

# **2025 – 2026 Retreats & Reflection Days**



**Mary MacKillop  
Spirituality Ministry**



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# Registration Information

The Sisters of Saint Joseph, in the spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, have a long history of responding to spirituality and faith formation needs. After the Second Vatican Council, Spirituality Centres were established as the Sisters opened their hearts to the needs of the Church, other religious communities and the wider public. Our Centres span the country and have been beloved for many years.

As the Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry enters a new chapter, we have endeavoured to diversify, broaden and increase our offerings for 2025/2026. We are delighted to be offering these reflection days, retreats and sabbaticals as opportunities to nurture one's spirit. These programs are an invitation to all to encounter the sacred in their lives.

## How to Register

Please register for your desired reflection day, retreat or sabbatical directly with the relevant Spirituality Centre or via our website:

[www.mmsm.org.au](http://www.mmsm.org.au)

**Contact information for each Centre is available on pages 32–35.**



# Pricing Information

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have generously subsidised retreat programs at our Centres for many years. The newly formed Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry is working towards financial sustainability while also remaining committed to making sure that nobody is unable to attend a retreat due to the cost. To this end, participants who are unable to afford a retreat may apply for a discount or waiver.

## Early Bird Discounts

An Early Bird discount of **10% will apply to all Reflection Days and Retreats**. For Reflection Days, to gain an Early Bird discount, you will need to register more than three weeks in advance of the start date of the Reflection Day. For retreats, to gain a 10% discount, you will need to register at least six weeks in advance of the start date of the retreat. **Discounts do not apply to Sabbaticals and Workshops.**

## Cancellations Guidelines

From time to time, there will be a need to make a decision as to whether or not a program will run. In the unfortunate situation where a Reflection Day, Retreat, Sabbatical or Workshop is cancelled by the Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry, a full refund for the amount paid for the program will be provided to registrants of that program.

If a participant who has registered and paid for a program needs to cancel their registration, a full refund will be provided if the participating centre (where the program is being held), is notified four weeks or more from the start date of the program. **Cancellations made within four weeks of the program start are non-refundable.** The same conditions apply if you need to change the date of the program you are attending.



**Mary MacKillop  
Spirituality Ministry**

# Facilitators



## **Annette Arnold RSJ**

Annette is a Sister of Saint Joseph, a Spiritual Director, a giver of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and a Supervisor in the Kardia Heart Wisdom Program. Formed in the Ignatian tradition in the Kardia Heart Wisdom program, Annette brings the gifts and wisdom of her years in education, counselling and leadership to this role.



## **Anna Barber**

After three rich decades of dedication to Catholic education and leadership, Anna has embarked on an inspiring adventure as part of the Education Team at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne. With a deep passion for sharing the remarkable legacy of St. Mary MacKillop, Anna is driven to reimagine the story of Australia's beloved saint, making her wisdom and spirit resonate in today's world.



## **Virginia Bourke RSJ**

Virginia Bourke is a Sister of Saint Joseph. Early in her religious life she experienced inter-cultural theological study at the East Asian Pastoral Institute with the Jesuits in the Philippines. After years of teaching and leading in Catholic schools, she studied theology formally with the Catholic Institute of Sydney. Since 1995 she has been engaged in adult faith enrichment, in various teacher education programs in NSW and in Josephite rural women's support projects in NSW and SA. Virginia is a Sacramental theologian with a commitment to exploring God's Self-Revealing in human experience. She studied more recently in the Ignatian ecological spirituality program with the Jesuits in Guelph, Canada. She currently lives and ministers in North Sydney.



## **Mary-Ann Casanova RSJ**

Mary-Ann has been a Sister of Saint Joseph for 40 years. She has a passion for all things eco and her work conveys complicated concepts in simple, engaging ways. She has held positions with Catholic EarthCare Australia, Rahamim Ecological Centre, and is currently the Josephite Laudato Si Action Plan Project Officer. Mary-Ann completed her Doctoral Studies in 2023. Her research looked into the relationship between mysticism and science in the lives of Julian Tenison Woods and Teilhard de Chardin.



### **Nila Chambers**

Nila Chambers is a lifelong meditator and spiritual seeker. She was an educator, working in the university, TAFE and school sectors and also as principal of a small school for several years. Nila has a Master's Degree in Religion Studies. She has extensive experience in presenting talks, workshops and retreats on spiritual themes, in a broad range of settings. Nila is especially drawn to mysticism in Christianity and Eastern religions and she has a deep love of the natural world.



### **Belinda Chapman**

Belinda is an experienced spiritual director and giver of the spiritual exercises, based in George Town in Tasmania. She delights in providing space and opportunity for people to deepen their relationship with God in whatever form that relationship is best nourished at the time of life or season within which they discover themselves. Her style of spiritual direction is creative, engaging and inclusive.



### **Mandy Cox**

Growing up in Melbourne, Mandy has worked in ministry with her husband around Australia whilst raising their three children. Settling in Newcastle NSW in 2019, she now runs her own business, Urban Sparrow Counselling & Supervision Services, providing counselling, supervision and spiritual direction to her clients. Mandy also facilitates workshops and retreats, focusing on grief, loss and transformation.



### **Val De Brenni**

Val De Brenni, a Covenant Josephite, is a trained spiritual director and supervisor. She is the Director of the Spiritual Director Formation Program for the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide and a member of the Ignatian Heart Spirituality team. Val has a special interest in the spiritual formation of teachers and leaders in Catholic schools.



