

MARY MacKillop Place and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart are delighted to announce that bookings are being taken for their popular Australian National Pilgrimage: In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop. The next pilgrimage will be running from October 15-26, 2024, and will visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry in Victoria, South Australia and NSW. The pilgrimage will be led by Mary MacKillop Place Mission & Ministries Manager, Josephite Sister Anne Bond and inaugural director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, East Melbourne, Garry McLean.

"The notion of going on a pilgrimage and being a pilgrim is a very ancient one that belongs to the spiritual tradition of all great faiths," Sr Anne said. "While going on pilgrimage is a very personal experience, it is usually a journey with others: together pilgrims seek, listen, reflect on seeing the hand of God at work in their lives. "The National Pilgrimage is a unique opportunity for pilgrims to enter more deeply into the life and spirituality of Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods. This time apart helps pilgrims to appreciate Mary's role as our first canonised Australian saint and to embrace her as a model for us as we journey through the great pilgrimage that is life."

The Australian National Pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on October 15 and conclude at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on October 26. Along the way pilgrims will visit historic sites and towns significant in the story of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods including Portland, Penola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney. Get in early! The current prices are fixed until June 30, 2024. After this date prices may need to be negotiated dependent on oil and fuel costs. More details on the pilgrimage and prices can be found by clicking on the link below. Website:

<https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage>. Alternatively, email: [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or

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