The Canonisation of Mary MacKillop 17 October 2010

**Learning Context:**
The Canonisation of Mary MacKillop 17 October 2010

**Learning Intentions:**
- **RE: Celebration and Prayer** Conceptual Organiser
- **Prayer and ritual** give expression and meaning to experience God.

**Spirituality** is expressed in contexts within and beyond Christianity.

**RE: Morality** Conceptual Organiser

Christian morality is expressed through action for justice.

**RE: Beliefs** Conceptual Organiser

The Church proclaims its beliefs and teachings through its structures and practices.

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**Inquiry Questions:**

- What does the word saint mean?
- How does the Catholic Church recognise people as saints?
- How will Australia/the Catholic Church/the school community/the Sisters of St Joseph celebrate the canonisation of Mary MacKillop?
- What happens in the journey to or process of canonisation?
- What will happen at the canonisation ceremony in Rome in October? What preparations will be made for this celebration? What will happen after the ceremony?
- How will schools and parishes recognise this important event in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia?

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**Possible learning opportunities:**

- **Locate News articles** on Mary MacKillop and gather information about the lead up to this event. Choose at least 2 to read. Record the key information and the main message of these and share in groups. Contribute a Mary MacKillop article to the parish or school newsletter. Gather images, words and phrases, headlines from these to create a collage on Mary MacKillop.
- **Post comments** and respectfully share ideas and responses at the official Mary MacKillop Blog.
- **Locate the names of the six Blessed** who have been involved in the long process that has lead to the canonisation of Mary MacKillop. In groups research these people and briefly record a description of their role and contribution to the process.
- **Engage with the summary and script of** the Vigil: Celebrating the Life of Mary MacKillop. Read, reflect on and respond to the words of Mary MacKillop that will be used in this presentation. Explore the use of the didgeridoo and the bagpipes introduction, songs, scripture, quotes, reflections, video, drama, Litany of Mary MacKillop.
- **Download the canonisation ceremony and explore the three parts:** the preparation, the Rite of Canonisation and the celebration of Eucharist. Identify words, responses, ritualistic actions and symbols that are familiar e.g. greeting, sign of peace.
- **Explore the text and the pattern of the Litany of Blessed Mary MacKillop.** Compare this with the Litany that will be sung at the vigil in Rome on 16th October. Write a group or class litany of Mary MacKillop. Create a sacred space to reflect Mary MacKillop and pray this prayer.
- **During the rite of canonisation, the Holy Father Pope Benedict will solemnly pronounce the official formula of canonisation.** Research what these words are and mean. All present will respond with AMEN. What does Amen mean?
- **During the rite of canonisation the relics of the Saints are placed near the altar.** Research the meaning and the significance of relics.
- **Prepare for the watching of reports on** the actual Canonisation Ceremony. Students can predict what they may see or hear. As watching they can be noting the symbols, the rituals, the words etc. Two Y Charts could be designed to assist students to predict and to watch purposefully. What might I see, hear and feel? What did I see, hear and feel?

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**Possible assessment opportunities:**

- **Design a survey** to gather a range of opinions or perspectives about the canonisation of Mary MacKillop from a range of Australians.
- **Devise a list of questions** to interview a person returning from the canonisation.
- **Prepare a brief biography** of Mary MacKillop for the Canonisation ceremony. This could be a multimodal presentation or a dramatic interpretation. Present to parish, parent or school assembly.
- **Respond to this event through art or poetry.**
- **Design a cover for the booklet** that will be used for the ceremony of canonisation.
- **Create a people scape of Mary MacKillop** using symbols, images, words, newspaper excerpts, quotes.

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**Resources:**
- **Teacher Background Reading**
  - The process of Canonisation
  - Mary's path to Canonisation
  - Canonisation Ceremony
  - The Canonisation of Mary MacKillop: A ‘teachable moment’

**Possible learning opportunities:**

- **Locate News articles** on Mary MacKillop and gather information about the lead up to this event. Choose at least 2 to read. Record the key information and the main message of these and share in groups. Contribute a Mary MacKillop article to the parish or school newsletter. Gather images, words and phrases, headlines from these to create a collage on Mary MacKillop.
- **Post comments** and respectfully share ideas and response at the official Mary MacKillop Blog.
- **Locate the names of the six Blessed** being canonised on Sunday 17th October. Identify what countries they come from and have expert groups find out three facts about these holy men and women.
- **Locate information on** people who have been involved in the long process that has lead to the canonisation of Mary MacKillop. In groups research these people and briefly record a description of their role and contribution to the process.
- **Engage with the summary and script of** the Vigil: Celebrating the Life of Mary MacKillop. Read, reflect on and respond to the words of Mary MacKillop that will be used in this presentation. Explore the use of the didgeridoo and the bagpipes introduction, songs, scripture, quotes, reflections, video, drama, Litany of Mary MacKillop.
- **Download the canonisation ceremony and explore the three parts:** the preparation, the Rite of Canonisation and the celebration of Eucharist. Identify words, responses, ritualistic actions and symbols that are familiar e.g. greeting, sign of peace.
- **Explore the text and the pattern of the Litany of Blessed Mary MacKillop.** Compare this with the Litany that will be sung at the vigil in Rome on 20th October. Write a group or class litany of Mary MacKillop. Create a sacred space to reflect Mary MacKillop and pray this prayer.
- **During the rite of canonisation, the Holy Father Pope Benedict will solemnly pronounce the official formula of canonisation.** Research what these words are and mean. All present will respond with AMEN. What does Amen mean?
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