### **Daniel De La Motte**

Daniel is a husband and father of four with a background and education in youth and young adult ministry, teaching, science, theological studies and law. Following Christ has led him into the Catholic Church through Pentecostal, Anglican, and Evangelical Christian traditions; committed to Christian unity and sharing how God has seized and moved him with beauty, truth, and goodness. He provides faith formation for mission to Catholic schools with the Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry, coordinates Catholic University Chaplaincy in Tasmania, and tours as a Catholic speaker.



### **Linda Di Sipio**

Linda Di Sipio is currently employed at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne as Formation and Purpose lead. She is responsible for facilitating the formation programs as well as creating Bespoke formation experiences for the staff at St Vincents. Linda has completed a Bachelor of Science, Graduate Diploma of Teaching, Postgraduate diploma in RE, Masters of RE and a Masters of Spiritual Direction. Her experiences assist her with understanding and developing formation in faith-based organisations.



### **Carmel Drew RSJ**

Carmel is a member of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart. With a background in education, Carmel has ministered in the areas of spiritual direction, supervision, retreat facilitation and faith formation for the last 20 years.



### **Dr Pina Ford**

As a team leader in Catholic Education WA (CEWA) over the last 25 years, Doctor Pina has provided adult faith formation in scripture, theology and spirituality to a wide range of participants. These include catechists, school staff and leaders participating in CEWA's leadership programs and retreats.



### **Fadi Elbarbar**

Fadi Elbarbar is a husband and father of two young boys. Secondly, he is an experienced teacher of Religious Education, heading several Religious Education faculties across Tasmania and Victoria. He also has a long history coordinating social justice programs. Fadi came to the Catholic Church via the RCIA process in 2015, after falling in love with the Good News via his introduction to it in his first teaching round. Since then, he has fervently studied theology, including his Masters in Theology. He is currently a teacher of Religious Education at Antonine College, St Joseph Campus Pascoe Vale South.



### **Vicki Hancock**

Vicki is passionate about nurturing people to well-being and inner wisdom through offering experiential reflective retreats. She has experience and qualifications in meditation, relaxation, movement, mindfulness, contemplation, imagery, soul collage and teaching. She's a practicing spiritual director who is committed to her own spiritual journey.



### **Peter Hay**

Peter Hay is a passionate explorer of ecological spirituality as a way of bringing us into a more authentic way of living in these critical times. He is a spiritual director, professional supervisor and a lecturer at Heart of Life.



### **Dr Kerrie Hide**

Doctor Kerrie Hide is a spiritual director, retreat giver and mystical theologian whose lifelong work interweaves deep heart wisdom about contemplation from the Christian mystical tradition. Her book, *Gifted Origins to Graced Fulfilment: The Soteriology of Julian of Norwich*, won first prize in the Catholic Press Awards. Kerrie's most recent book, *Love's Oneing: A Book about Contemplation*, develops and deepens this foundational work on soteriology. You can find out more about Kerry on her website.

### **Geraldine Kearney SGS**



Geraldine is a Sister of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict. She holds a Master of Education, and a Masters in Counselling from Australian Catholic University Sydney, and a Doctor of Ministry in Cross Culture from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. She is also a qualified Psychodrama Therapist, counsellor, and facilitator. With a background in Catholic education, Geraldine took up her role in the congregation in Formation; a role which she held for almost 20 years. She currently works as a cross-cultural consultant, mainly in the Asia Pacific and Australia, with several congregations, especially in the areas of leadership, mission, formation, and culture.

### **Cecilia King**



Cecilia is a registered counsellor, dance movement psychotherapist, and expressive therapist specializing in developmental trauma, religious trauma recovery, and neuroaffirmative support. Her passion lies in nurturing reflective spaces for individuals of all ages to process life experiences and challenges through body, mind and spirit integration.

### **Fr David King CP**



Father David King C.P. is a priest of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, most commonly known as The Passionists, founded to contemplate and preach the passion of Jesus as the most overwhelming sign of God's love for us. He has ministered in faith education and spirituality for most of his 34 years as a priest and hopes to affirm fellow travellers on this journey amidst the demands of the modern world. He is passionate about ministry in spirituality, assisting others to explore and deepen their relationship with God.

### **Liz Lewis**



After spending 25 years in real estate, I chose to follow my true vocation in guiding others on their journey to inner healing. My introduction into personal development began in 2004, when I realised how significantly our mindset influences our lives. I believe that true transformation starts from within, connecting with our inner spirit. My mission is to inspire others to invest in themselves, understanding that shifting our perception can create a ripple effect of positive change in all areas of life.

### **Frances Maguire RSJ**



Frances is one of Mary MacKillop's Women, born in Kalgoorlie and educated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. She has been a teacher and leader in Catholic secondary schools then in adult faith and personal development throughout WA, including 6 years as Director of Mirrilingki Spirituality Centre in Warmun in the East Kimberley. Frances has been involved in spiritual accompaniment and leading retreats online and in person in Australia and Peru. She is growing in awareness of the oneness, interconnectedness and interdependence of Earth and all her creatures, especially those made poor and on the margins.





### **Rita Malavisi RSJ**

Rita has been a Sister of Saint Joseph for over 30 years. Originally a primary school teacher, working in city and country schools, Rita is currently involved in adult faith formation at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in Melbourne. She is a trained Spiritual Director and is the current National Chair of one of the Spiritual Direction Networks.



