

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Reflection from Pope Francis



There is no better way to pray than to place oneself in an attitude of openness, with a heart open to God.

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

**Ernie Trevaskis**, husband of Barb, great friend and supporter of Catholic Education.

**Terry Molloy**, father of Maria Learmonth, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton, life member of the St Patrick's Race Club and great supporter and friend of Catholic Education.



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

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

## Friday 20 August 2021

Good morning everyone

It is always a sad time when a professional colleague and dear friend with whom you have worked closely for many years decides that it is the right time for them to retire. I felt this sadness recently when Student Protection Officer for Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton, Ms Anne Czekanski advised me that she will be retiring from her role at the end of the 2021 school year.

As you know the safety and welfare of the students entrusted to the care of Catholic Education has always been my highest priority and I have been blessed over the past 18 years to have had Anne serving in the Student Protection Officer role. Anne has always enjoyed my professional trust and my highest personal regard. I offer her my heartfelt thanks and the sincere appreciation of all in Catholic Education for her passionate commitment to student protection.

Anne was a pioneer in the area of Student Protection and so many of the Policies, Processes and Protocols we have in place for the protection of children in our schools had their genesis with Anne. Anne had a positive influence in the area of Student Protection, not only in Catholic Education in our Diocese, but right across Queensland and beyond.

I warmly congratulate Anne on her pending retirement, and I wish her and her husband Kerry every one of God's many blessings into the future. There will be appropriate forums before year end to formally thank and farewell Anne and wish her well in retirement.

I am delighted to share with you the wonderful news of recent Principal appointments for 2022. Congratulations to Sheila Challacombe who will continue in her current role as Acting Principal at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clermont in 2022. Congratulations also to current Acting Principal of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton, Simon Warren who has been appointed as Principal at St Mary's from 2022. My congratulations also are extended to Peter Thurecht (currently AP: Curriculum St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gracemere) who will take up his appointment as Principal of Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach next year.

Alongside these Principal appointments our conversations around staffing in all our Primary Schools commenced this week. This critical planning requires significant analysis and preparation to appropriately ensure adequate staffing in all our centres. My sincere thanks to Gary Cooper (Employee Support Services Manager) and the ESS team for the thorough preparation and presentation of data for these important meetings. Please keep us in prayer as we undertake the important work of staffing all our Primary Schools in 2022.

Our Pathways Forum was held earlier this week in a modified format delivered to colleges via Zoom, allowing participants the flexibility to prioritise sessions according to their needs and interests. The program included an extensive line-up of presenters from universities, TAFE, career development organisations and speakers from a variety of employment sectors including the Performing Arts and cyber security. My thanks to Marie Martin (Secondary Curriculum Consultant) for her work in preparing and presenting the forum enabling participants to access quality expertise at the forefront of Pathways practice.

Warm congratulations to Bishop Michael McCarthy on the anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood yesterday. Bishop Michael, we pray that our loving and merciful God will bless you each day as you live out your vocation devoting your life to His service as you shepherd and guide us. We thank you most sincerely for your prayerful and practical support and for the great friend you are to Catholic Education.

God bless,

*Leesa*

Where's Leesa:

Monday 23 August, Office; Tuesday 24 August, Leadership Team Meeting; Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 August, Office; Friday 27 August, Diocesan Education Council.

**Congratulations to St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, Mackay Northern Beaches** raising \$6000 for the Leukemia Foundation through the World's Greatest Shave. St Brendan's teachers, Katie Davey and Sean Senini and parent Emily Robinson took part in the shave while students participated through a crazy hair day.



**Book Week 21 to 27 August.** The theme for 2021 is Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds. For further information visit the Children's Book Council [Website](#)



**Has your school registered for Day for Daniel?**  
Register [here](#)



### Sunday 22 August Australia Prays:

The National Council of Churches, is calling Australia to unite in prayer in the light of the current COVID-19 crisis, with the theme being *Lord Have Mercy*.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference is encouraging us all to engage with the online prayer events this Sunday. To register for Sunday and for further resources, please click [Register](#)

You can also download the [Prayer](#) flyer.



**Single-use plastics ban:** Schools are reminded that the ban on single-use plastic items takes effect from 1 September 2021. The [legislation](#), passed earlier this year, bans the sale or supply of straws, cutlery, bowls, plates, stirrers and expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups. An exemption applies for schools to ensure students and staff with disability or healthcare needs can access banned items if needed while at school or during school activities.

Further information including examples of banned items and alternative products are covered in the Queensland Government's video below. A [fact sheet](#) and [poster](#) are also available. View the video [here](#).

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS QUEENSLAND  
Diocese of Rockhampton

**SAVE POSTPONED**

**PARENT ENGAGEMENT DAY**  
ROCKHAMPTON | SAT 21 AUG | 10AM-4PM  
Kevin Castles Conference Centre, Allenstown

**UNFORTUNATELY DUE TO RESTRICTIONS AND BORDER CLOSURES THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL EARLY 2022**

### Employment opportunities

**Classroom Teacher (full time contract) St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald** commencing 3 October 2021. Applications close 22 August 2021.

**Principal St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandal** commencing 2022. Applications close 29 August 2021.

**Principal St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton** commencing 2022. Applications close 29 August 2021.

**Assistant Principal: Religious Education St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcardine** commencing 2022. Applications close 30 August 2021.

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

### Congratulations to:

**Sheila Challacombe**, on her reappointment as Acting Principal, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clermont.

**Simon Warren** on his appointment as Principal, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton commencing 2022.

**Peter Thurecht** on his appointment as Principal, Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach commencing 2022.

**Rebecca Place** on her appointment as APRE, St Therese's Catholic Primary School, Monto commencing in 2022.

**Helen Langdon** on her appointment as APRE, St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon commencing in 2022.

**Lauren Riley, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandal** and husband Todd on the safe arrival of Ellie.

**Alana (Nelly) Collins**, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton and husband Joshua on the safe arrival of Maggie. First grandchild for Max (Principal Sacred Heart Yeppoon) and Marie Martin (CEO).

**Claire and Brenten Robson, CEO** on the safe arrival of Elliott.

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