benson children.



Cross High Street, turn left, walk to the corner of Bridge Street and turn right.

5 Saint Joseph's Memorial School

**Location: 46 Bridge Street, Kensington
(near the corner of High Street)**



Council Heritage Walk Board:

This building was originally a Mechanics' Institute, built around 1840. Jesuit priests ran the local parish. In 1872 they leased this disused building and in the following year the Sisters established a primary school there.

In 1877 the parish purchased it and the community used it extensively. When the old building became too unsafe, the new school, which was built in 1916 on this site, is the building we see today.

When Mary visited the school, she would examine the children's work and give them boiled lollies.



Walk back along High Street to the south-east corner of Portrush Road.

6 Doctor Benson's Memorial

Location: South-east corner of High Street and Portrush Road

Mary wrote that Dr Benson's funeral procession "was one of the largest ever seen in Adelaide It is thought that there must have been three thousand people at the cemetery." Local shops closed their doors and pulled down shutters on the windows. He was a loved member of the community and was particularly dear to the Josephites.



To honour him, the Sisters donated a small portion of their land on this corner for this memorial, originally a drinking fountain. Mary urged the Sisters to try and help raise funds for both the monument and the impoverished Benson family.



Walk to the corner of Portrush Road and The Parade. As you pass Mary MacKillop Museum pause to view the 'Pathway of Catholic Education' honouring the educational legacy of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. Cross with traffic lights, walk in a westerly direction on the northern side of The Parade. You are now in Norwood.

7 The Parade Cultural Walk Plaque

Location: North-east corner of the Parade and Queen Street



Mary's story is just part of the rich history of this area.

This footpath plaque is part of the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters' The Parade Cultural Walk. It acknowledges Mary as a 'social reformer' – one of this area's array of creative citizens who are honoured here. She stands with Catherine Helen Spence, May Gibbs, C J Dennis, Don Dunstan, Max Harris and many others.

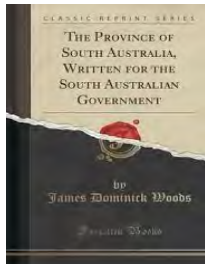


*Continue walking down The Parade to George Street.
Cross The Parade at the lights, then continue walking
along George Street to number 75 (western side)*

8 Site of former home of James Dominick Woods

Location: 75 George Street, Norwood

James Woods was the brother of the Josephites' co-founder, Father Julian Tenison Woods. After Mary was abruptly expelled from her convent in Franklin Street, Adelaide by Bishop Bonaventure Sheil in 1871, Mary stayed in the nearby home of James Woods. There, she found temporary shelter during the greatest crisis to hit the fledgling Josephites to date. Woods later moved here to Norwood.



Woods (1826–1905) was a journalist of note, and author of the first official history of South Australia. Two of his three daughters, Ellen and Geraldine Woods, joined Mary MacKillop to become Sisters of Saint Joseph, and his five sons were Australian Rules footballers. They played for Norwood!



Continue walking along George Street to William Street. Cross William Street, turn left. Walk towards Portrush Road to the south-western corner of William and Queen Streets.

9 Site of former cottage

Location: South-west corner of Queen and William Streets, Norwood

During her excommunication, Mary moved constantly for fear of causing trouble to her supportive hosts. A bakery stood here with three small rooms attached. Mary rented them briefly for herself and a few companions. Although officially forbidden to do so, she continued to communicate with and support the demoralised Sisters. She even accepted some new members during this time.



Cross William and Queen Streets. Walk north a little way along Queen Street. Stop at St Ignatius' College.

10 The Catholic Refuge

Location: 62 Queen Street, Norwood

Mary always moved quickly! Arriving in Adelaide in 1867, she soon took responsibility for an existing House of Refuge in Franklin Street. It catered for women newly released from gaol and later single mothers, former



prostitutes and women who were in 'moral danger'. The Refuge moved to Mitcham in 1871 and then to this site in 1872. A commercial laundry became its main source of income. The Sisters always worked side by side with the women. Mary had a deep compassion for the young women at the Refuge and often visited them.

The Norwood Refuge cared for women and babies from 1872 until 1902 when more suitable premises were built at Fullarton. There, the work developed into an industrial scale enterprise, now closed.

Only the original facade of the Refuge remains. This is now incorporated into Saint Ignatius' College as the Mary MacKillop Library.

11 St Ignatius' Church

Location: Corner of William and Queen Streets, Norwood

The early Jesuit priests strongly supported and guided Mary and the pioneering Sisters.

Realising that Mary's excommunication was invalid, these men sheltered and encouraged her during the crisis. This church was a cherished haven for her.

After her excommunication was lifted, the Sisters were reinstated in a ceremony here in March 1872. Inside the Church, a plaque near a large icon of Mary commemorates this event.

Look for these nearby:

- A plaque commemorating the MacKillop–Jesuit links:
near the Queen Street footpath
- A life-sized sculpture of Saint Ignatius: front garden facing William Street
- Manresa: The Jesuit community's residence since 1903.
Mary's brother, Father Donald MacKillop, lived here
- Cannonbury House: smaller cottage to the right of Manresa—
the Jesuits' first home from 1869, as painted by James Shaw (1852)



 Walk towards Portrush Road, turn left, then cross at the pedestrian crossing. You are now back in Kensington! Enter the Convent gardens through the wrought-iron gates. Walk along the path adjacent to the Portrush Road fence to the Aboriginal Garden.