### **Maureen McDermott RSJ**

Maureen is a Sister of Saint Joseph in the New South Wales region. In 1995 – 96, she trained in Spiritual Direction at the Centre for Religious Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Since returning from Boston, Maureen has been involved in programs at Baulkham Hills and spiritual direction and retreats in other centres throughout Australia. In recent years Maureen has been involved in Mission Ministry in Aged Care and Parish Ministry in small parishes where there was no resident priest.



### **Chris McPhee MSC**

Chris McPhee MSC, is a former Parish Priest, Novice Master, Provincial Superior, and General Councillor for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. He has conducted numerous retreats, both contemplative and preached, across Australia and internationally. His retreats are dedicated to spiritual growth, reflection, and renewal, emphasizing the core values of compassion, love, freedom, justice, and community. Drawing on his extensive experience in religious formation, parish ministry, leadership, and retreats, he creates a welcoming and contemplative atmosphere that unites participants with their faith and spirituality. These aspects are integrated with prayer, meditation, and reflective conversation.



### **Ann Morrison RSJ**

Ann is a Sister of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, currently residing in the beautiful Blue Mountains at Katoomba NSW. Ann's main ministry is retreat facilitation, spiritual direction and adult faith formation. Ann endeavours to use educational, pastoral, scriptural and life experiences to develop more deeply her call to be aware of the activity of God in life and use it to live more authentically.



### **Eamonn Pollard**

Eamonn Pollard is presently the Director of Spirituality Ministry for the Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry. He has previously worked as a teacher, principal, formator, facilitator and lecturer. Eamonn recently submitted a PhD on the importance of spirituality to wellbeing.



### **Nicole Rotaru**

Nicole Rotaru is a member of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea. For some time she has had a particular interest in the 'second half of life' that has its fill of joys and challenges. She has enjoyed offering workshops for older folk for a number of years and valued learning from their experiences. These learnings as well as reflection on her own life and reading inform workshops she continues to offer.



### **Mary Ryan RSJ**

Mary Ryan rsj has ministered in the areas of primary and secondary education, parish development, adult and young adult spirituality/retreats, university chaplaincy – and also in a number of leadership roles in both Victoria and NSW. Since her arrival in South Australia in 2013, Mary has co-ordinated the establishment of Mary MacKillop Precinct, the redevelopment of Mary MacKillop Museum and the creation of the Kensington-Norwood Mary MacKillop Walk. She is currently the Assistant Director of Formation for the Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry. Aware that Mary MacKillop is a 'Saint for ALL Australians' (Max Harris), Mary is keen to work with, and support, school leaders and staff of all schools to help deepen their understanding of the legacy of Mary MacKillop and her relevance to all school communities today.

"Think of Mary MacKillop and learn from her to be a gift of love and compassion for one another, for all Australians, and for the world." (Pope John Paul II – Sydney, 1995)



### **Jennifer Scally RSJ**

Jennifer is a Sister of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, with 30 years of experience in the spirituality space. She has worked in many schools, in the diocese and as a spiritual director, retreat facilitator and supervisor in various ecumenical settings. Jennifer's work focuses on the need to listen within to allow for continual growth in every aspect of life. She is committed to assisting others as they grow in awareness of their own ever deepening relationship with their God and their personal growth.



### **Clare Shearman**

Clare Shearman BA(Hons), MBA, Grad Dip Spiritual Direction (Siloam), Grad Dip Supervision, Supervisor: Australasian Association of Supervision. Clare is a spiritual director and professional supervisor. She manages a retreat centre in Shoreham on the Mornington Peninsula Vic with her husband Artie. She was the Director of Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual and Pastoral Formation from January 2022 to August 2024. Clare has held leadership roles in the corporate world as well as in large and small not-for-profit organisations. Clare considers herself extremely blessed to be working in service of those who are seeking to nurture their personal spirituality and pastoral skills for the benefit of others.





### Anne Slingo

Anne is a teacher with nearly forty years of experience in Catholic primary and secondary classrooms. She works with Catholic organisations, opening up charism, teaching new ways of praying, discernment, sacred listening and conversation. With a background in Ignatian Spirituality and as a giver of the First Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, Anne brings an approach to formation that enables receivers to make sense of who they are, as they are gently accompanied.



### Lillian Van Brussel

Lillian Van Brussel has taught in Catholic schools for over twenty years whilst leading the religious identity and mission. She currently plans and implements prayer and reflection days and experiences for teachers, school leadership teams, students and other sectors. Lillian currently gives spiritual direction, accredited through the Spiritual Director Formation Program in the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide. Her prayer and reflection experiences provide input to ponder and opportunity to creatively reflect, slow down and connect with PRESENCE along with take home resources for the everyday toolbox for slowdown from the general busyness of life on a more regular basis.



### Mark Walsh

Mark Walsh is a creative facilitator specialising in formation, spirituality, adult education, biblical studies, and retreats. He has extensive experience working with schools, religious congregations, and parish groups in Australia and internationally. He is also a pilgrim, pilgrimage leader, and spiritual director with experience in the Holy Land, on the Caminos de Santiago de Compostela, and the Aussie Camino in the footsteps of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop. He spent three years living in Israel with the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion at Ein Kerem whilst studying and working with the Centre for Biblical Formation at Ecce Homo.



