

# Be *Fierce* for *Fair*

MARY  
MACKILLOP  
*today*

## About Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste is a beautiful country and one of Australia's closest neighbours. Sadly, 42% of the population live in poverty and access to education is very limited, particularly in rural and remote areas. Schools don't have many resources and about 35% of young people in rural areas cannot read and write. Only 20% of children are enrolled in pre-school.

Many teachers have only had access to limited education themselves, so they are not able to provide a full education to the next generation. In some cases, they work as volunteer teachers. Rural communities are often hard to get to with poor road conditions, so they are even more overlooked. Often, their families can't afford to send their children to school – and even if they could, it would mean a long walk on dirt roads under the hot sun to get there.

The Sisters of St Joseph have been working in the communities in Timor-Leste for over 30 years and Mary MacKillop Today continues that work now.

### Timor-Leste Fast Facts:

**Capital: Dili**

**Total population: 1,341,296**

**People aged under 15 years: 40%**

**People aged under 25 years: 60%**

**People living in poverty: 42%**

**People living in rural areas: 70%**

**Languages spoken: Tetun,  
Portuguese, Indonesian, English,  
and more than 15 other indigenous  
languages**



Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop - 8 August



# The Mobile Learning Centre

The Mobile Learning Centre gives children in Timor-Leste the opportunity to access books and educational materials through a library learning centre and interactive workshops.

The colourful bus travels to some of the most remote areas of Timor-Leste to visit schools bringing fun and creative tools to help children learn in their local language.

The project also helps train the teachers on how to use different tools to teach in interactive and inclusive ways with books, puppets, arts and crafts and musical instruments.



## The impact of the Mobile Learning Centre

The Mobile Learning Centre is helping children in Timor-Leste to love learning, have curiosity about the world and provide them with what they need to flourish now and in the future.

It provides support and guidance to teachers on how to implement creative and interactive lessons with their students. The teachers can also borrow resources like books and puppets to help them turn their classroom into a fun place to learn.

*"When the bus comes to school it's like the best day at school for them."*

Metinaro, Teacher







# How you can help

Your support can help fund the running costs of our Mobile Learning Centre bus and outreach vehicles to reach the most remote areas and help provide fun learning resources, such as books, musical instruments, arts and craft activities.

Each year, thousands of students across 25 schools experience the fun of the Mobile Learning Centre. Educational and musical resources are also distributed to even more schools throughout Timor-Leste.

Saint Mary MacKillop dedicated her life to helping children flourish through education.

This Feast Day, your school can be Fierce for Fair by fundraising to support the Mobile Learning Centre.

**Let's walk in the footsteps of Australia's most loved Saint and continue her legacy for children in Timor-Leste.**

