

Possible Learning and Teaching Opportunities: Mary MacKillop

- How do people know about Mary MacKillop?
 - Discuss how to gather information about Mary MacKillop. Who could we ask? Where can we look?
 - Explore samples of letters, stories, journal entries, photos to gather information about this first Australian saint. Access information about [Mary's Story](#). There are 4 sections here: Beginnings, Growth, Challenge and Influences. Students could take a section and gather key facts and messages about the life of Mary MacKillop; her family, her story and the stories of the people she worked with and loved. The photos are a good source and stimulus for discussion about what life would have been like in the time of this woman who is remembered for her love of God and her love of people, especially children.
 - Visit the [Parramatta Catholic Diocese website](#) to view some extracts from the letters of Mary MacKillop (go to the bottom of the webpage). These letters could be used with staff or older students
- Compare life in the times of Mary MacKillop and today.
 - Explore gospel stories where Jesus shows love, forgiveness, compassion and kindness.
 - Lead students to make connections between the actions of Jesus and the actions of Mary MacKillop.
 - Teach about ways that we can show God's love in the way we treat others.
- Look at photos of a typical classroom in 1800s and compare with the classrooms of 2010.
 - Sketch what students believe life was like in 1840's-1850's Australia
 - View movie clip on Mary MacKillop site and complete Venn diagram 'Life then – Life now'
 - List items we know did not exist 150 years ago
 - Immerse students in a range of resources that bring about an understanding of the harshness of life in the mid 19th century
- Compare the trip Mary MacKillop made to Rome with the trip that many people will make to Rome for her canonisation.
 - Why did Mary MacKillop go to Rome?
 - Why are people going to Rome this year?
 - How did she record her experiences and communicate them to her family and her religious sisters?
 - How will people going to the canonisation record their experiences?
 - Interview if possible someone who is going to Rome for the canonisation of the first Australian saint.
- [What is a pilgrimage?](#)
 - People go on a pilgrimage to help them remember how blessed they are, to spend time with God or to journey by themselves or with others.
 - People stop on a pilgrimage to pray and reflect, to listen to and talk to God, to be still and to notice.
 - Design a pilgrimage in honour of Mary MacKillop in your classroom, school grounds or Church.

- Investigate places that are part of the story of Mary MacKillop.
 - Talk about how these significant places that she lived in, visited, worked, was born, went to school, died help people remember her e.g. Mary MacKillop Chapel Brisbane, MacKillop Place Sydney, Penola , Melbourne).
 - Visit the website that has a [virtual tour of MacKillop Place](#) and other information about the national pilgrimages and local pilgrimages. Download brochures and information about the significance of the places included in the pilgrimage.
 - Compare this to your life and name places that have been part of your life journey so far.
- Explore how Mary MacKillop has been portrayed in art work.
 - Use “Google Images” to find images of Mary MacKillop. Search for sculptures as well as paintings.
 - Purchase the book *Mary MacKillop A Tribute* and have the book taken apart. Laminate images and use these for reflection and shared responses.
- Interpret quotes of Mary MacKillop and explore connections and relevance for us in 2010.
- Name and explore [qualities of Mary MacKillop](#).
 - Mary was a woman of faith; a woman of prayer; a woman who loved God etc Identity qualities of Mary MacKillop and record in words around picture of Mary MacKillop.
 - Create a class display or a Peoplescape of Mary MacKillop.
- Interact with [digital learning objects](#) and engage in interactive learning: [A Sainly Quest](#).
- Engage with prayers that have been written e.g. Litany of Mary MacKillop. Deconstruct and write a litany.
 - Explore structure and purpose of a litany.
 - [Mary MacKillop Prayer Space](#)
- Investigate *Moments in the Life of Mary MacKillop* by reading and interpreting the [Time Line](#).
- Read the [story of Mary MacKillop](#) and students can contribute to a group construction of a Big Book about Mary MacKillop.
- View [Behind the News](#) report on Mary MacKillop as a discussion starter about the process of canonisation.
- Go to [Canonisation Ceremony](#) and list symbols and actions. Predict what and who one will see at a canonisation. Watch a short YouTube™ of a canonisation and list what you see and hear.
- Investigate the [Sisters of St Joseph](#): their work, their story and their spirituality. Investigate their [emblem](#), motto and story.
- Access Melbourne RE Source and view the short video clip [Praying with Mary MacKillop](#). This prayer has been inspired by retreat notes written by Mary MacKillop. Download text and write own response to *If I could tell the love of God*. Use these words as a prayer starter.
- Record student research on Mary MacKillop using an online tool - "[Exploratree](#)" is an excellent tool for working through research questions.

- View the YouTube™ resources [“Embrace Mary MacKillop”](#) and record significant dates, people and places.
 - What do people say about Mary MacKillop on this clip?
 - What questions would you ask people if you were preparing a documentary on this first Australian Saint?
 - What would you say if you were interviewed about Mary MacKillop?
 - What questions would you like to have asked Mary MacKillop if you had lived in her time?
 - What questions would you like to ask her now?

- Take a virtual tour of [Mary MacKillop Place](#). This has become a place of pilgrimage. Thousands of pilgrims come each year to Mary MacKillop’s tomb which is in the Mary MacKillop Memorial chapel. People come for a variety of reasons with many coming specifically to pray through Mary’s intercession for healing in their lives or in the life of a loved one. View in silence. During a second viewing invite students to compile a list of what they see. Discuss in pairs and compare. Watch a third time to confirm what they have listed.

- What do we know now about Mary MacKillop’s life and the sort of person she was? Identify qualities of Mary MacKillop, record in words around picture of Mary MacKillop. Create a class display or a Peoplescape of Mary MacKillop.

- Create a “Wonder Wall” – students pose questions that they would like to investigate about Mary MacKillop and the time she lived.