Mary MacKillop  
Spirituality Ministry

# Retreats & Reflection Days

## A Retreat in Daily Life – Directed

### Start Anytime

This Programme is offered On-line

Registration email:

[spiritualdirection@sosjspirit.org.au](mailto:spiritualdirection@sosjspirit.org.au)

Experience the full Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius entered into at home while going about your everyday life. This can be done over approximately thirty-five weeks, or a ninety-day at-home retreat. You connect with the Spiritual Director weekly via Zoom, or when possible, in person. To decide to enter this journey means making a commitment to a dedicated time of prayer each day and connecting with the Spiritual Director.

The retreat is offered, using Marlene Marburg's contemporary expression of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises in Grace Upon Grace. In this text, Marlene provides a rich, creative and fresh adaptation of the original Spiritual Exercises. Grace Upon Grace is not a book to read but a spiritual journey to take, being nourished by Marlene's poetry and the invitation of the arts.

**Director: Annette Arnold rsj**

\$88/ hour incl. GST

## Let's be Pilgrims of Hope

**10 November – 17 November 2025**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality**  
**Centre Central Coast, NSW**

This silent, contemplative and guided retreat attempts to answer Pope Francis' call to create a climate of hope within each of us, which then flows into our world. We must take this call seriously, allowing our action and prayer to be the spiritual breath of our life that never ceases – awakening beauty, truth and goodness to open new, vibrant ways of being in the world.

**Guide: Ann Morrison RSJ**  
\$1,705 incl. GST

## Directed Retreat

**10 November – 17 November 2025**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with a daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what is God up to in your life.

**Director: Fr David King CP**  
\$2,365 incl. GST

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## A.R.T. of Self

**12 November – 14 November 2025**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, St**  
**Joseph's by the Sea Williamstown, VIC**

Join us for a transformative 2-night, 3-day retreat focused on the A.R.T. of Self-Awareness, Reflection, and Talk. This immersive experience is designed to guide you on a journey of deep introspection and personal growth, where you'll explore the power of self-awareness, engage in reflective practices, and discover how meaningful conversations can unlock new perspectives.

**Guide: Liz Lewis**  
\$682 incl. GST

## Prepare the Way: Moments of Peace

**15 November 2025**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Adelaide, SA**

Give yourself this time to prepare for and welcome the season of Advent with a contemplative heart. Connect the Christmas story and the Advent symbols of Love, Hope, Peace and Joy with your own inner realities. Slow down from the speed and stress of the world around, and wonder and reflect on why you are attending to the busyness. Discover and create moments of peace through prayer, reflection, scripture, music, art and nature. This day is suitable for all adults and has CESA approval as a SAM.

**Guide: Lillian Van Brussel**

\$198 incl. GST

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## Finding Meaning in our Ecological Reality

**24 November 2025**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Melbourne, VIC**

In the face of the ecological challenges we're experiencing, how can we cultivate hope, purpose, and meaning? This retreat day will invite participants to share their feelings about our current reality while exploring the seeds of hope, wisdom, and insight within themselves. Through a day of connection, reflection, and contemplation, we will embrace the potential for renewal. It will be a day of sharing experiences, reflecting and naming our reality and contemplating the new. Within the process of the day, we will be drawing on wisdom and practices from Pope Francis, Joanna Macey, Ilia Delio and Brian Swimme.

**Facilitator: Peter Hay**

\$198 incl. GST

## Life is a journey

**23 November – 28 November 2025**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Baulkham Hills Norwest, NSW**

Life is a Journey Retreat is a reflective, prayerful excursion that contemplatively aligns our personal journeys with the journey of Jesus, focusing on transforming our past through the intimacy of God's love. It emphasises healing, liberation, freedom, and spiritual growth by reframing our life experiences. The retreat aims to transform pain into love, leading to deeper intimacy and joy, love, in and through the heart of Christ Jesus.

**Guide: Chris McPhee MSC**

\$1,925 incl. GST

## Morning Comes: An Advent Journey into Hope

**28 November – 29 November 2025**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Safety Bay Kimolee, WA**

The Advent mystery continues to unfold through time, and more urgently in uncertain times. When our hearts are stilled and our vision adjusts, we may notice in the darkness that hope is being seeded again and again – often unexpectedly. In this retreat, delving into the Advent scriptures and wisdom writings from the Tradition and beyond will enable you to distinguish Christian hope from psychological optimism. The content offered will be supported by poetry and music, shared conversations and times for stillness and personal reflection.

**Facilitator: Dr Pina Ford**

\$330 incl. GST

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## Pilgrims of Hope Journey into the Season of Advent

**30 November – 7 December 2025**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Baulkham Hills Norwest, NSW**

This silent, contemplative retreat provides an opportunity to anticipate, honour and rejoice in the company of those close to the birth of Jesus, Mary, the mother of Jesus, Elizabeth mother of John the Baptist and Anna the Prophetess at the Temple of Jerusalem.

**Guide: Ann Morrison RSJ**

\$1,925 incl. GST

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## Spirituality for Navigating Change: Staying Hopeful and Encouraged

**6 December 2025**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Josephite Mission Hobart, TAS**

As we enter into Advent, Chris will lead us through some prayer, meditation and reflective conversation on our ability to face the reality of change as a necessary pathway to personal growth and transformation. Chris focuses on drawing on the value of love and compassion to stay hopeful and encouraged in the midst of struggle and challenge.

