

Significant Dates in the Life of Mary MacKillop

1842

Born Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne, 15 January. Baptised 28 January.

1850

First Holy Communion 15 August.

1861

Governess to Cameron children (cousins) at Penola Homestead; met Fr Julian Tenison Woods for first time.

1863

Appointed to a salaried teaching position at Portland Catholic Denominational School; rented Bay View House for a Day and Boarding School for young ladies.

1865

Relinquished Bay View House and left Portland.

1866

Started the Stable School, 19 March, St Joseph's day. Mary wears a plain black dress to signify her dedication to do God's work.

1867

Opens the first convent-cottage in Grote Street, Adelaide, and begins teaching in St Francis Xavier Hall School; takes religious vows 15 August.

1869

Moved into Franklin Street cottages February; takes final vows on 8 December and leaves for Queensland to open schools there.

1870

Opposition to the Sisters grow over issue of central government and refusal to accept Government grants for education. Trouble in Adelaide concerning visionaries.

1871

Mary excommunicated 22 September.

1872

Excommunication order removed 23 February; Sisters restored to their habits 19 March. Episcopal investigation into affairs in Adelaide (June), Mary and Sisters vindicated and Fr Woods advised to relinquish the direction of the Sisters.

1873

Mary travels to Rome to seek approval of Rule written by Fr Woods. Personal audience with Pope Pius IX.



1875

Constitution of the Institute of St Joseph accepted by First General Chapter, and Mary elected Superior General. Free, compulsory education becomes law in South Australia.

1876

Sisters obliged to leave Bathurst because of Bishop Matthew Quinn's refusal to accept central government of the Institute.

1879-80

Sisters obliged to leave Queensland because of Bishop James Quinn's refusal to accept central government of the Institute.

1880

Eight foundations of the Order made in Sydney Archdiocese two in the Armidale Diocese.



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1881

Second General Chapter, Mary re-elected Superior General.

1883

First New Zealand foundation at Temuka, South Island. Mary dismissed as Superior General in Adelaide by Bishop Reynolds – goes to Sydney.

1885

Cardinal Moran informs Mary that Propaganda considers her re-election (1881) invalid. He appoints Mother Bernard Walsh.

1887

Propaganda rejects the Sydney Synod decree asserting diocesan control over the Sisters of St Joseph. Sisters arrive in Northhampton, Western Australia.



1888

Decree from Rome constitutes the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart as an approved Regular Congregation with Mother House in Sydney. Diocesan congregations to be distinct from the other and to make some alterations in their habit and their rule.

1891

Mary suffers first of many bouts of serious illness. More than 300 Sisters working in

nine dioceses in Australia and New Zealand.

1898

Mary elected Superior General after death of Mother Bernard.

1902

Mary suffers stroke, went to Rotorua (New Zealand) with her sister Annie MacKillop.

1909

Mary died 8 August at Mount Street, North Sydney, buried at Gore Hill cemetery.

1914

Building of Memorial Chapel and translation of her remains.

... since then... the process of Canonisation

1818

Newly elected Superior General Mother Laurence O'Brien raised the question of the Cause of Beatification with the apostolic Delegate.

1926-29

Information Process (Tribunal hearings) presided over by Archbishop Kelly (Sydney).

1931

Indefinite postponement of Process.

1951

Cause re-opened by Dr N.T. Gilroy, who delivered his report to Rome.

1973

Mary MacKillop officially declared 'Servant of God' by Pope Paul VI through the Papal Legate to Eucharistic Congress, Melbourne. Decree granting the introduction of the Cause was announced.



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1984

Positio commenced – intensely supervised historical and critical account of Mary MacKillop's life and virtues.

1989

Positio completed and presented to the Holy See.

1992

13 June – decree confirming Mary lived a life of heroic virtue: 'Venerable Mary MacKillop.

1993

6 July – decree confirming the miracle through her intercession. Way now clear for the proclamation of Blessed Mary MacKillop.

1995

19 January – Ceremony of Beatification by Pope Paul II, Sydney.



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