



## **Calling politicians and voters to work together for justice**

Today we celebrate the Feast of Mary MacKillop. "Can the politicians who celebrated with us when Mary was named as Australia's first Saint now see her as a model and mentor", asks CRA President, Sr Annette Cunliffe rsc.

"Can our politicians rise to being worthy of our vote rather than descending into vote seeking, no matter the moral and ethical cost? Can Australians heed the advice of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference to look beyond their own individual needs and vote for the common good?"

Sr Annette Cunliffe speaks of Mary MacKillop as a woman of great humanity and justice. "She lived a life of heroic goodness and responded totally to the needs around her. Her life was motivated by compassion for those most in need. Mary epitomises responding to the Gospel call".

"The Gospel call challenges us to help create a just society. We all need to identify where the injustices are, really listen to the people affected, and then work together to influence change."

"Politicians and the people of Australia need to work in harmony to promote and protect human dignity, seeking to identify and assist the poor, the marginalised, the sick and the forgotten in our community.

"Can we all heed Mary's watchword: *Never see a need without doing something about it?* Mary's feast is an opportunity for all of us to engage in reflection and prayer for the wisdom and courage to make our vote count and for our politicians to be accountable."

"Australians need to cast a vote that is responsible and principled and our politicians need to be responsible and principled," said Sr Annette.

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(Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) is the peak body for leaders of Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life resident in Australia. Our membership comprises more than 180 congregations of over 8,000 Sisters, Brothers and Religious Priests living and working in all states and territories.)

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