**Guide: Chris McPhee MSC**

\$132 incl. GST



## An Invitation to Wisdom, Mission, Conversion and Transformation (Sabbatical)

**16 February – 27 March 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Baulkham Hills Norwest, NSW**

This Sabbatical focuses on transitions and is suitable for those who are at the crossroads of life and ministry. The invitation is to Openness, Vulnerability and Spiritual Growth. The Sabbatical is integrative and holistic in its approach. Through the mornings, an excellent team of presenters will create a rhythm of poetry, song, moments of meditation, contemplation, and mindfulness, while the afternoons and weekends will provide time for rest, reflection and relaxation.

Themes explored through the Sabbatical:

- Country
- culture and spirituality
- Stages of faith and the Faith Journey
- Being in transition with an ever-dynamic God
- Reading John's Gospel through Ecological eyes
- Daring to dream
- Social Justice: our call to be a community of mercy, inclusion and human solidarity.

Other experiences:

- Weekly Eucharist
- Gentle exercises
- Weekly Spiritual Direction
- 5-day retreat.

**Guide: Rita Malavisi RSJ**

\$16,170 incl. GST

## Visiting the Well

**21 February – 26 February 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Josephite Mission Hobart, TAS**

This six-day non-residential retreat offers us the opportunity to use the scripture of Woman at the Well from John's Gospel (4: 5– 29) as well as our own lived experience, that is our personal gospel story: a story of encountering God, having our eyes opened by the experience, of being vulnerable, of going deeper, of conversion and transformation, of coming to new life and being asked to share the story, to proclaim the good news. In Jewish history, wells imply hidden depth, the work of digging for the life-giving source... water. This is true in the physical world and in our spiritual life. Come explore the depths of your well with God, finding the life-giving water that God offers you at this time of your life.

*This retreat can be attended as a weekend, 2 Day Retreat or as the full 6 Day Retreat.*

**Guide: Jennifer Scally RSJ**

\$198 incl. GST **per day**

## Invoking Self-Discovery

**19 February – 23 February 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality**  
**Centre Central Coast, NSW**

This will be a time for growth and transformation through developing understandings of and engaging in experiences for self-discovery. There will be opportunities to invoke personal freeing and harmony in relationships. You'll appreciate your gifts and the giftedness of others. Allow yourself to be open to the wisdom within by being with emotional realities, and engaging in poetry, gentle movement, relaxation, meditation and music– all for your wellbeing. There will be space for personal reflection in tranquil surroundings.

**Guide: Vicki Hancock**

\$1,100 incl. GST

## Recollection Reflection Day

**6 March 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Melbourne, VIC**

This Day of Recollection, drawing on the theme of contemplation is a one day retreat that allows us to focus on our spiritual journey and deepen our relationship with God through prayer, reflection and guided meditation. The day provides a focused time for spiritual growth and introspection, allowing us to step back from daily routines and connect with our faith. Participants can experience a renewed sense of purpose, a deeper connection with their faith, and a strengthened relationship with God.

**Facilitator: Clare Shearman**

\$198 incl. GST



## Allowing nature to nurture in the midst of a changing climate

7 March – 8 March 2026

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre  
Central Coast, NSW

Using grief as a doorway to find new hope in the midst of climate despair, this retreat will provide a space to reflect, listen and come together as a community in order to express some of the impacts that our changing climate is having on us on a day-to-day basis. Over the two days, there will be opportunities to reconnect with nature through the serene and beautiful surrounds of the Retreat Centre; to stop and listen to some of the deeper feelings and expressions that form the grief that you may be experiencing; and to allow the transformative

**Guide: Mandy Cox**

\$495 incl. GST

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## Recollection Reflection Day

14 March 2026

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, St  
Joseph's by the Sea Williamstown, VIC

This Day of Recollection, drawing on the theme of contemplation, is a one-day retreat that allows us to focus on our spiritual journey and deepen our relationship with God through prayer, reflection and guided meditation. The day provides a focused time for spiritual growth and introspection, allowing us to step back from daily routines and connect with our faith. Participants can experience a renewed sense of purpose, a deeper connection with their faith, and a strengthened relationship with God.

**Guide: Clare Shearman**

\$198 incl. GST

## The Gift of Belonging

14 March 2026

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre  
Central Coast, NSW

To belong is a deep human need. Experience a sense of belonging, inclusiveness and connection. Discover how to feel these comforts by delving into fairy tales, creating a felt board, moving gently and being guided in relaxation and meditation. Connect with nature through your senses and savour tasty food.

**Guide: Vicki Hancock**

\$198 incl. GST

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## Rhythms of Rest and Renewal

15 March – 22 March 2026

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, St  
Joseph's by the Sea Williamstown, VIC

Sabbath... Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in Our Busy Lives. 'God rested on the seventh day' after finishing the work of Creation. Thomas Merton wrote: 'There is a pervasive form of contemporary violence ... [and that is] activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything, is to succumb to violence. The frenzy of our activism neutralises our work for peace. It destroys our own inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of our own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.' This six-day retreat is an opportunity to listen to and reflect on our personal lives and maybe find a more balanced way of living.

