

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Reflection from Pope Francis



Message for the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly [view](#)

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

**Fay O'Hanlon**, aunt of Leesa Jeffcoat.

**Kevin Smyth**, father and father-in-law of Karyn and Mike Kelso (CEO).

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

**John Bird**, father of Stacey Todman, Sacred Heart, Yeppoon.

**Khiana Blakey**, Year 8 Holy Spirit College, Mackay and daughter of Allison Blakey, Principal MacKillop Primary School, Mackay.

## Congratulations to:

**Erin Sheldrick**, Project Officer, CEO, on her recent marriage to Stephen Chant.

**Lachlan (St Patrick's Emerald) and Nellie Boyle (St Brigid's Emerald)** on the safe arrival of Lola Rose. First grandchild for Tim (CEO) and Melissa Collins, Sacred Heart, Yeppoon.

**Marty Hollis (St Patrick's College, Mackay)** and Casey Hollis on the safe arrival of Avery James.

**Sarah Clark (St Francis Tannum Sands)** and Daniel Clark on the safe arrival of Arianna May.

## Friday 25 June 2021

Good morning everyone

This week our Indigenous Education team hosted a gathering for staff from schools in both Gladstone and Rockhampton. This was the first of five Indigenous Education Workshops with future gatherings planned for other regions in Term 3. Each workshop will be unique with Traditional Custodians of each region sharing the history and culture of the local area. The gathering provided an opportunity for those present to explore the following: An Overview of Indigenous Education (past, present and future), the Darumbal History and Culture, the Australian Curriculum, the theory, and practice. My sincere thanks to staff who were able to attend and to our Indigenous Education team Brad, Phillipa and Shelley and all who supported them in organising the gathering.

On Wednesday evening, I had the pleasure to attend Rockhampton Catholic Schools Gala Concert held at the Pilbeam Theatre. Our Catholic Schools are blessed with exceptionally gifted musicians and the Gala Concert certainly showcased their amazing talents. The families of the students were very proud to see their children perform on stage at the Pilbeam Theatre. I thank parents who encourage and support their children's involvement in our Rockhampton Catholic School's Instrumental Music Program.

My congratulations and thanks also go to our gifted and dedicated music teachers who give so generously of their time and talent to foster in their students a love of music. This thanks and congratulations is extended to those who work closely with the teachers to support the students in their musical journey. I also congratulate the students on the many hours they devote to the practice of their music. It was wonderful to see them enjoying performing in the Concert to enthusiastic applause from a very appreciative audience.

Best wishes are extended to our colleges participating in the Confraternity and QISSN competitions in Brisbane next week. The Confraternity Carnival will include for the first time Schoolgirls Rugby League. Nine girls' teams will compete at the Carnival hosted by Iona College, Brisbane, along with 48 boys' teams and it is hoped the girls' competition will expand to 12 teams next year, bringing the total number of competing teams to 60 and making Confraternity one of largest Rugby League carnivals in the country.

This year's QISSN Netball competition is being hosted by St James College, Brisbane and is being held at Nissan Arena and involves around 64 teams.

Both the QISSN Netball competition and the Rugby League Confraternity Carnival are major sporting events on the calendar of our schools. I am very grateful to the parents and staff who generously give of their time to accompany the students to these competitions during the student vacation period. In 2022 both the QISSN and Confraternity Carnivals are being hosted by St Patrick's and Mercy Colleges, Mackay.

With the school holidays commencing today, I would like to remind everyone of the need for vigilance around the ever-changing COVID restrictions particularly with respect to interstate travel. I draw your attention to the recent COVID [update](#) especially for those who may have travel plans over the next two weeks.

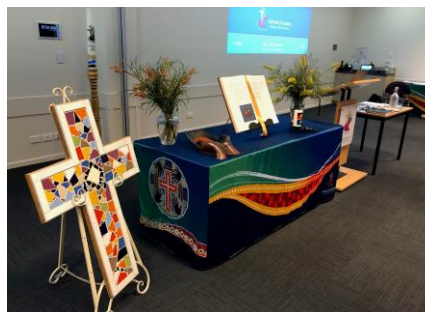
I would encourage all our valued staff to seriously consider booking in for the COVID vaccination as soon as possible.

In conclusion this week I would like to thank each of you for all you have contributed to your school communities and to Catholic Education during this past term. Please know that your work in the ministry of Catholic Education is always highly valued and deeply appreciated. I wish everyone a relaxing, enjoyable and above all a safe holiday break. I look forward to seeing you all in Term 3.

God bless,

*Leesa*

**Pictured below:** Indigenous Education Workshop



**St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone**, capital redevelopments are well underway. Pictured below a photo of the Administration / GLA Block currently under construction.



**Pictured below from left back row:** Chris Ferguson, Principal St Patrick's Emerald; Hon Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education; Kylie Heinemann APA, St Patrick's Emerald and students during the Minister's visit to Emerald on Monday.



