



SAINT MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE  
— Albury —



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# Principal's Welcome

I would like to extend a warm welcome to new families and parents who are enquiring about enrolling their children at Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury. There are many roads that lead to Albury, but for parents raising their children in the Catholic faith, it is the road to the narrow gate that looms largest in their minds. How do parents set their children on the Catholic path when the broader society seems so ruthlessly opposed?

Catholic convert and writer, Scott Hahn, is well-known for the books he has written on apologetics and Scripture. But in recent years, he has turned his attention to the decline of Western Civilisation. Parents, worried about their children's prospects in a world that often repudiates truth, commonly frame the civilisational question in terms of the kind of society we are leaving to the next generation. Hahn, in contrast, turns the question on its head. In "The First Society: The Sacrament of Matrimony and the Restoration of the Social Order", he writes:

*We can't control the national or civilisational culture our children will inherit, but we can do everything in our power to ensure our children will inherit the true faith. We can't control the nature of the society our children will have to contend with, but we can influence the nature of the Catholic children our society will have to contend with.*

While some will ask, what kind of a society are we leaving for our children and grandchildren, parents may more profitably ask, what kind of children are we leaving for society? The first question is important, since, as disciples of Jesus, we must continue to be a leaven in the world. But parents' first obligation is to the family and their children. Come what may in the worlds of politics, business and the media, home is the realm parents can take control of.

The Catholic home is a domestic church; a place where the faith is nurtured in love, discipleship is encouraged by prayer and example, and the grace of the sacraments is lived. While home is a winning advantage, passing on the faith to the next generation remains a daunting challenge. The Catholic faith is no longer transmitted through tribal allegiance (if ever it was), since religion is not a mere worldly phenomenon, but the practice of a virtue that recognises the Lordship of Jesus over all things.

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury exists to support parents who share this vision for Catholic home life and the primacy of raising kids Catholic. Offering a safe harbour from worldly ideology and stolen innocence, SMMC is staffed by devout Catholic teachers who reinforce by word and example the values and practices parents are applying in the home.

A sanctuary and safe haven, Saint Mary MacKillop College is a consolidation of family and faith that is closely followed by a re-emergence, as graduates ascend the ranks of tertiary institutions, civil and religious society, and the sacramental vocations.

I welcome your enquiry and promise to keep you in my prayers as you discern the road ahead.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

*Ian Smith*

Mr Ian Smith  
Principal



# History & Tradition

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury (originally Blessed Mary MacKillop Colleges Albury) was founded by Simon and Kathleen Horsfall in 2009 as a private and independent school which provided instruction in the Catholic faith. The search for a school motto was solved by Pope Benedict, who at World Youth day in 2008 exhorted young people, “to strive for all that is true, beautiful and good.”

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury opened its doors to the first 14 students as a Kindergarten to Year 8 school in January 2009 under the guidance of Kevin Tingle as Principal. The Horsfalls recognised there was a need for a school in the area that provided a traditional, thorough instruction in the Catholic faith and promotion of virtue. This same pioneering spirit was what prompted Saint Mary MacKillop to say, “Never see a need without doing something about it.” Despite the financial risks associated with launching a school with so many grade levels in the first year, the hope was that whole families would move for the school and community. The relocation to the area began very quickly after the school opening, with the original school numbers more than doubling by the end of 2009. This migration of new families has been continuing ever since!

The original facilities consisted of a multi-purpose hall which doubled as the venue for Sunday Mass. There

was also one existing portable classroom on the site. The two additional classrooms required for the school to begin arrived only days before the start date for the new school year. Jindera parishioners and the parish priest welcomed the lease of the site to be developed into St Mary MacKillop College.

St John Bosco was adopted as our model educator. His philosophy was that children are motivated by love. He believed that the closer, more truly caring and respectful the teacher was to the student, the less behaviour problems there would be.

*“Never see a need  
without doing  
something about it.”*

ST MARY MACKILLOP’S MOTTO

Father Patrick O’Connell, the founding priest of Lavington parish of which Jindera is a part, was a strong supporter of the school. He died within a few years of the foundation of the school and one of the classroom blocks is named in memory of him.

The School has now grown to be a K-12 school and the humble Jindera site is now crowded with classrooms brimming with students all striving to be saints!



# Our School's Patron Saints

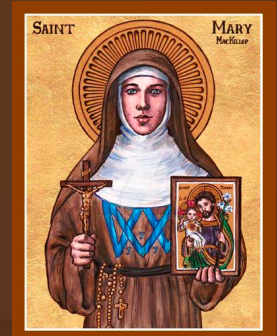
## ST MARY OF THE CROSS (MacKillop)

*Feast Day: 8 August*

*Patron of Australia, Founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph*

Born in 1842 in Fitzroy, Melbourne, Mary took her vows at the age of twenty five, and the religious name, "Mary of the Cross". She founded the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph soon after taking her religious vows. Within five years Mary had established over thirty schools in Australia. She saw the image of Christ in every person and saw that each had an eternal inheritance. Mary is known for her perseverance in the face of adversity and for her pleas for justice on behalf of the unfairly treated.

