



MARY MAC'S PLACE
Woy Woy

CatholicCare
Diocese of Broken Bay

Mary MacKillop

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SAINT

Mary MacKillop was a wonderful woman who gave her life to God and to people in need and was declared Australia's first Saint on 17 October 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI.

Mary MacKillop Feast Day is celebrated on August 8. Our community kitchen and drop in centre in Woy Woy - Mary Mac's Place - is named after Mary.

Mary MacKillop was born in Victoria in 1842. She was the eldest child in her family and had 3 sisters and 4 brothers.

Mary died on 8 August 1909 in North Sydney where her tomb can be visited today.

In South Australia she met a priest named Father Julian Tenison Woods who also wanted to help poor children attend school. Together Mary MacKillop and Father Tenison Woods started the 'Stable School' in 1866.



"Never see a need without doing something about it."
Mary MacKillop



Mary's first job was as a clerk when she was 14. She then worked as a governess looking after her cousins and teaching them (and other farm children) their lessons.



The school children had lessons in reading, writing, maths and singing. The girls also enjoyed learning to sew whilst the boys enjoyed woodwork. Mary and her sisters also taught the children about God and to trust in Jesus.

They also set up houses for women and young girls without jobs. They gave their life to people in need often giving comfort to the sick and dying and even visiting people in jail to give them whatever help they could.



Mary and the Josephite nuns set up schools in Australia and New Zealand.

SHE LOVED CHILDREN SO BECAME A SCHOOL TEACHER.



In 1866 Mary MacKillop and Father Tenison Woods started the religious order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart (the Josephites) and in 1867 Mary MacKillop became a nun – Sister Mary of the Cross.