

Loreto Centre
Level 4, 117 Camberwell Road
Hawthorn East, VIC 3123
Australia

Postal Address
PO Box 4082
Auburn South, VIC 3122
Australia

T: 03 9813 4023
E: admin@loreto.org.au
W: www.loreto.org.au
ABN: 41 770 762 972



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release - 29 March 2025

Loreto Sisters Mourn the Death of Sr Mary Wright ibvm

The Loreto Sisters of Australia and South East Asia announce with deep sadness the death of Sr Mary Wright ibvm, former Province Leader and Institute Leader. Mary died peacefully on 29 March at Caritas Christi Hospice in Kew, Victoria, after a period of illness, leaving an extraordinary legacy of leadership, intellect, and service.

Born and raised in Melbourne, and educated at Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak, Mary entered the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Sisters) in 1965. She was a gifted educator who inspired generations of students in Loreto schools across Australia and later served as Principal of Loreto Mary's Mount Ballarat.

With a doctorate in canon law from the University of St Paul in Ottawa, Mary worked in Rome at the Vatican Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life. She played a key role in shaping the governance of religious life, particularly through her work with Public Juridic Persons across Australia, Canada, and the USA.

Elected Institute Leader in 1998, Mary led the international Loreto community through a time of renewal and global outreach. Her *Courage to Move* initiative led to new missions in Timor-Leste, South Sudan, Ghana, and beyond—many still active today.

Known for her formidable intellect, deep faith, and practical compassion, Mary was a sought-after advisor and facilitator, working with countless congregations during critical moments in their history. She was reappointed as Province Leader in 2023, a role she held until stepping down in January 2025 due to ill health.

Sr Mary Wright was a true Mary Ward woman—wise, generous, courageous, and grounded in faith. Her contribution to the Loreto mission and the wider Church is immeasurable, and she will be deeply missed.

The full tribute and a high-resolution photograph are attached for your reference and can be found on the Loreto Australia and South East Asia website:

www.loreto.org.au/in-loving-memory-of-sr-mary-wright-ibvm/

For all media enquiries, please contact:

Karen Fogarty | Manager, Communications and Marketing
Email: karen.fogarty@loretoministries.org.au
Phone: 0473 208 483



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