**St Mary of the Cross - Pray for us.**



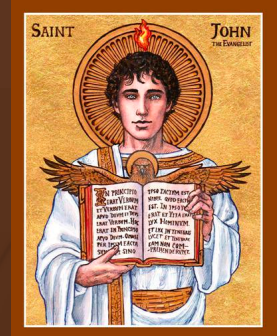
## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

*Feast Day: 27 December*

*Apostle and Evangelist, Patron of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors*

Originally a fisherman with his older brother St. James the Greater, St John was called to be an Apostle by our Lord and is also known as John the Evangelist, John of Patmos and the Beloved Disciple. John was the only Apostle not to die a martyr's death and he was the only one who did not forsake Jesus in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross and the Saviour made him the guardian of His Mother. John is considered to be the author of the Gospel of John, the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation.

**St John the Evangelist - Pray for us.**



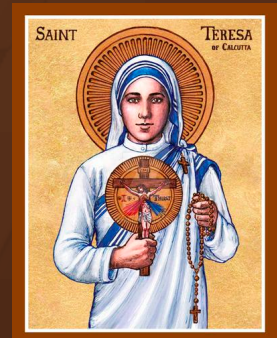
## ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA

*Feast Day: September 5*

*Founder of the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, Patron of World Youth Day*

In 1946 as a young religious, Sister Mary Teresa experienced a "call within a call". She felt convicted to be God's love in action: to serve the sick and dying, the hungry and homeless. She received permission to leave her convent and undertook medical training to help her serve the poorest of the poor. In 1950 she established the Missionaries of Charity to work in the slums of Calcutta. Mother Teresa captivated the world as few other people have. Her simple message was: "We are put on earth to do something beautiful for God."

**St Teresa of Calcutta - Pray for us.**



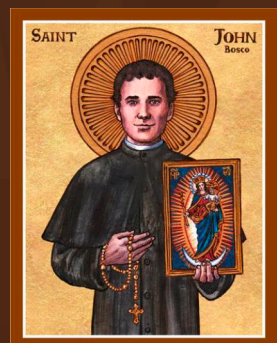
## ST JOHN BOSCO

*Feast Day: January 31*

*Founder the Salesians and Daughters of Mary Help of Christians*

Patron of apprentices, editors & publishers, schoolchildren, magicians, and juvenile delinquents John was born in 1815 in Italy. He worked as a shepherd in his early years, but had a vocation to be a priest. In his ministry he became a "father" to thousands of children by establishing a school for poor boys. Father Bosco wanted something more for them, he taught them how to work and how to love God. An extraordinary educator, St John Bosco created an educational system with principles which remain pertinent for us today.

**St John Bosco - Pray for us.**



## OUR SCHOOL CREST

Our crest celebrates the school's rich Catholic heritage. St John the Evangelist is represented by the eagle and the scriptures. The Missionaries of Charity blue and white banding represent Mother Teresa. The lilies representing purity and chastity are also a symbol of St Teresa of Calcutta, but most especially of St Joseph. Mary MacKillop's other saintly devotion to Our Lady is represented by the miraculous medal's M with cross above: "Through Mary to the cross and on the cross we find Jesus". The keys are the sign of fidelity to the Holy Father, the successor of St Peter and along with the Bible which provides the basis of the Church's teaching – Tradition and Scripture. The three great Transcendentals – Truth, Beauty and Goodness are placed on a seven pointed crown, representing by this holy number, the perfection of God.



*School Motto: Verum, Pulchrum Et Bonum*

# The College Philosophy

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury has as its foundation Christ and His Revelation. The College's entire motivation and final goal are to be found in the principles of the Gospel. The College will most effectively achieve this goal when all members of the school community share this Christian vision. Saint Mary MacKillop College is a place of Catholic formation where:

- ✦ Prayer, rigorous academic labour and cultural endeavour are nurtured.
- ✦ Our children must feel loved as individual persons.
- ✦ Students are called to be living witnesses and apostles, and are given opportunities for sharing their faith with others in the wider community and of serving the needy.

Our students are guided in the training of their freedom to seek what is true, beautiful and good. We desire that our students embrace their ability to not only know what is good but to decide to be good, to not just learn about facts and figures, but espouse knowledge for its own sake, to inquire into the nature of things and to awaken in the hearts of young people a sense of awe and wonder.

