



# PRIME MINISTER

## STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP

### 1995 PAPAL VISIT

His Holiness Pope John Paul II has approved a program for the Papal Visit to Sydney in January 1995 to commemorate the Beatification of Mary MacKillop as Australia's first saint.

The ceremony of Beatification, which will take place at an open air Mass at Randwick Racecourse on Thursday, 19 January, 1995, will mark the achievements of an Australian woman who displayed a rare appreciation of Australia as a nation. She encouraged thousands of young women to follow her example of creating a better standard of living for all Australians, especially the dispossessed.

His Holiness has the following engagements in Sydney:

- A public Ecumenical Welcome on the Festival of Sydney stage in the Sydney Domain, will be held shortly after his arrival at Sydney Airport during the early evening of Wednesday, 18 January, 1995.
- On Thursday 19, January, His Holiness will meet members and associates of the Josephite Order at a service at St Mary's Cathedral.
- His Holiness will also visit the Josephite Convent Chapel in North Sydney where he will pray at the MacKillop Tomb before the Mass at Randwick later that day.

Pope John Paul will leave Sydney Airport early on Friday, 20 January.

I hope all Australians would join in welcoming the Pope to Sydney for this historic occasion.

CANBERRA  
8 August 1994