**Pictured below: photos from Fr Ashwin Acharya's ordination last week**



**History Snippet:** Following the death of Bishop Shiel in 1931, Romuald Hayes was appointed the fifth Bishop and the first Australian born bishop for the Diocese, coming from Melbourne. It was during Bishop Hayes's time that more schools were to open. In Rockhampton the Presentation Sisters opened St Peter's in 1934 while the Sisters of Mercy opened St Therese's (now the site of Centacare) in Rockhampton. In Mackay St Francis Xavier opened in Mackay in 1935 and two years later St Joseph's North Mackay commenced as a church – school. The convent school in Farleigh (St Brigid's) followed in 1939. In Gladstone the demand for secondary education led to efforts to open a high school, but at this stage did not eventuate. Meanwhile in Bundaberg the Brisbane Sisters of Mercy remained even though Bundaberg was now part of the Rockhampton Diocese. Meanwhile the Sisters of Mercy opened a school in Biloela in 1939 and the Presentation Sisters in Monto in 1940. Both schools also offered boarding accommodation.

**Farewell Judy McNichol, St John's, Walkerston.** After nearly 31 years as a member of staff at St John's, Judy McNichol is retiring as of today (25 June). Judy has been the face of St John's for many generations of families who have been through the school and seen Judy's happy face to greet them. We wish Judy all the best for her retirement and sincerely thank her for her many years of dedicated service.



**Pictured below: Sr Cecilia from Woorabinda** and students Lucy and Jamie from St Peter's Rockhampton with some of the doonas and blankets collected through the school.



## Employment opportunities:

**Teacher (Social Science) Holy Spirit College, Mackay.** Commencing Term 3 2021. Applications close 5 July 2021.

**Finance Manager Catherine McAuley College, Mackay.** Applications close Friday 9 July 2021.

**Assistant Curriculum St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton.** Applications close 9 July 2021.

**Principal Positions: St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton, Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach and St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gracemere** Commencing January 2022. Applications close 11 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.

**Assistant Curriculum Holy Spirit College, Mackay.** Applications close 16 July 2021.

**Assistant Curriculum St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg.** Applications close 23 July 2021.

**Assistant to the Principal: Religious Education, St Therese's Catholic Primary School, Monto.** Applications close 23 July 2021.

**For further information, additional vacancies and to apply please click [here](#)**

**The Cathedral College, Rockhampton, is seeking applications for Boarding Supervisors.** To apply visit [www.tccr.com.au](http://www.tccr.com.au)



*Congratulations to all our Nominees for 2021:*

**Western Region:**

[Belinda Smith](#), Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Springsure; [Teneille Harm](#), St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcaldine; [Natalie McCosker](#), St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald; [Samantha Walters](#), Marist College, Emerald; [Catherine McPhee](#), Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach; [Alvina Bowyer](#), St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blackall.

**Southern Region:**

[Mary Taylor](#), Shalom College, Bundaberg; [Deb Bolam](#), Shalom College, Bundaberg; [Helen Stanley](#), Shalom College, Bundaberg; [Rosemary Weilharter](#), Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone; [Paul Ahern](#), Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone; [Helen Plumb](#), St Mary's Catholic Primary School Bundaberg; [Community of Parents and Friends Team](#), St Francis Catholic Primary School, Tannum Sands.

**Mackay Region:**

[Melissa Fahl](#), St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, North Mackay; [Marcelle Price](#), St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, North Mackay; [Janine Refalo](#), Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay; [Nathaniel Rice](#), St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston; [Judith McNichol](#), St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston; [Mary Oxenham](#), St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, West Mackay; [Elsplit Mulherin](#), St Patrick's College, Mackay; [Jamiey Doevendans](#), St Patrick's College, Mackay; [Helen Ringlestein](#), Holy Spirit College, Mackay; [IT Support Services](#), [Brendan Field](#), [Julie Ward](#), [Brendan Tait](#), [Tanya Bridson](#), [Lachlan Worsley](#), Holy Spirit College, Mackay.

**Rockhampton Region:**

[Natalie Semple](#) (Aunty Joan Hendrik's Award Nominee) St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton; [Sharon Allen](#), St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton; [Tanya Trathen](#), St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton; [Rhianna Starr](#), St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandal; [Emma Murphy](#), St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandal; [Lynette Mann](#) (Aunty Joan Hendrik's Award Nominee) St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gracemere; [The Recycle Team](#), [Cassy Tzoutzias](#), [Brooke Lever](#), St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton; [Fiona Clerc](#), St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton; [Veronica Smith](#), St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton; [Jacquelyn Osborne](#), Emmaus College, North Rockhampton; [Matthew Lawson](#), Emmaus College, North Rockhampton; [Aine Toman](#), Emmaus College, North Rockhampton; [Shontelle Mulholland](#), (Aunty Joan Hendrik's Award Nominee) St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon; [Kathryn Blyde](#), St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon; [Gaye Murphy](#), The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

**Diocesan:**

[Kaylene Lillis](#), Catholic Education Office Rockhampton.

State Winners for this year's awards will be announced on Monday 12 July 2021