

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Sr Margaret Manion IBVM, AO, Renowned Medievalist and Art Historian

10 September 2024



The Loreto Sisters of Australia and South East Asia are deeply saddened to announce the passing Loreto Sister and Professor Emerita Margaret Manion IBVM, AO. Margaret was an internationally acclaimed medievalist, art historian, curator, and teacher, who made an extraordinary contribution to the development of art history.

Margaret Manion began her teaching career at Loreto Abbey, Mary's Mount, Ballarat. She later continued her studies in the Arts at the University of Melbourne and Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania. Upon completing her PhD, she lectured at the University of Melbourne from 1972 to 1978, before her appointment as the Herald Chair of Fine Arts.

During her time at the University of Melbourne, Margaret served in multiple leadership roles, including Deputy Dean, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Dean of Research, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (1985-88). Most notably, she was the first woman to chair the university's Academic Board.

Margaret's influence extended beyond academia. She served two terms as Foreign Advisor to the International Centre of Medieval Art in New York. She was a life member and trustee for 15 years, of the National Gallery of Victoria, where she was an honorary curator of its Early Medieval and Renaissance collection.

Additionally, she contributed her expertise to the Council of Adult Education, the Arts Centre Melbourne Trust, and the Australia Council.

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In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the arts and education, Margaret was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1989. She received the Centenary Medal in 2001 and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Melbourne in 2007.

Among her many scholarly achievements, Margaret collaborated with Vera Vines and Christopher de Hamel to produce the first census of Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in Australia and New Zealand.

Margaret was an inspiring teacher, a friend to many, and is deeply mourned by her religious community, family and colleagues in Australia and beyond.

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#### Funeral Details

- Requiem Mass: 10.30 am, Tuesday 17 September 2024
- Newman College Chapel, 887 Swanson Street, Parkville VIC 3052
- Refreshments will follow in the Frewin Room at St Mary's College.
- The gathering at the graveside for the Rite of Committal will be held at Springvale Botanical Cemetery, 600 Princes Highway, Springvale VIC 3171.
- The Mass will be live-streamed

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