

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis



In these days of being hospitalised, I have experienced how important good health care is and the need for it to be accessible to all. This precious benefit must not be lost which needs everyone's contribution.

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

Graham Dale, father and father-in-law of Paul and Rosemary Dale, Marist College, Emerald.



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.

Friday 16 July 2021

Good morning everyone

Welcome back to Term Three. I hope the student vacation period provided an opportunity for rest, relaxation and time with family and friends. I also extend best wishes to Bishop Michael as he recovers from recent surgery. Bishop Michael, we pray you will be restored to full health very soon.

I was delighted to attend this year's inspiring NAIDOC Mass celebration at Holy Family Church, North Rockhampton on Tuesday together with representative staff and students from our Rockhampton Region Catholic schools and Chanel College, Gladstone; Elders and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and members of the wider parish community. My thanks to Fr Peter Tonti VG for presiding and to Fr Bryan Hanifin, Fr Marcel Kujur, Fr Matthias Ogwo and Fr Matthew Moloney for their attendance. My thanks also to Brad Jarro, Phillipa Johnson and the Indigenous Education Team for coordinating such a meaningful celebration.

Following Mass, I was pleased to present medallions to two recipients of our Catholic Education Scholarships for Indigenous Students (Year 9 and 10): Hamish Nolan Munns (The Cathedral College, Rockhampton) and Jorjja Hustler (Emmaus College, North Rockhampton). Congratulations to Hamish and Jorjja and to scholarship recipients in Mackay: Rueben Bishop (Holy Spirit College) and Harper John Ford (Mercy College) who will receive their Medallions at the NAIDOC Mass at St Joseph's Catholic Church, North Mackay next week.

Sincere congratulations to Natalie McCosker (APRE St Patrick's Emerald) on being named the recipient of this year's Spirit of Catholic Education Awards for our Diocese. Natalie will travel to Brisbane to receive her award at the State Launch of Catholic Education Week on July 28. I also offer my congratulations to our 44 award nominees recognised by their peers for their excellent work, leadership, service, initiative and for creating positive change in their school communities. I am very much looking forward to Catholic Education Week in Week 3 as we take time to celebrate and give thanks for our wonderful Catholic school communities, to reach out to those in need through our Acts of Kindness and to share our distinctive Mission with the wider community.

Despite an early finish to the QISSRL (Rugby League Confraternity Shield) and QISSN (Netball) Carnival due to escalating COVID concerns, I extend my congratulations to all teams on their excellent performances. My thanks to the staff, parents and community members who gave generously of their time to enable teams to compete at these Carnivals. Particular thanks to all involved in the pastoral care of our students and for ensuring their safe return home when unfortunately, the Carnivals had to be cancelled.

The Challenge Cup Rugby League and Netball competition got off to a wet, but enthusiastic start, on Wednesday and today enters the last day of play. Congratulations to all participating teams and for the great spirit of competition exhibited both on and off the field. My sincere thanks to Julie McLaughlin (Principal St Benedict's, Yeppoon), Max Martin (Principal Sacred Heart, Yeppoon) and their team of organisers for their coordination of this annual event and to Rob Corboy (Principal St Brendan's College, Yeppoon) and staff for hosting the Challenge Cup again this year. Thanks also to our volunteer referees and officials who do such a great job each year.

I was truly humbled this week when the team here at the Catholic Education Office organized a "surprise" celebration to mark my 20 Year Anniversary as Director of Catholic Education. A highlight of the celebration was the reading of messages of congratulations from several people who had been a significant part of my journey over that 20 years. I was deeply moved by their kind and affirming words.

I give thanks to God for the gift of the dedicated and faith-filled people who have encouraged, supported, and cared for me during my years of service in the Ministry of Catholic Education. I also thank all our school communities for their warm congratulations on the occasion of this milestone celebration. I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to work with you each day to foster in the students entrusted to our care a love of God, a love of others, a love of learning and a love of the world around us. My heartfelt thanks to you all.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 19 July to Friday 23 July, Office.