## Truth

*"... I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."* John 18:37

Truth is the mind in accord with reality. Man has been made for, and to aspire to, the truth but due to our fallen nature we can lose sight of this. Jesus tells us that the truth will set us free. We desire to lead young people to not just know truth, but to love truth.

## Beauty

*"Beauty involves apprehending unity, harmony, proportion, wholeness, and radiance."* Thomas Aquinas

Often associated with clarity or radiance, beauty is also associated with purity and simplicity. Beauty pleases the eye and the ear but also the intellect, as it unites both body and soul in the appreciation of it.

Beauty is a sign of God in the world. Who has never been overwhelmed by the magnitude of the beauty of God's creation?

## Goodness

*O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.* Psalm 34:8

Goodness is understood as the perfection of being, which we live with varying degrees of fulfilment. Goodness also extends to things, both created and less tangible. Jesus Christ, being both perfect God and perfect man has given us His teachings to assist us to discern and understand goodness.





## PARENTS

Parents are the primary educators of their children and the first heralds of the Gospel. Nonetheless, parents who enrol their children at Saint Mary MacKillop College are expected to support the school community and cultural norms by:

- ✦ Attending Sunday Mass with their children
- ✦ Co-operating with the school in its efforts to offer formation in the Faith and academic achievement
- ✦ Participating in the opportunities given by the school for parental education and involvement
- ✦ Contributing to the financial sustainability of the school by the prompt payment of fees owing.

*“No duty is too little  
not to be done well.”*

ST MARY MACKILLOP, 1873

## TEACHERS

Academic faculty members are highly qualified and accredited teachers, who are sought out as living the full Sacramental life of the Church and who support and faithfully give witness to the ethos of SMMC. As a sign of their adherence to the apostolic tradition, teaching staff make a formal and public Profession of Faith at the start of each school year. Teachers are aware that they reveal Christian discipleship to their students not just by their words, but by every gesture of their behaviour.

## BISHOP OF WAGGA WAGGA

As a school in which the Catholic faith is taught, we receive from the Bishop the ‘mandate’ to carry out our apostolate of formation in the Catholic faith. The Bishop has the right to oversee the orthodoxy of the religious instruction in the school although as an independent school, we are not affiliated with, or subject to, the Diocesan education system.

# Learning and Academic Achievement

## ACADEMIC PHILOSOPHY

The love for Truth and a desire for knowledge informs the attitudes and teaching practices of all teachers at Saint Mary MacKillop College. We preserve a synthesis of culture and faith so that students are taught the value of knowledge as such, and are helped to desire and find truth by means of instruction, study and experience. Students will be helped to realise that education is not aimed at gaining power or material prosperity and success, but as an aid to a fuller understanding of God, mankind and the world.

*“The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.”*

PROVERBS 18:15







## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Underpinning our approach to curriculum at Saint Mary MacKillop College is a commitment to interpreting the NESA syllabus through a distinctly Catholic perspective – spiritually, culturally and ethically. Our teaching practice gives primacy to a teacher lead model of direct instruction, with utmost priority given to high quality teacher and student interactions focused on clear learning intentions and success criteria. An evidence based approach to literacy is also evident in our use of the LEM Phonics program throughout the primary program, and the college uses regular Progressive Achievements Testing (PAT) and student NAPLAN results as qualitative data to inform classroom practice and learning interventions.

Our standard academic program is complemented by a number of broad and rich learning experiences. These include the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program; a strong tradition of performing and visual arts; and an engaging and diverse range of

elective subjects for students in Years 9 and 10. Students at SMMC also compete in the annual International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). In Years 7 to 10, subjects such as English, Technological and Applied Studies, Sport, Virtues and Community Service are separated into separate boys and girls classes, allowing the particular needs and dispositions of each to be met in a creative and dynamic way that respects the complementary differences between them.

## SPORT OPPORTUNITIES

SMMC encourage students to participate in the weekly sports offered at the school. In addition, we field a number of netball teams in the weekend Albury netball competition. Students revel in the competition of athletics and swimming carnivals which are held annually. Plus, students have the opportunity to compete in inter school competitions at both the regional and state levels.