12 Mary MacKillop Precinct—Aboriginal Garden

**Location: South-western corner of Convent grounds,
near Second Creek**



Created in 2005, this Garden is a joint Reconciliation project of the Sisters of St Joseph and the local Aboriginal community, acknowledging traditional Kurna settlement along Second Creek.

It features native plants and a stone monument by Ngarrindjeri artist Jacob Stengel.

Spend some time in this quiet gathering place known as Bilyonendi Yerta—meaning to compose oneself, to grow calm on yerta: ground.

Niina tidnama, Kurna miyurna mukapanthu!

When you walk, remember the Kurna People!



*Take any of the garden paths leading to the historic
St Joseph's Chapel (white building with crosses).*

13 Mary MacKillop Precinct—Saint Joseph's Chapel

The triangular property was acquired by Mary MacKillop and the Sisters in 1872. Philanthropists Joanna and Robert Barr-Smith paid for the land.

In 1876, this multi-purpose building adjoining the original house was erected to accommodate the rapidly growing Congregation. It comprised a ground-floor Chapel, along with living and sleeping quarters both above and below.



The original building with Sisters in the foreground. c.1876

Mary lived here in Kensington for 11 years until banished from South Australia by Bishop Reynolds in 1883. The Chapel is sacred to her memory and that of the many Sisters who have lived here.

You are welcome to spend some quiet time in the Chapel, which is open daily, between 10:00am and 4:00pm.

Enter via back door (there is a disabled access ramp)



Walk along the path past the Mary MacKillop Memorial Rose Garden towards the Museum, Gift Shop and Café.

14 Mary MacKillop Museum

To complete your Mary MacKillop Walk experience, you may wish to ...

Visit the Mary MacKillop Museum, where Mary's inspiring life and legacy, and the evolving Josephite story, are showcased. The museum offers an interactive, 'hands-on' experience, using audio and visual storytelling to engage and inspire the young and not-so-young. A warm welcome awaits you!

Browse through the Museum's souvenir shop, with its extensive range of Mary MacKillop books, mementoes, plus beautiful gifts and cards for special milestones and occasions.

Relax and enjoy refreshments at the adjoining High Street Café, which looks out onto the tranquil Mary MacKillop Memorial Rose Garden and Mary MacKillop Park. It offers both indoor and outdoor dining. The café is open Monday to Friday: 7:30am – 3:30pm and Saturday & Sunday: 8:30am – 2:00pm.



For more information about the life and legacy of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, see:

www.sosj.org.au/our-foundress-mary-mackillop

Other walking trails which may interest you:

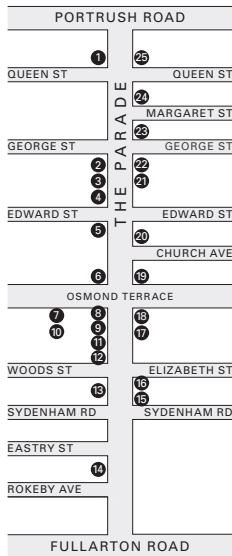
<https://adelaidecityexplorer.com.au/tours/show/20>



The Parade Cultural Plaques Map:

www.npsp.sa.gov.au/culture_and_lifestyle/cultural_heritage/signs_walks_and_trails

- 1 Mary MacKillop 'Founder of the Josephite Order' (1842–1909)
- 2 Aboriginal Lands 'The Dreamtime'
- 3 Hon Don Dunstan 'Premier & Social Reformer' (1926–1999)
- 4 James Ashton 'Colonial Artist & Teacher' (1859–1935)
- 5 Hall & Sons (Est. 1851)
- 6 Max Harris 'Poet – Writer' (1921–1995)
- 7 Captain Lionel Mathews GC, MC 'Prisoner of War' (1912–1944)
- 8 Australian Prisoners of War Commemorative Memorial
- 9 Sir Edwin Thomas Smith 'Philanthropist' (1830–1919)
- 10 Stanley Price Weir D.S.O., V.D. 'Soldier' (1866–1944)
- 11 Albert Green 'Champion Norwood Footballer' (1874–Unknown)
- 12 John Joseph Woods 'Sportsman' (1865–1952)
- 13 John Richards Furniture 'Family Business' (Est. 1956)
- 14 Charles Bonney 'Overlander' (1813–1897)
- 15 Doris Taylor 'Community Worker' (1901–1968)
- 16 C J Dennis 'Poet' (1876–1938)
- 17 Catherine Helen Spence (1825–1910)
- 18 Hon Lionel Hill 'Politician' (1881–1968)
- 19 William Joseph Denny 'Politician, Lawyer, Soldier' (1872–1946)
- 20 Mary Martin 'Book Seller' (1915–1973)
- 21 Ward's Shoe Store 'Family Business' (Est. 1909)
- 22 S.E. Waite & Son 'Family Business' (Est. 1920)
- 23 Vari's Grocery 'Family Business' (Est. 1961)
- 24 Parade Fish Café (Est. 1953)
- 25 May Gibbs 'Author & Illustrator' (1877–1969)



***Niina tidnama, Kurna miyurna mukapanthu!
Parna yaitya mathanya yainty a yartaku.***

*When you tread, remember the Kurna people.
They are the original owners and custodians of the land.*



The Kensington-Norwood Mary MacKillop Walk was created by

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