



WITNESS OF HOPE

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

St Mary MacKillop, Australia's first saint, showed us what it means to walk with courage, compassion, and unwavering trust in God. Born on our own soil, she knew the struggles of ordinary Australians—hardship, injustice, and isolation. Yet she never gave up.

With a heart full of hope, she co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, bringing education, dignity, and the love of Christ to those most in need—especially in the bush, the outback, and forgotten corners of our land.

Mary faced trials that would shake anyone—poverty, illness, and even unjust excommunication—but she remained firm in faith, trusting that God walks with us, especially in life's hardest moments.

In this **Jubilee Year**, may her legacy inspire us—the people of Australia—to be **Pilgrims of Hope**: bold in faith, generous in love, and grounded in compassion.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

God calls us

to walk **together**
in **unity** and **peace**.

Pope Francis

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To all who read this letter may hope fill your hearts



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