# Teaching The Faith

## FAITH

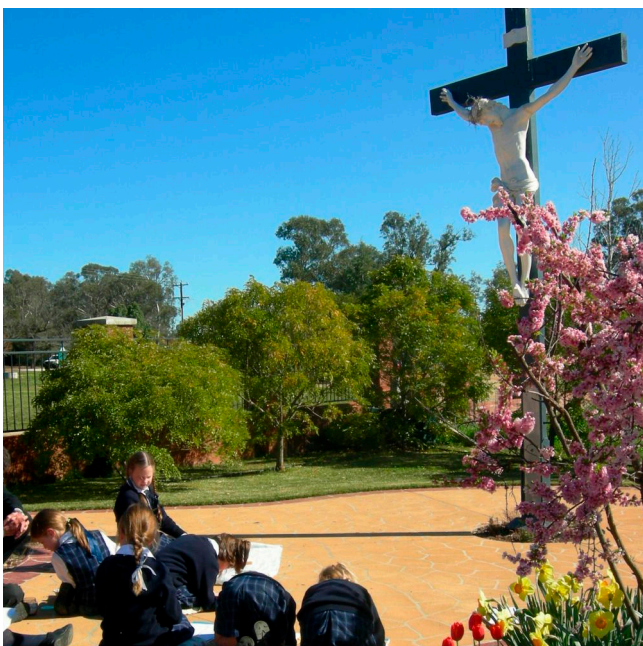
Religious Education is a vital and integral component of school life at St Mary MacKillop College Albury. The program is based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and takes into account the seasons and feasts in the Church's liturgical year, enabling students to deepen their knowledge and understanding of: The Creed, The Sacraments, The Commandments and Prayer.

The school day for all students begins in communal prayer, complemented by the reading of the Saint of the Day and the Virtue of the Month which is studied across the college. A fundamental tradition is our school Mass on Fridays, which alternates between primary and secondary schools. A whole school Mass is held on the first Friday of each month, and on feast days significant to the college community. This celebration of liturgical feasts is integral to life at St Mary MacKillop College, and includes our annual rosary procession on the Feast of St Mary, Help of Christians, and a joyous celebration of our patroness, St Mary of the Cross, on her feast day.

The Virtues Program is embedded across all primary classrooms, and is run as a monthly program for students in Years 7 to 10. We hold weekly adoration, and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (in our dedicated atrium) for primary students, along with regular religious instruction with our visiting clergy, across both primary and secondary classes.

## CULTURE

Life and learning at the College is enriched by a range of extracurricular, social and community priorities. These include frequent assemblies, which foster and celebrate student achievement, college milestones and a culture of piety and academic excellence. Artistic and musical accomplishments are enjoyed at a range of events, such as concerts, performances and college productions. A sense of community and fraternity is nurtured by frequent gatherings, including our welcome barbeque for all families at the commencement of the school year, and our annual Gala Dinner. The school fete is keenly anticipated each year, as is the Ski Trip for secondary students and the beloved Father & Son and Mother & Daughter camps.





*"When I could not see my way,  
God kept my heart full of trust."*

ST MARY MACKILLOP, 1874

# Enrolment Process

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury exists to support practising Catholic families and is open to all who are willing to commit to the philosophy, values and aims of Catholic schooling. While starting at a new school at the commencement of the year is ideal, SMMC appreciates that this is not always possible and, therefore, accepts enrolments throughout the school year. In the first instance, enrolment enquiries should be made by calling the College office during business hours.

Kindergarten candidates and their parents are invited to attend an interview with the Principal in September of the year prior to commencement, at

which the child's readiness for school is discerned. Successful Kindergarten applicants attend an in-class orientation over three consecutive Fridays in November, prior to starting school. Children who do not turn the age of five by April of the year of commencement are not usually considered for enrolment.

Enrolment applications are required to be accompanied by two references, one of which should be from your Parish Priest.

The SMMC Enrolment Policy is available on the College website.

*"We feel our crosses hard at times, but our courage should rise with them."*

ST MARY MACKILLOP, 1882





# School Fees

Parents are expected to make an annual financial contribution to the school by way of moderately scaled fees. Sibling discounts assist larger families so that parents pay two-thirds of the full fee for a second child, one-third for a third child and no fee for fourth and subsequent children. Levies for texts, stationery and computer use may apply for each child. Families who are experiencing genuine financial hardship will not be denied enrolment, but may apply to the Principal for a modification to the set fee schedule. SMMC encourages parents to make voluntary contributions to the College Building Fund, which are fully tax deductible. The current fee schedule is accessible via the College website.

<b>SCHEDULE OF FEES</b> Effective from 1 January 2022	
Tuition Fees Years K-6	\$2,450
Tuition Fees Years 7 - 10	\$3,120
Tuition Fees Years 11 - 12	\$3,420
Secondary Textbook Hire (annual)	\$100
Stationery/Computer fee K-12 (annual)	\$80
Building Fund Donation (optional/per term)	\$250
Fees do not cover uniforms, excursions, sports fees or other miscellaneous extras.	





*“Do all you can with the means at your disposal and calmly leave the rest to God.”*

ST MARY MACKILLOP, 1891



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