



We proclaim a crucified Christ

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22 November 2025

To the Clergy and Faithful of Melbourne

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My prayerful greetings to you in the Lord.

It is with profound joy that I share with you the news that Pope Leo XIV has formally recognised the *heroic virtues* of the **Servant of God Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ**, daughter of Victoria and missionary doctor in India. As of 21 November 2025, she now bears the title:

Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey

This significant step in her cause for canonisation makes her only the second Australian, after St Mary of the Cross MacKillop to be accorded this honour. Born in Birregurra in 1887, Mary Glowrey excelled academically, graduating from the University of Melbourne as a medical doctor. She was a pioneer among women in medicine before discerning a call to serve in India. For 37 years she offered medical care, compassion, and dignity to the most vulnerable—particularly women and children, and founded what is now India's largest non-government health network, the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), which continues to serve millions today.

Venerable Mary's cause was initiated in India, supported by her religious congregation, the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph (JMJ), and kept alive in Australia by her family and by the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga. This recognition is a moment of grace for both our nations, and our Church.

Her life teaches us that holiness can be found in generous service, professional excellence, courageous faith, and deep tenderness toward those most in need.

The next step toward her beatification will require the Church's approval of a recognised miracle attributed to her intercession. I therefore encourage every parish, school, household, and community across Melbourne to entrust intentions to her and to pray for her ongoing cause.

Accompanying this letter is a Press Release that is being made available widely, and further information can now be found on the Archdiocesan website:

www.melbournecatholic.org/maryglowrey

May Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart help us to walk more closely with Christ, to recognise Him in every person, and to live lives of generous service.

Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey, pray for us.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, ending in a small cross-like mark.

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne