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# MARY MACKILLOP (1842 - 1909)

## A TIME LINE

- 1812      January 21: Alexander MacKillop is born in Lochaber, Scotland
- 1816      June 11: Flora MacDonald is born in Glen Roy, Scotland.
- 1838      January 20: Alexander MacKillop arrives in Sydney from Scotland on the '*Brilliant*'.
- 1840      April 17: Flora MacDonald arrives in Melbourne from Scotland on the '*Glen Huntly*'.
- 1840      July 14: Marriage of Alexander MacKillop and Flora MacDonald in Melbourne, Victoria.
- 1842      January 15: Mary born in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne and is named Maria Ellen MacKillop.
- February 28: Mary is baptised in St Francis Church, Melbourne.
- 1851      Mary makes her First Communion.
- 1860 - 61      Mary accepts the position of Governess to her cousins, the Alexander Cameron family at Penola Station, Penola, South Australia, where she first meets Fr Julian Tenison Woods.
- 1862      Mary goes to Portland, Victoria, to be with her family. She takes up the position of Governess to the Duncan Cameron family.
- 1863      Mary is appointed as teacher in the Catholic Denominational School, Portland, Victoria.
- 1866      Mary with her sisters, Annie and Lexie, return to Penola. They open a school for poor, rural children in an old stable which is converted for school use by their brother, John.
- By March, approximately 55 students are enrolled.
- On March 19, St Joseph's Day, Mary adopts simple black dress as a symbol of dedicating her life to doing God's work.
- August 30: Fr Woods is appointed Director General of Catholic Education in South Australia and Inspector of Catholic Schools, as well as secretary to Bishop Sheil.

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November 21: Mary is joined by her first companions, her sister Lexie, Blanche Amsinck, who became known as Sister Francis Xavier, and Julia Fitzgerald, who became Sister Francis of the Five Wounds. Lexie returned home several months later.

1867 May: Stone schoolhouse is opened in Penola.

May: Fr Woods writes the Rule for the Congregation.

June 22: Mary and Rose Cunningham leave for Adelaide on the steamship, 'Penola'. Annie MacKillop and Julia Fitzgerald take care of the Penola school.

June 23: Mary and Rose arrive in Adelaide, and set up the first convent in Adelaide in a cottage in Grote Street. They are joined by their first Adelaide postulant, Ellen McMullen, who became known as Sister Josephine McMullen.

July 2: Mary and Rose open the first Adelaide School known as the Cathedral Hall School. They appear in public in the Josephite habit for the first time.

August 15: Mary takes public Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.

1868 December: Some Irish Dominican Sisters come to Adelaide. Mary offers them the Sisters' Franklin Street Convent.

December 19: Alexander, Mary's father, dies on his brother Peter's property near Hamilton, Victoria.

1869 December: Mary and a small group of Sisters begin work in Brisbane.

1871 End of April : Mary returns to Adelaide and is appointed to Port Adelaide.

August 1: Fr Woods leaves Adelaide. This is the end of his official connection with the Sisters.

September: There are 127 Sisters, 11 in Queensland and 116 in South Australia. They have 4 schools in Queensland and 40 schools and 4 charitable institutions in South Australia.

September 22: Mary is excommunicated by Bishop Sheil in the Franklin Street Convent Chapel.

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1872 February 22: Mary's sentence of excommunication is removed, twenty two weeks after its imposition, in St Mary's Church, Morphett Vale, South Australia.

March 1: Bishop Sheil dies.

March 19: The Sisters don their habits again and renew their Vows at St Ignatius' Church, Norwood.

Their schools are re-opened.

May 30: The Bishops of Hobart and Bathurst are appointed by the Holy See to investigate the affairs of the Adelaide Diocese. Mary and her Sisters are found innocent of any charges made against them.

August 29: The property at Kensington is purchased and the Sisters move in. Kensington becomes the Mother House of the whole Congregation.

1873 March 28: Mary leaves for Rome, dressed as a lay woman and under the assumed name of Mrs MacDonald. She is seeking Roman approval for the Josephite Rule.

1874 April 21: Mary receives the Constitution of the Institute - Central Government is accepted.

1875 January 4: Mary arrives back at Port Adelaide carrying an Apostolic blessing and a copy of the new Constitution.

March 19: The Sisters' first General Chapter begins at Kensington. Bishop Reynolds explains the new Constitution. Mary is elected the Congregation's first Superior General.

The Sisters renew their vows according to the new Constitution.

The two Bishops Quinn (James of Brisbane and Matthew of Bathurst) reject the rule of Central Government.

1876 February 8: Mary informs Bishop Matthew Quinn of Bathurst that she must remove her Sisters from the Diocese. Sister Hyacinth Quinlan remains. She becomes the foundation member of the Federation Josephite Sisters.

1879 December 31: First contingent of Sisters arrives in Sydney from Brisbane.

1880 Withdrawal of the Sisters from Queensland completed. Foundations are made in the Armidale diocese.

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- 1883 The Institute is again under investigation. Mary is ordered by Bishop Reynolds to leave Adelaide for Sydney.
- November: The first group of Sisters begins work at Temuka on the South Island of New Zealand.
- 1885 Cardinal Moran brings news from Rome that Mary's election to the position of Mother General at the second General Chapter in 1882, was invalid. Cardinal Moran appoints Sister Bernard Walsh in her place.
- 1885 The Bishops of Australia and New Zealand at their Plenary Council meeting in Sydney vote against Central Government for the Sisters.
- 1886 May 30: Mary's mother, Flora, dies in the shipwreck of the *Ly-ee-Moon*, off the coast of Eden in NSW.
- 1887 Rome rejects the bishops' decision re Central Government.
- 1888 July 25: Communication from Rome states that the Sisters of St Joseph are an Approved Regular Congregation and the Mother House is to be in Sydney. Central Government is upheld.
- 1889 October 7: Fr Woods dies.
- December 16: Third General Chapter is held at the Mother House, North Sydney.
- 1890 - 92 Mary goes to Victoria to help with the establishment of the Congregation there.
- 1894 - 95 January, 1894 - March 1895: Mary visits New Zealand convents including the first Josephite Maori Mission at Matata.
- 1898 August 3: Sudden death of Mother Bernard, Mary is re-elected as superior general.
- 1902 May 11: Mary suffers a severe stroke at Rotorua, New Zealand.
- December: Mary arrives in Sydney.
- 1909 August 8: Mary MacKillop dies in Sydney. She is buried in the Memorial Chapel at the Mother House in Mount Street, North Sydney.
- 1995 January 19: Mary MacKillop is declared Australia's first saint in Sydney by Pope John Paul II.
- 2010 Mary MacKillop is Canonised in Rome as *St Mary of the Cross MacKillop*
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# TIME LINE - MARY MACKILLOP

Using the dates on this time line, fill in the event which happened in each year.

Each division  
represents five  
years

