

MEDIA RELEASE – Monday, April 13, 2015

Unique religious blessing - for an app

Discovering Mary MacKillop's Adelaide

In what is believed to be the first religious blessing of an app, a new online walking trail following the footsteps of Australia's first saint will be launched in Mary MacKillop plaza, Victoria Square, **today (Monday April 13) at 11am.**

The trail, which begins and ends at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral where St Mary MacKillop once worshipped, has been added to the National Trust's Adelaide City Explorer smart phone app and website (www.adelaidecityexplorer.com.au).

The official launch and blessing by **Vicar General Fr Philip Marshall and Lord Mayor Martin Haese** coincides with Australian Heritage Week (April 11-19).

Wearing the bright blue pashminas that became the trademark of the Sisters of St Joseph during the historic canonisation of Mary MacKillop in 2010, a group of nuns will attend the launch and participate in the inaugural tour along with students from Mary MacKillop College.

The development of the app marks the culmination of years of work by Sr Patricia Keane who put together the walking trail as a booklet. Sr Patricia said she was "thrilled" when the National Trust South Australia proposed including it in the popular Adelaide City Explorer app.

The Trust's Jill MacKenzie and Sr Patricia have put together words, images, music and video relating to the work carried out by St Mary MacKillop during the five years she lived in inner city Adelaide.

Among the 12 stops on the trail are the site of the first city school established by Mary and her Sisters adjacent to St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, the chapel where Mary was excommunicated by Bishop Sheil (in St Mary's College, Grote St), the Supreme Court where she assisted those in need and the site of the House of Providence in West Terrace, now marked by a commemorative plaque.

A post card promoting 'Mary MacKillop's Adelaide' has been produced by the Adelaide Archdiocese and will be distributed to visitors to the Cathedral, tourists, parishioners and school students.

VISION: Catholic Vicar General Fr Philip Marshall blessing an Ipad with the Mary MacKillop walking trail uploaded to it in front of the Mary MacKillop statue, adjacent to St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. Sisters of St Joseph and Mary MacKillop College students, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress will also be available for photos and interviews.



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