

I dedicate this carving of Mary MacKillop, co-founder with Julian Tenison Woods of the Sisters of St Joseph, and Australia's 'Blessed One' soon to be acknowledged by the Universal Church as saint.

In doing so, I pray that as you honour Mary, her spirit will live on in MacKillop College and that all who are part of this community will strive, as she did, to make our world a place free of poverty and injustice, a place where every person is treated with respect, dignity and compassion.

May the College always be a place of wisdom and learning, a place where our loving God is praised in love and peace and where those qualities that Mary possessed in full measure - simplicity, hospitality, compassion and respect for all people - are clearly visible in the people who form this community.

As Mary MacKillop said to our early sisters, 'in St Joseph's care, I leave you'.

Jill Dance ssj