**Guide: Jennifer Scally RSJ**

\$2365 incl. GST

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**Guide: Jennifer Scally RSJ**

**\$2365 incl. GST**

## The Soul's Slow Ripening: a Journey to Oneness

**22 March – 29 March 2026**

**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre Central Coast, NSW**

The Celts focused on a spirituality of oneness with all that is in both the natural and spiritual worlds. They worked with powerful imagery, artwork, blessings, prayers and practices that bound them to the Divine oneness. They drew on deep metaphorical imagery such as sacred wellsprings, thresholds, crossroads, and used practices such as dream guidance, journeying, sacred landscapes, seasonal cycles, sacred groves, spiritual friendship, intuitional heart knowing and the three-folded nature of things to feed the soul's slow ripening. In this retreat, we will draw on the writings of nature mystics, John O'Donohue, Celtic Christian writings and the book '12 Celtic Practices for Seeking the Sacred' by Christine Valters Paintner as we wander on our own pilgrim journeys to the heart of unity in God's creative being. This is a silent retreat.

**Guide: Nila Chambers**

**\$1,650 incl. GST**

## Men Today and Spiritual Growth: a Transformative Men's Retreat

**21 March – 22 March 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Adelaide, SA**

This 2-day "daily" retreat is open to men who seek a transformative spiritual experience. It's designed for those ready to embrace struggles as opportunities, build deep connections, and move beyond societal pressures. Whether you're new to spiritual retreats or have attended similar events before, this retreat welcomes all men looking to deepen their faith and personal growth.

**Guide: Chris McPhee MSC**

\$396 incl. GST

## The Hospitality of God

**22 March – 29 March 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality**  
**Baulkham Hills Norwest, NSW**

Through this silent, contemplative (guided) retreat, beginning the evening of 22nd March and concluding with breakfast on 29th March 2026, we are invited into the deep embrace of the Trinity to experience the Hospitality of God. Over these days, we will contemplate the Rublev icon, finding ourselves being drawn within ... for Henri Nouwen notes: the more we look at this holy image with the eyes of faith, the more we come to realise that it is painted ... as a holy place to enter and stay within.

**Facilitator: Ann Morrison RSJ**

\$1,650 incl. GST

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## Directed Retreat

**22 March – 29 March 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Baulkham Hills Norwest, NSW**

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with a daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what God is up to in your life.

**Director: Carmel Drew RSJ**

\$2,365 incl. GST

## Retreat Facilitator Workshop

**9 April AND 16 July 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Baulkham Hills Norwest, NSW**

This interactive two-day workshop will teach participants how to build retreats and workshops. Group processes will be explored, and there will be the opportunity to develop a personal project for implementation.

As a spiritual retreat facilitator, you design and lead retreats that nurture faith, contemplation, and personal transformation. To do this, you will create sacred spaces for reflection and prayer, guide participants with structures and processes, manage group dynamics and foster a welcoming, inclusive environment. Balancing structure with the movement of the Spirit, you will also be mindful of your own self-care to maintain a deep listening stance.

In this workshop, you will learn some foundations of spiritual retreat facilitation through the understanding of the purpose and impact of spiritual retreats, the role of a facilitator as a guide, not a teacher and achieving positive outcomes through working with the core spiritual themes of contemplation, discernment, and inner transformation. You will also learn hands-on practices by guiding discussions, leading workshops and sessions, soliciting feedback and providing mentorship to participants. There will also be space for personal reflection on your vocation and calling as a facilitator. These learnings will build upon and strengthen your existing unique talent and skills.

**Guide: Therese Carroll & Dean Mason**  
\$396 incl. GST

## The Gift of Courage

**11 April 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

It takes courage when facing new endeavours or difficult situations. Allow the therapeutic benefits of soul collage using archetypes, of story, gentle movement, relaxation and meditation to encourage you. Be nurtured in the peacefulness of nature, as well as partake in wholesome food.

**Guide: Vicki Hancock**  
\$198 incl. GST

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## Easter to Ascension – the presence and absence of Jesus

**11 April – 16 April 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Adelaide, SA**

This retreat will explore some of the post-Resurrection stories of Jesus' Presence with the disciples and his Absence. A growing knowledge for the disciples then and for us today. Allow the scripture characters to come alive and reveal their insights. 'You believe because you can see me: 'Happy are those who believe without seeing me.'

This Retreat offers flexibility in participation. You may choose to come for all 6 Days (11-16 April) or come for 2 Days (11 & 12 or 13 & 14 or 15 & 16), or maybe 4 Days. Non-residential

**Guide: Jennifer Scally RSJ**  
\$198 per day incl. GST

## Silent Ignatian Directed Retreat

12 April– 18 April 2026

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre  
Safety Bay Kimolee, WA

The retreat will be offering contemporary materials using the Arts, based on Marlene Marburg's contemporary expression of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises in Grace Upon Grace. Daily spiritual direction will be available, as well as a short daily shared reflection time.

**Director: Annette Arnold RSJ**

\$2,310 incl. GST

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## Living from your Soul

17 April– 18 April 2026

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre  
Josephite Mission Hobart, TAS

All human beings become aware from time to time of a need to pause and ponder what is happening within their life. There is a Divine Desire to notice what is within those deepest reaches of ourselves – that part of us where God dwells – our Soul. What does it mean for us to live from our Soul? When we become aware of God's presence, we can live from that space. This is the place where we determine what has meaning in our lives. This is a place of connection, hope, peace and joy. This is the place that energises us and provides what is necessary to deal with the struggles of life. It is from this place that God, through us, can touch our broken world and bring grace and healing.

