

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis



The Eucharist gives us the courage to reach out with love toward the fragility of others, as God does with us.

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

Owen Wilde, father of Kathleen Grimmond, St Anne's, Sarina, and brother of Sr Mary Wilde rsm Rockhampton.

Monty Martin, Mackay, husband of Bess, grandfather of Emma Martin, and Jessica Connelly, St Joseph's Clermont, and long-time supporter of Catholic Schools.

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.

Jodie Zahmel, teacher St Patrick's College, Mackay.

Friday 11 June 2021

Good morning everyone

It has been week of announcements for Catholic Education. We are indeed blessed in this Diocese to have so many outstanding educators who generously offer to serve in a leadership role for Catholic Education.

Firstly, congratulations to Mr Tim Collins who has accepted a permanent appointment as Assistant Director: Schools – Western Region. For the past 18 months Tim has been serving in the Assistant Director: Schools – Western Region role on secondment from the role he had as Principal St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon. I thank Tim for all his achievements as Foundation Principal of St Benedict's and for the very significant contribution he has made to the development of the school over the past 12 years. I am very grateful to Tim for taking on this new role where he will be an excellent mentor and role model to those with whom he will work in our Western Region schools and I know he will continue to make an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Catholic Education in this Diocese.

Also, I extend my warmest congratulations to Mrs Julie McLaughlin who has accepted a permanent appointment to the position of Principal of St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon commencing immediately. Julie has been acting Principal at St Benedict's for the past 18 months and I thank her for her dedicated leadership of the St Benedict's School community over the last 18 months. Julie has a passion for teaching, learning and learners. Her meticulous attention to detail, strong personal faith and curriculum knowledge and expertise will be great assets in her leadership of St Benedict's Catholic Primary School into the future.

My congratulations are also extended to Mr Simon Warren who has been appointed Acting Principal at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton effective from the commencement of Term 3 for the remainder of the 2021 school year. Simon's appointment as Acting Principal follows on from the decision of Mrs Jennie Harris to resign from that role at the end of Term 2 after her many years of dedicated service to St Mary's and to Catholic Education. I thank Simon for taking on this role of Acting Principal and I know he will do an excellent job leading the wonderful school community, that is St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton. Simon has held several senior leadership positions in Catholic Education currently serving as the Assistant Principal: Teaching and Learning at Emmaus College, North Rockhampton.

My sincere thanks are extended to Doiya Knapman (Principal) St Therese's Monto and Nicole Rutten (Principal) St Joseph's Biloela and their respective school communities for their warm welcome last Friday during my school visits.

This week I have been in the Central Highlands and my sincere thanks are also extended to Peter Smith (Principal) Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Springsure; Chris Ferguson (Principal) St Patrick's Emerald; Sheila Challacombe (Principal) St Joseph's Clermont and Tegan Green (Principal) St Brigid's Emerald and their respective school communities for their warm welcome over the last two days. One of the many highlights from the trip to the Central Highlands was to be in the audience for the fabulous school musical *The Most Epic Birthday Party Ever* staged by St Patrick's Emerald. It was also wonderful to join Principal Sheila Challacombe and the St Joseph's Clermont community for the Blessing and Opening of their new school facilities.

I very much enjoy visiting classrooms during my school visits and having the opportunity to see first-hand teachers engaging so positively with their students and fostering in them a love of learning, a love of others and a love of God. Thank you one and all.

Today I am looking forward to joining Mark Green (Principal) and the Marist College community for their Feast Day Mass, in the college's 25th year.

Next week (Thursday 17 June) at St Joseph's Cathedral our Diocese will join with Bishop Michael and the priests in celebrating the Ordination of Ashwin Acharya, a former student of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, and St Brendan's College, Yeppoon. This is a significant event, not only for Ashwin and his family, but for all the people of our diocese. On behalf of everyone in Catholic Education, I extend my prayerful best wishes to Ashwin, his parents Angela and Raj and his family. Sacred Heart Primary School, Yeppoon, is also looking forward to welcoming Ashwin back to celebrate Mass on Monday, 21 June, their school feast day.

God bless,

Leesa

History Snippet: Bishop Joseph Shiel (1913 – 1931) strongly pursued the foundation of new parishes with the aim of each to establish a ‘church, school and convent.’ His policy is remembered as ‘*a Catholic school wherever there were 40 Catholic children.*’ This led to the establishment of eight new primary schools and three new secondary schools. World War One intervened and changed his plans. However, in 1917 the Presentation Sisters opened St Ursula’s Yeppoon, a primary school followed by a high school in 1918. Emu Park also saw the establishment of a primary school in 1917, while in Blackall the Sisters of St Joseph opened a primary school there in 1917 as well. In Bundaberg the Brisbane Sisters of Mercy opened their ‘Loyola House’ as St Patrick’s Convent High School in 1915 with the Christian Brothers arriving in 1919 to open their school for boys under the patronage of Our Lady Help of Christians. Pictured below the Sisters of Mercy Convent, Bourbong Street, Bundaberg.

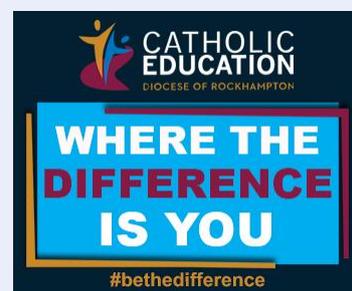


Xavier School of Mission: This annual event based at Holy Spirit Seminary Brisbane aims to equip and form leaders in evangelization at the service of the Dioceses of Queensland and beyond. This year the Diocese of Rockhampton has partnered with the Xavier Centre to host a school of mission in Rockhampton. The program includes times of prayer and reflection, lectures, workshops, daily Mass and opportunities to socialise and network with others involved in the mission of the church. The event will be held on Sunday 11 July to Wednesday 21 July at the Duhig Centre West Street Rockhampton and is free for anyone wishing to attend. Information is available by emailing eo.mission@rok.catholic.net.au

Leesa’s school visit to St Therese’s Monto: Pictured below from left: Leesa, Pauline Merefield (Bundaberg) visiting science teacher; Lorraine Muller, Secretary and Doiya Knapman Principal; Leesa visiting a classroom.



Leesa’s school visit to St Joseph’s Biloela: Classroom visits with Year 1s and Prep



Employment opportunities:

Assistant Teaching and Learning Principal: Catherine McAuley College, Mackay. Applications close Sunday 13 June 2021.

Assistant Director: Mission Catholic Education Rockhampton. Applications close Friday 18 June 2021.

Principal Positions: St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton and Our Lady’s Catholic Primary School, Longreach, Both commencing January 2022. Applications close 27 June 2021.

Finance Manager Catherine McAuley College, Mackay. Applications close Friday 9 July 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](#)

Where’s Leesa:

Monday 14 June to Wednesday 16 June, Office; Thursday 17 June, Office and Ordination of Ashwin Acharya, St Joseph’s Cathedral; Friday 18 June Diocesan Education Council.