Employment opportunities:

Teacher (Social Science) Holy Spirit College, Mackay. Applications close 19 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.

Assistant to the Principal: Religious Education, St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone. Applications close 23 July 2021.

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

Congratulations to:

Katrina Azzopardi on her appointment as Acting APRE at MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay for this semester.

COVID update and guidelines: The latest are available via the Staff Portal or click [here](#)

- Guidelines for Principals COVID -19 Response Term 3 effective 12 July 2021.
- Circular 2021/129 Covid Update – Mark Effeney, Assistant Director: Administration

Applications are open for the Premier's Coding Challenge. Students in Years 3 to 10 with an interest in Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics, are encouraged to apply. Entries close 5:00pm Friday 17 September 2021. For more information click [here](#)

The Rockhampton NAIDOC Mass was held this week at Holy Family Church, North Rockhampton.



Olympics Resources for Schools: The AOC has numerous resources for classroom activities for free.

- **Olympics Unleashed TV** - From the comfort of your classroom, join us for three live Olympics Unleashed TV shows during Games-time. [Click here](#) to learn more
- **'Green & Gold Day' - Friday 30 July 2021** - Green & Gold Day is for everyone. The athletes, the fans, the schools, the young, the old and everyone in between. [Click here](#) to learn more
- **Have A Go - Great things happen when you #HaveAGo!** - So we have created a #HaveAGo pack for your classroom to help your kids get active. – [Click here](#) to learn more
- **Olympics Live - Host Your Own Events** - Bring your school community together by hosting your own Olympics Live events. [Click here](#) to learn more
- **Olympics Unleashed, presented by Optus** - Olympians and aspiring Olympians visit Australian schools to motivate students to be their personal best. – [Click here](#) to learn more
- **Educator Resources** - To celebrate the Games, we are providing a suite of educator resources designed for the Lower Primary to Secondary Schools in Australia. [Click here](#) to learn more
- **Australian Olympic Change-Maker™** - program recognises students who are demonstrating the Olympic spirit through leadership and driving positive change. [Click here](#) to learn more

Central Queensland Rowing Regatta 26 - 27 June Bucca Weir, Bundaberg.

Emmaus College Rowing Squads travelled to the Central Queensland Regatta in an event which drew schools from as far south as the Sunshine Coast and from Townsville in the north. The racing was intense and the atmosphere electric despite the horrendous weather. Special mention goes to the Year Eight Coxed Quad who battled heroically with The Cathedral School, Townsville to earn a silver. Harry Brandt also picked up a silver medal in the Year Eight Single Scull.

The Cathedral College (TCC) Rockhampton competed in seven heats, in two semi-finals and four finals. Shalom College on their home course made it to six finals and six semi-finals.

Pictured below students from Emmaus College and The Cathedral College at the Central Queensland Regatta, Bundaberg.



**Catholic Education
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS**

Faith in the future

History Snippet: The Second World War had a major impact on the communities of the Diocese. Following the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbour emergency measures were taken and some schools did not reopen for a few weeks at the beginning of 1942. The boarding section of the Range Convent Rockhampton was evacuated for the whole year to the Sisters of Mercy Convent in Barcardine. By 1945 there were roughly 40 schools within the Diocese and around 4900 students with a number of schools being small and a marked decline in numbers of enrolments in the western regions.

Confraternity and QISSN 2021. Pictured below top row, from left: St Patrick's College Mackay Girls Confraternity Team; Shalom College Bundaberg in action; Holy Spirit College Mackay QISSN Team. **Middle row from left;** Marist College Emerald in action; Chanel College Gladstone Confraternity Team; The Cathedral College Rockhampton QISSN Team. **Bottom row:** Emmaus College Rockhampton boys and girls Confraternity Teams.



Confraternity and QISSN 2022 will be hosted by St Patrick's / Mercy College Mackay and already planning is well underway.

<https://www.facebook.com/7NEWSMackay/videos/354562256020805>