**Director: Sr Ann Morrison RSJ**

\$198 **per day** incl. GST

## The Art of Contemplation

20 April – 22 April 2026

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre,  
St Joseph's by the Sea Williamstown, VIC

The practice of contemplation can be difficult in these days of 24/7 news and digital distractions. In the book, 'Into the Silent Land', by Martin Laird, the opening line states, "We are built for contemplation". Laird goes on to explain that the skills necessary for this "subtlest, simplest and most searching of the spiritual arts" are often most elusive.

The retreat will focus on some of the practices outlined in Laird's book and will incorporate plenty of opportunities to enter into your own silent land and learn more of the art of contemplation.

**Guide: Clare Shearman**

\$902 incl. GST

## Retreat Facilitator Training Workshop

**2 May – 3 May 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Adelaide, SA**

This interactive two-day workshop will teach participants how to build retreats and workshops. Group processes will be explored, and there will be the opportunity to develop a personal project for implementation. As a spiritual retreat facilitator, you design and lead retreats that nurture faith, contemplation, and personal transformation.

In this workshop, you will learn some foundations of spiritual retreat facilitation through the understanding of the purpose and impact of spiritual retreats, the role of a facilitator as a guide, not a teacher and achieving positive outcomes through working with the core spiritual themes of contemplation, discernment, and inner transformation.

To reinforce the theoretical learnings, you will be invited to design, plan and lead your own retreat and run it before session 2. By the end of both workshops, you will have developed practical skills in facilitation and nurturing communities in their formation and growth. Non-residential.

**Facilitators: Ann Morrison RSJ and Eamonn Pollard**

\$396 incl. GST

## God Comes Disguised as...

**25 May – 1 June 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

During this six-day guided, silent retreat, you will have the opportunity to reflect on the various phases of your life, noting the blessings that have come your way as you journeyed through the hills and valleys, as well as the twists and turns of life, drawing you into a deeper 'heart knowing' and relationship with God who companioned you throughout your life.

**Guide: Maureen McDermott RSJ**

\$1705 incl. GST

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## Directed Retreat

**25 May – 1 June 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with a daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what God is up to in your life.

**Guide: Ann Morrison RSJ**

\$2365 incl. GST



## Directed Retreat

**25 May – 1 June 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with a daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what God is up to in your life.

**Guide: Fr David King**

\$2365 incl. GST

## Directed Retreat

**6 July – 13 July 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with a daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what God is up to in your life.

**Guide: Dr Kerrie Hide**

\$2365 incl. GST

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## Visiting the Well

**6 July – 13 July 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

This six-day retreat offers us the opportunity to use the scripture of Woman at the Well from John's Gospel (4: 5– 29) as well as our own lived experience, that is our personal gospel story: a story of encountering God, having our eyes opened by the experience, of being vulnerable, of going deeper, of conversion and transformation, of coming to new life and being asked to share the story, to proclaim the good news. In Jewish history, wells imply hidden depth, the work of digging for the life-giving source... water. This is true in the physical world and in our spiritual life. Come explore the depths of your well with God, finding the life-giving water that God offers you at this time of your life.

This retreat can be attended as a weekend, 2 Day Retreat or as the full 6 Day Retreat.

**Guide: Jennifer Scally RSJ**

\$2365 incl. GST

## Directed Retreat

**6 July – 13 July 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with a daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what God is up to in your life.

**Guide: Fr David King**

\$2365 incl. GST

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## The Hidden Wisdom of Women in the Gospels

**17 August – 24 August 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Baulkham Hills Norwest, NSW**

The gospels speak of many women but with very little detail ... To learn more about these women, we need to learn to read between the lines with our own intuitive hearts, Martha Driscoll OCSO. This six-day retreat is a chance to allow some of these women to come alive and speak to us in our lives today. We will spend time with Martha and Mary, the Samaritan Woman at the Well and Mary of Magdala.

**Guide: Jennifer Scally RSJ**

\$2365 incl. GST

## Directed Retreat

**9 September – 16 September 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with a daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what God is up to in your life.

**Guide: Fr David King**

\$2365 incl. GST

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## Directed Retreat

**9 September – 16 September 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with a daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what God is up to in your life.

**Guide: Ann Morrison RSJ**

\$2365 incl. GST



## Directed Retreat

**13 September – 20 September 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre,**  
**St Joseph's by the Sea Williamstown, VIC**

A silent, directed retreat is an opportunity to enter a week of silence where you are able to be more present and listen to yourself and the ever-present God who seeks you always. Spiritual Direction daily allows you to share your life experience and see with fresh eyes the movements of God within you and around you. Directed Retreats are one-on-one directed – you spend one session a day with your Spiritual Director.

**Guide: Jennifer Scally RSJ**

\$2365 incl. GST

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## Authentically Human, Happy and Holy: as Jesus Was

**2 October – 8 October 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Safety Bay Kimolee, WA**

This guided retreat seeks to deepen participants' awareness of their God-seeded identity as human beings and their appreciation of God's Self-Revealing in the experiences of their lives. There will be a focus on living humanity as Jesus did. Sessions will be varied, with group and personal prayer, reflective input using imagery and music. Sessions will show the influence of ecological spirituality on contemporary approaches to Christian life.

