

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Reflection from Pope Francis



I am following with particular concern the events in Jerusalem. I pray that it may be a place of encounter and not violent clashes, a place of prayer and peace.

**Please remember in your prayers those members of our extended Catholic Education Family who have recently deceased.**

**Phil McDonald**, mother of Neil McDonald, CEO Rockhampton.

**Please remember in your prayers those members of our extended Catholic Education Family who are unwell.**

**Kevin Kenny**, father of Natalie Kingston, teacher Sacred Heart, Yeppoon.

**Friday 14 May 2021**

Good morning everyone

Today, I am excited to join over 200 of our students in Years 10 to 12 attending this year's Youth Pilgrimage to explore and reflect on the theme *Here I Am*. Representatives from all our Catholic colleges across the Diocese are coming together in person or virtually for the livestream event being staged at The Cathedral College, Rockhampton. With keynote addresses from renowned Melbourne-based singer-songwriter and Christian commentator Gen Bryant and Diocesan Executive Officer Vocations, Youth and Family Life, Michael Otto, the event promises to be a life-giving, faith-filled, fun experience for participants. I extend heartfelt thanks to Di-Anne Rowan (Assistant Director: Mission) for her leadership in making this Youth Pilgrimage a reality and to all involved in the planning and co-ordination of this important event on our diocesan calendar.

NAPLAN commenced in schools this week and continues again next week. For some of our students and families this can be a time of heightened awareness, sensitivity and some anxiety. My thanks to all our teachers and staff who provide such compassionate and nurturing encouragement to help guide students through the assessment. I hope that all goes smoothly for our school communities and for those who coordinate the NAPLAN testing.

Our Diocesan Mass celebration to mark 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia is drawing closer. The Mass, with Bishop Michael presiding, will be held in St Joseph's Cathedral at 12 noon on Monday 24 May, the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Australia's Patron Saint. The Mass will be livestreamed [here](#). I look forward to our school and college communities participating in this very special celebration via the live stream or, where possible, in person. The Mass gives us all the opportunity to praise our Loving God and to give thanks for the great gift of Catholic Education in Australia and to ask God to continue to richly bless our school communities today and into the future.

You will recall a few weeks ago we farewelled Fr Raj Kodavatikanti who returned to India after a number of years of faithful service to the people of our Diocese. I am delighted to share with you the news that Fr Raj has been elected to the leadership team of his province as the Vice Provincial Superior. On behalf of Catholic Education, I extend to Fr Raj our heartfelt congratulations and also the assurance of our continued prayers and support for him in his new role.

Yesterday was the Feast of the Ascension commemorating Christ being taken into heaven 40 days after Easter. In Matthew's Gospel we are reminded that God is with us always until the end of the age. I am sure you agree that is a lovely message to give us comfort and strength.

God bless,

*Leesa*

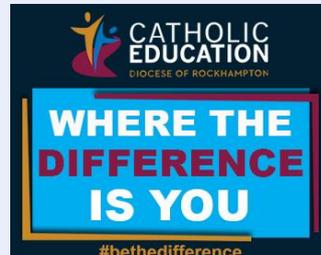


Leesa and students at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Blackall during last week's school visit.





**Pictured left with Leesa.** A welcome visitor this week was Sr Annette Arnold rsj who has returned home to Rockhampton. Sr Annette was, until recently, the Congregation Leader for the Sisters of St Joseph in Australia. In meeting Sr Annette, Leesa explored opportunities for support for education in the Mary MacKillop Charism for schools founded by the Sisters of St Joseph as well as her work providing Spiritual Direction.



**Employment opportunities:**

**Acting Principal, St Mary's, Nth Rockhampton, for period 12 July 2021 to 16 Jan 2022.** Expressions of Interest are called for this full-time position. Email [director@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:director@rok.catholic.edu.au) by Friday 21 May 2021.

**Teacher, Religious Education Holy Spirit College, Mackay.** Applications close Friday 21 May 2021.

**Junior Mathematics /HPE /Industrial Technology /Legal Studies Teachers Marist College, Emerald.** Applications close Monday 31 May 2021.

**Experienced and Graduate Teachers:** Applications are now open for full-time teaching positions for the 2022 school year. Applications close 11 July 2021. For further information and to apply please click [here](#)

**Congratulations to:**

**Bronwyn Berry,** (Teacher St Brigid's Kindergarten Emerald), and Ryan Berry on the safe arrival of Janice.

**Emma Donovan,** (St Patrick's Bundaberg), and Miles Donovan on the safe arrival of Hewson.

**Andrea Tindall,** and Ben Tindall, (St Patrick's Bundaberg), on the safe arrival of Leo.

**Amanda Modolo,** (St Patrick's Bundaberg), and Andrew Modolo, on the safe arrival of Aria.

**Kelsey Brosnan,** (St Patrick's Bundaberg), and Oliver Newby on their recent marriage.

**Shaye Grohn,** (St Patrick's Bundaberg), and Leith Curd on their recent marriage.

**History Snippet:** The Catholic Education Office Rockhampton commenced in 1964 and was the first Catholic Education Office in Queensland. Over the years the location has moved numerous times as listed below and pictured to the right:

- 1964 the original location at the old St Patrick's School in Alma Street (the site of our first school opened in 1863)
- 1971 relocated to the Catholic Centre in Bolsover Street
- 1976 relocated to the former St Therese's School in Bolsover Street (now part of Centacare)
- 1981 a new purpose-built Catholic Education Office opened on the current site in West Street. This current site underwent a major redevelopment in 2003 (not pictured).



**World Communications Day,** though officially 16 May 2021, was celebrated in Australia last Sunday 6 May. The theme for this year is "Come and See", taken from the Gospels. Read Pope Francis's full message here: ["Come and See" \(Jn 1:46\). Communicating by Encountering People Where and as They Are"](#)

Congratulations to Sr Rita Connor rsm who celebrates 30 years of service in the far west. Leesa hosted an informal dinner for Sr Rita and members of the local community. A surprise visitor was Minister for Education Hon Grace MP who was visiting schools in the area.

