

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis



Let's not wait for our neighbours to be good before we are good to them, for others to respect us before we serve them. Let's begin with ourselves.

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

Jim Woodall, St Peter's Rockhampton.

Loy Durkin, mother-in-law of Lisa Durkin, Emmaus College, North Rockhampton, and great supporter of St Joseph's, Wandal.

Shirley Hull, mother of Lindsey Hull, Diocesan Office.

Colonel George Victor Emmanuel Masilamani AVSM, father of Angela Acharya, teacher Sacred Heart, Yeppoon and grandfather of Deacon Ashwin Acharya.

Mr D V Gupta (India), father-in-law to Monil Beotra, teacher The Cathedral College and grandfather to Eishan and Ridhi (past students TCC).

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.

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

Friday 30 April 2021

Good morning everyone

The spiralling COVID-19 crisis in India is a grim reminder that the pandemic retains a vice-like grip on many parts of our world. The haunting scenes on our television screens are difficult to process. Please keep the people of India who are living through this terrible tragedy very much in our prayers and at the same time please seek opportunities where we can offer practical and much needed support and assistance. We ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide the leaders of all nations at this tragic time and we implore our loving God to grant the sick relief from their suffering and comfort to the families of those who have died.

I was extremely impressed by the significant participation of our schools and colleges in this year's ANZAC Day services around the diocese. My sincere thanks to all those who assisted by coordinating and supervising students and by joining in the marches, services and community commemorations. Our students are certainly learning the importance of gratitude, respect and remembrance through your actions and example.

The Catholic Education Office is in the final stages of drafting the latest Reconciliation Action Plan (2021-2023) to be launched once approved by Reconciliation Australia and this Action Plan will be complemented by a Reconciliation Artwork commissioned from Howard Butler, a proud Gooreng Gooreng, Gangalu, Yiman man. CEO staff have participated in a comprehensive survey and engagement process to assist in refining the Plan. My thanks to members of the RAP Committee for leading us in a proactive commitment to better understand and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and spiritualities.

As you are aware, 2021 is a significant year for Catholic Education in Australia as we mark 200 years since the first Catholic school was founded in Parramatta, NSW. On Monday May 24, the solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians, a Diocesan Mass will be held at 12noon in St Joseph's Cathedral with Bishop Michael presiding. This Mass will be live streamed throughout the Diocese and all Catholic schools are warmly invited to join the live stream and participate in our major celebration to mark the 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia. My sincere appreciation is extended to all those who participated in the video production of John Burland's, *Mary Help of Christians*, to assist all in our communities learn this song in preparation for the Mass. The video is in final stages of production and will soon be made available to schools.

Catholic schools in the Rockhampton Region will be invited to send students and staff to the Mass and Assistant Director: Schools (Rockhampton Region) Mike Kelso will liaise with your school in the coming weeks regarding attendance numbers. As this is our main Diocesan celebration of 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia, I would encourage all schools to be represented at the Mass or to join in through the live stream. Further details on our Diocesan Mass will be provided closer to the event. Information and resources relating to how Catholic Education in Australia is celebrating this 200 years milestone can be accessed on the [200 Years website](#).

This week we welcomed representatives from Catholic School Parents Queensland (CSPQ) to the Catholic Education Office to host their Diocesan Parents and Friends meeting delivered via Zoom. My thanks to Erin Sheldrick for her very informative Wellbeing presentation. CSPQ have also provided information regarding school grant funding for parental engagement and an upcoming series of information sessions by renowned Australian psychologist, Andrew Fuller. We are very fortunate to have a great supporter in Carmel Nash (President CSPQ) and the support of all involved with the CSPQ. They work very closely with us and provide outstanding support. I thank them most sincerely for their ongoing assistance.

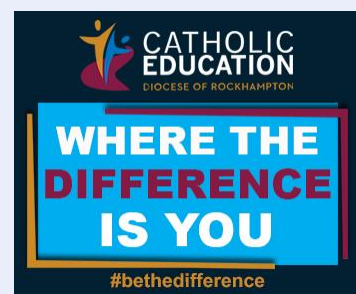
God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Tuesday 4 May, School visit Our Lady's Longreach, Wednesday 5 May, School visit St Joseph's Blackall; Thursday 6 May, School visit St Joseph's Barcaldine, Friday 7 May, Office.



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.

Teacher, Religious Education Holy Spirit College, Mackay.

Applications close Friday 21 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:

Therese Fitzgerald, CEO Information Literacy Consultant – Libraries, for her work with CENet in curating the adult reading collection within SORA, which is an online library used by our schools and available to all staff free of charge.

Pope Francis calls for Global Prayer Marathon for the month of May. Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for the end to the pandemic. The theme will be ‘from the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God’ and will be held throughout the month of May. Each day in May, there will be a livestream from one of 30 chosen Marian shrines or sanctuaries to guide the prayer at 6:00pm Rome time on all Vatican media platforms. The pope will open the month-long prayer on 1 May and conclude on 31 May. Each day of the month has a different prayer intention related to the pandemic. For instance, the 17 May intention is “for all world leaders and for all heads of international organizations.” That prayer will be celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. For further information please click [here](#).

St Anne’s Catholic Primary School, Sarina.

Greg Clair (Director Catholic Mission, Diocese of Rockhampton) visited St Anne’s recently to present a certificate of appreciation and a soccer ball for the fundraising efforts in support of Catholic Mission Australia. Over \$2,000 was raised which is an amazing effort for a small school. Pictured from left: St Anne’s House Captains and School Captains Lucas, Anthony, Renae, Bella, Brianna, Mr Greg Clair and Matthew.



Latest photos from Catherine McAuley College Mackay building works are on track

