

media release



Australian Broadcasting Corporation

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ABC COVERAGE OF THE CANONISATION OF MARY MACKILLOP

The ABC is planning widespread coverage to mark the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Catholic saint – on television, radio and online.

TELEVISION COVERAGE

ABC1

Sunday 10 October

10.15pm

COMPASS – MARY, MIRACLES & SAINTS

Next Sunday Australia's first Catholic saint Mary MacKillop (1842 – 1909) will be canonised by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican. It will be a highly significant event for Australia, and its five million Roman Catholics. Mary, the Melbourne-born daughter of Scottish migrants, was undoubtedly a remarkable woman: she co-founded the *Sisters of St Joseph*, sailed to Rome to secure Papal endorsement of her Order and devoted her life to educating and helping the poor. But she was *also* excommunicated from her church, thrown out of three dioceses and accused of being an alcoholic. So, how can this 19th Century nun now be recognised as a saint? 100 years after her death **Compass** examines the life and times of Mary MacKillop: her road to sainthood (a process begun in 1925), her two 'miracles' and for the first time, the true story behind her excommunication.

Sunday 17 October

7pm

ABC NEWS

ABC News will cross live to the ABC's Europe Correspondent Philip Williams at the Vatican for the latest coverage of the ceremony conducted by Pope Benedict.

10.10pm

COMPASS – MARY, CANONISATION SPECIAL FROM THE VATICAN

Geraldine Doogue presents a **Compass** special on the canonisation of Mary MacKillop from the Vatican in Rome. She will be joined by expert commentators from the Catholic Church to analyse the ceremony's significance and impact. This special will include pre-packaged stories featuring the large Australian contingent travelling to Rome for the event, the mass honouring Mary and a Vatican pilgrimage following in the footsteps of Mary's 19th century journey to Rome.

ABC NEWS 24

Sunday 17 October

3pm AEDT

COMPASS – MARY, MIRACLES & SAINTS (replay ABC1 broadcast of Sunday 10 October)

6pm AEDT

NEWS SPECIAL – THE CANONISATION OF MARY MCKILLOP

A special two-hour program: live coverage of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Catholic saint. ABC News 24 will broadcast the ceremony conducted by Pope Benedict live from the Vatican. The news special will also include live crosses to the ABC's Europe Correspondent Philip Williams in Rome, as well as to reporters around Australia where revellers will gather to join in the celebrations. These sites include: St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney; Mary MacKillop Chapel, North Sydney; significant sites in Penola, South Australia; the Exhibition Centre, Melbourne; and St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Adelaide.

Sunday 24 October

3pm AEDT

COMPASS – MARY, CANONISATION SPECIAL FROM THE VATICAN (replay ABC1 broadcast of Sunday 17 October)

Viewers can find ABC News 24 on HD digital channel 24. It is also available on HD Foxtel channel 202 and Austar channel 024; streamed live at abc.net.au/news and abc.net.au/iview; and available as a live stream on the ABC's iPhone and iPad Apps (for more information go to: abc.net.au/services/mobile).

RADIO COVERAGE

ABC Radio presents a range of programming across local and national networks to celebrate the canonisation. Highlights include:

ABC NEWS RADIO

Sunday 17 October

From 6pm AEDT

Live coverage of the canonisation ceremony, including expert commentary and live crosses to broadcaster Margaret Coffey in Rome.

ABC CLASSIC FM

Sunday 17 October

10.30pm

FOR THE GOD WHO SINGS – MACKILLOP, URSULA AND THE MAIDENS

Commemorate the canonisation with Monteverdi's *Vespers for St Joseph*, St Hildegard's *Lauds for St Ursula and Her Maidens* and Miriam Hyde's *The Vision of Mary MacKillop*.

ABC LOCAL RADIO

Sunday 17 October

10pm AEDT

SUNDAY NIGHT WITH NOEL DEBIEN

A special focus on Mary MacKillop including highlights of the canonisation ceremony, input from experts and pilgrims in Rome and Australia, and talkback.

ABC RADIO NATIONAL

Sunday 3 October

7am

ENCOUNTER – FINDING MARY: AUSSIE BATTLER? HOLY WOMAN?

Mary MacKillop is about to be dubbed a saint because she was ‘holy’. What does ‘holy’ mean, and what are the origins of this idea?

Friday 15 October

9pm

THE RHYTHM DIVINE – A SAINT IN SONG

Australian singer/songwriter Gary Pinto talks, and plays, about the song writing process for the official song for Mary MacKillop’s canonisation, the R&B flavoured ‘Saint Mary MacKillop’.

Sunday 17 October

6pm

THE SPIRIT OF THINGS – WHAT IS A SAINT?

A multi-faith consideration of the notion of saintliness.

ONLINE COVERAGE

RELIGION & ETHICS PORTAL

Launches Monday 4 October

ABC Online’s Religion & Ethics portal will launch a Mary MacKillop feature site, including articles offering analysis and interpretation of Mary MacKillop, her legacy and the vitality of her life and practice for Australia today. The site will also include input from some of the thousands of Australian pilgrims going to Rome for the canonisation.

abc.net.au/religion

ABC NEWS ONLINE

ABC News Online will provide comprehensive news coverage of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop – including reaction, background information, a photo gallery and a live stream of ABC News 24’s coverage. Readers will also be able to send in their own comments and pictures.

For further information please contact:

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For images go to: abc.net.au/tvpublicity