**Guide: Virginia Bourke RSJ**

\$594 incl. GST

## Rhythms of Rest and Renewal

**12 October – 19 October 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

Sabbath... Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in Our Busy Lives. 'God rested on the seventh day' after finishing the work of Creation. Thomas Merton wrote: 'There is a pervasive form of contemporary violence ... [and that is] activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything, is to succumb to violence. The frenzy of our activism neutralises our work for peace. It destroys our own inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of our own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.' This six-day retreat is an opportunity to listen to and reflect on our personal life and maybe find a more balanced way of living.

**Guide: Jennifer Scally RSJ**

\$2365 incl. GST

## Directed Retreat

**12 October – 19 October 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with a daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what God is up to in your life.

**Guide: Maureen McDermott RSJ**

\$2365 incl. GST

## Directed Retreat

**9 November – 16 November 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with a daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what God is up to in your life.

**Guide: Fr David King**

\$2365 incl. GST

## In the Garden of Light with Mechtild of Magdaburg

**16 October – 18 October 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

'I take in my hand the mirror of true knowledge. Then I look at myself in it and see who I really am.' Mechtild lived as a 13th-century Beguine and rose up to become 'magistra' or spiritual leader of her community. In old age, she lived in a Cistercian convent where she continued to teach the way of mystical light and love that leads to oneness with God. We will explore the Beguines, their life and teachings. We will join her in her garden of light.

**Guide: Nila Chambers**

\$550 incl. GST

## Directed Retreat

**9 November – 16 November 2026**  
**Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre**  
**Central Coast, NSW**

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with a daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what God is up to in your life.

**Guide: Ann Morrison RSJ**

\$2365 incl. GST







# Spirituality Centres

## Registration Information via email

Please mark all email retreat correspondence **Attention: Retreats.**

**Register online at: [www.mmsm.org.au](http://www.mmsm.org.au)**

Alternatively, some Centres can organise registrations over the phone.



## Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre Adelaide, SA

**4 High St, Kensington SA 5068**

Tucked away in the inner Adelaide suburb of Kensington, the Centre is located on the very site where Mary lived, worked, and prayed from 1872 to 1883. It is a welcoming place of spirituality, hospitality, education, and pilgrimage where Mary's legacy lives on.

**Phone:** (08) 8130 5910

**Email:** [admin.mmps@sosjspirit.org.au](mailto:admin.mmps@sosjspirit.org.au)



## **Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre Baulkham Hills**

**33 Barina Downs Rd, Norwest NSW 2153**

Located beside Norwest Business Centre, this Centre sits in a perfect location, 40 minutes from Sydney's CBD. Founded in the spirit of Mary MacKillop and in the tradition of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the centre's hospitality and services reach out to everyone, everywhere.

**Phone:** (02) 9634 2317

**Email:** [reception.sjc@sosjspirit.org.au](mailto:reception.sjc@sosjspirit.org.au)



## **Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre Melbourne**

**362 Albert St, East Melbourne VIC 3002**

Heritage listed and in a prime location adjacent to Melbourne's CBD, Fitzroy Gardens, MCG and theatres, this Centre offers opportunities for all to experience and be challenged by the creative spirit and dynamism of Saint Mary MacKillop's life and work and the contribution of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

**Phone:** (03) 9926 9300

**Email:** [admin.mmhc@sosjspirit.org.au](mailto:admin.mmhc@sosjspirit.org.au)





## **Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Josephite Mission, Hobart**

**67 Clare St, New Town TAS 7008**

Established in 1907 as the Mother House of the Tasmanian Josephites, the former Sacred Heart Convent at New Town is steeped in the stories of Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison Woods and the early Sisters. It is a beautiful and unique place to be inspired.

**Phone:** (03) 6228 1628

**Email:** [admin.jmhc@sosjspirit.org.au](mailto:admin.jmhc@sosjspirit.org.au)



## **Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Kilmoree, Safety Bay**

**182 Arcadia Dr, Safety Bay WA 6169**

Situated right on the coast of Safety Bay with spectacular ocean views, splendid sunrises, glorious sunsets and beach walks, Kilmoree facilitates a deepening of relationship with God and Creation in a hospitable, peaceful setting.

**Phone:** (08) 9527 3240

**Email:** [safety.bay@sosjspirit.org.au](mailto:safety.bay@sosjspirit.org.au)



## **Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Central Coast**

**8 Humphreys Rd, Kincumber South  
NSW 2251**

Located in a natural bushland setting in a quiet corner of Kincumber South on the beautiful Central Coast of NSW, the spacious grounds from the Kincumber Broadwater create an atmosphere of tranquillity and peace, enhancing the spiritual and reflective nature of the Centre. Come and be recharged, re-energised and spend precious time connecting with each other and nature.

**Phone:** (02) 4368 2805

**Email:** [reception.sjr@sosjspirit.org.au](mailto:reception.sjr@sosjspirit.org.au)



## **Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, St Joseph's by the Sea, Williamstown**

**16 Esplanade, Williamstown VIC 3016**

On the land of the Bunurong people, with views of Port Phillip Bay, St Joseph's by the Sea is only a short train ride from Melbourne CBD. It is a gathering place for all who seek to nurture contemplation, explore and celebrate the wonders of the universe and earth and nourish body, mind and spirit.

**Phone:** (03) 9397 6012

**Email:** [admin.sjbts@sosjspirit.org.au](mailto:admin.sjbts@sosjspirit.org.au)



**Mary MacKillop  
Spirituality Ministry**