

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis



Being Christian is not first of all a doctrine or a moral ideal; it is a living relationship with the Risen Lord.

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

Margaret Bell, former secretary St Joseph's Wandal, mother-in-law of Frank Reiman, CEO Rockhampton and grandmother of Sarah Reiman, St Paul's Gracemere and Thomas Reiman, St Anthony's North Rockhampton.

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

Phil McDonald, mother of Neil McDonald, CEO Rockhampton.

Cooper Goodman, son of Maggie Goodman CEO Rockhampton.

Friday 23 April 2021

Good morning everyone

Welcome to Term 2. I trust you had a relaxing Easter break spending time with friends and family and have returned refreshed and energised for the term ahead.

I was delighted to present long-serving Catholic Education leadership plaques to Allison Blakey (Principal MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay) for 20 years of service, and Bill Goodwin (Principal St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg) for 27 years of service during the Principals Gathering held at the end of last term. (Pictured on page 2) I offer my sincere thanks to Allison and Bill for the great dedication and commitment they have provided to their communities in their leadership roles over these many years.

I would like to wish Fr Rajasehkar Kodavatikanti, a fond farewell as he returns to India shortly. On behalf of Catholic Education, I thank Fr Raj most sincerely for the great support and care he has provided to our communities during his eight years of service in the diocese. His wonderful humour and genuine compassion will be greatly missed. We ask our loving God to always guide and protect Fr Raj as he continues his priestly service.



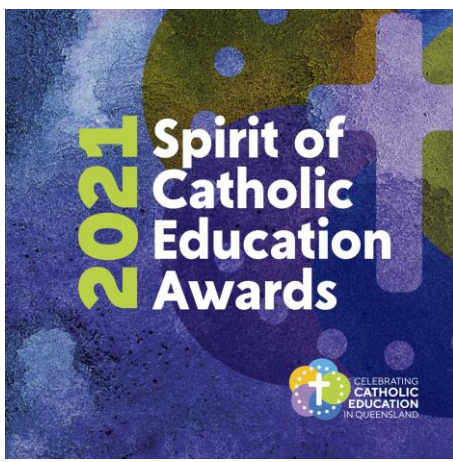
Next weekend sees the start of Beef 2021 (Sunday 2 May to Saturday 8 May) here in Rockhampton focussing on all facets of the beef sector. Catholic Education has grown alongside the Beef industry in Central Queensland for well over a century and many within our communities are very involved in this internationally recognised event. We wish them and all involved in the organising and staging of Beef 2021 every success.

On this Sunday 25 April, we commemorate ANZAC Day - a day enshrined in our nation's history to remember, honour and pray for those brave women and men who fought to protect our country and the freedom and peace we can so easily take for granted. I am very grateful that our ANZAC Day services and marches can proceed this year after experiencing a year without these significant community commemorations. I will, however, always remember the poignant and moving images of Australians in lockdown respectfully standing in their driveways or at their front gates holding flickering candles in the predawn light, heads bowed, remembering the fallen. The *Light up the Dawn* initiative continues again this year following the tremendous community response in 2020 and further information is available on the [RSL Australia website](#). I am aware that many in our schools and colleges will be participating in ANZAC services together with students and their families and I offer my deep appreciation for your involvement.

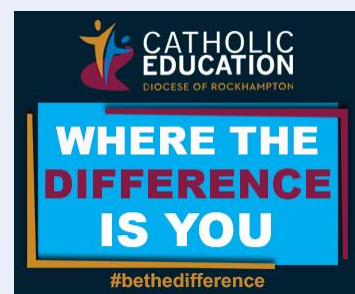
God bless,

Leesa





Nominations for the 2021 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards are now open. These awards, including the Aunty Joan Hendriks Spirit of Catholic Education Reconciliation Award, are presented annually as part of Catholic Education Week (CEW). The awards aim to recognize those who are making an outstanding contribution within their Catholic education community. Information is available via the CEO Staff Portal. Nominations should be submitted [online](#) through the Catholic Education Week website by 5:00pm, **Sunday 9 May 2021**.



Employment opportunities:

Catherine McAuley College, Mackay
Secondary Teachers and Middle Leader Positions commencing January 2022.

Applications are now open for foundation staff for our new College in various subject areas. For further information and to complete an online application visit our website. Applications close Friday 14 May 2021.

Experienced and Graduate Teachers. Applications are now open for full-time teaching positions for the 2022 school year. Applications close Sunday 11 July 2021.

For further information and to apply please click [here](#)

Congratulations to:

Jeanette Refalo, Mercy College on her appointment to the position of Assistant Principal: Mission, Catherine McAuley College Mackay, commencing in November 2021.

Joseph Kelly, St Patrick's College on his appointment to the position of Assistant Principal: Mission for St Patrick's / Mercy College, Mackay commencing in November 2021.

The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) is producing a publication titled *Faith in our Future*, pertaining to the 200-year celebrations of Catholic Education in Australia. Edition One of this publication can be accessed via the following link. [View](#)

The Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) Photo Competition gives Queensland registered teachers the opportunity to win cash prizes for their school. Teachers are invited to submit photographs that capture an aspect of the theme 'Past, Present and Future: Look how far we have come'. Multiple entries are encouraged (limit 10 per school). The best photos will be published in a 2022 calendar to promote the teaching profession in Queensland. Read [here](#) for more information.



Pictured above from left: Bill Goodwin Principal St Mary's Bundaberg, Leesa and Allison Blakey Principal MacKillop Catholic Primary School Andergrove, with their long serving plaques.

Olympics unleashed: By inspiring kids to be the best they can be, we know sport can change lives. As part of the Olympics Unleashed program, we're encouraging Central Queensland primary schools to host an Olympian to share their amazing stories with our students. This is an exciting opportunity for CQ kids to meet our Aussie Olympic Heroes. Athletes have been visiting schools across Queensland and inspiring students with amazing stories about perseverance and dedication. Schools are invited to learn more and register their interest on the Australian Olympic Committee's Olympics Unleashed webpage: <https://www.olympics.com.au/olympics-unleashed/states/qld/>

St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Emerald was invited to help the local police with an Easter Road Safety campaign during the recent Easter Break. Senior Constable Renae (school adopt-a-cop) worked closely with the students, staff and families to design an Easter bunny from bales of hay and to come up with a road safety slogan to be put up on the front fence for the holidays.

