

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Reflection from Pope Francis



Taking into consideration the worsening of multiple converging political and environmental crises, hunger, the climate, nuclear arms, to name a few – the commitment to peace has never been so necessary and urgent.



**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 10 September 2021

Good morning everyone

I would like to sincerely thank all who joined the special Novena Prayer for Khiana Blakey (student Holy Spirit College, Mackay and daughter of Allison Blakey, Principal MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay) which concluded this week. Please continue to hold Khiana and her family in your prayers as she undergoes further medical treatment in the weeks ahead. God Bless you Khiana.

On Tuesday this week we marked Duchenne Awareness Day to raise awareness of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). Whilst treatment has improved, the genetic muscle disease still impacts significantly on life expectancy and quality of life through each stage of progression. A number of our schools have students or past students with DMD as part of their school community and can attest to the daily challenges faced by those with the disease and by their families. I provide this link to the [World Duchenne Day](#) website for your information which also features a special [message of support](#) from Pope Francis.

This week was national Child Protection Week themed *Every child, in every community, needs a fair go*. Staff in all regions across the diocese have been involved in Student Protection information sessions as part of our comprehensive commitment to the safety and well-being of our students. As you know, it is our highest priority. All children in our Catholic kindergartens, primary schools and colleges have the right to expect that we will always act to protect them from any kind of harm. I commend to you the [NAPCAN](#) (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) and [QCPW](#) (Queensland Child Protection Week) websites which contain a wide variety of resources and information. My sincere thanks to Brett Halter (Student Services Manager) and our Student Protection team for their hard work in ensuring we remain vigilant in providing safe environments for our students.

Euthanasia or Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) legislation is currently before the Queensland Parliament. Our Catholic faith teaches us that the intentional taking of an innocent human life through euthanasia or assisted suicide is wrong. Bishop Michael has provided a letter ([link](#)) calling for action to oppose the current Bill. I invite you to read our Bishop's comments and consider your response to ensure the Catholic Church's voice is clearly known.

I am very much looking forward to my school visits to St John the Baptist and Star of the Sea Catholic Primary Schools in Gladstone today. I am particularly appreciative of these visits this year as restrictions have impacted so dramatically on my time in school communities. I was privileged to have visited St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Rockhampton as the school celebrated their History Week. I spoke to students about my own fond memories as a St Mary's student.

Tomorrow 11 September marks 20 years since the terrible day when a terrorist attack saw two hijacked planes hit the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York and another hijacked plane smashed into the Pentagon in Washington causing a tragic loss of life. These horrific events which forever will be known as 9/11 trigger memories for many of us who witnessed these attacks live on our television screens or watched the heartbreak that unfolded in the days that followed. On this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, I ask you to please join me in holding in prayer those who lost their lives, their families who forever will mourn their loss and the survivors of the attacks, many of whom still bear the physical, mental and emotional scars of that terrible day. On this day and every day, we pray God will bless us with peace in our own lives and peace in our world.

God bless,

*Leesa*

**Where's Leesa:** Monday 13 September to Friday 17 September, Office.

*Employment Opportunities* For additional vacancies and to apply please click [here](#)

**Student Protection Officer, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton** commencing 2022. Applications close 12 September 2021. [View](#)

**Assistant Principal: Curriculum (APC) St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gracemere** commencing 2022. Applications close 13 September 2021. [View](#)

**Secondary Teachers and Middle Leaders, Holy Spirit College, Mackay** commencing 2022. Applications close 13 September 2021. [View](#)

**Assistant Principal: Teaching and Learning Emmaus College, North Rockhampton** commencing 2022. Applications close 17 September 2021. [View](#)

**Student Information and Technology Officer, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton** commencing 5 October 2021. Applications close 17 September 2021. [View](#)

**Principal St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcardine**, commencing in 2022. Applications close 19 September 2021. [View](#)

**Assistant Principal: Religious Education (APRE) St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcardine**, commencing 2022. Applications close 19 September 2021. [View](#)

**Primary School Teachers (Full Time) Mackay Region** commencing 2022. Applications close 3 October 2021. [View](#)



## SEASON OF CREATION

SEPTEMBER 1- OCTOBER 4

**Season of Creation:** From 1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4 October (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) the Church in Australia is observing the 'Season of Creation' a time to reflect especially on the created world as God's gift to us and something we are called to care for as good stewards. Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si* reminds us that care for creation is not some political ideology or a mere human endeavour. Care for creation is part of our God given responsibility. For further information please click [here](#). Additional information can be found [here](#).



Queensland Catholic primary schools have a chance to win a visit from rugby league legend Johnathon Thurston as part of a **Get Ready Queensland competition** to help children learn about and prepare for natural disasters. To find out more and to enter click [here](#) The competition closes 6 October 2021 and winners will be announced in the Get Ready Queensland Week, 10 – 16 October 2021.

### You are invited to the Launch of the Rockhampton Diocesan Social Justice On-Line Training Program.

The emphasis in this course which has been developed by the Diocesan Social Justice Group, will be on the underlying structures which are the causes of disadvantage. Participants will have the responsibility of addressing a structural injustice drawn from their own experience. They will be introduced to a social justice practice framework, linked to a process of discernment that is values-based and rooted in the wisdom of our Catholic Social Teaching. Bishop Michael will launch the course. Those who are unable to be physically present will be able to access the session via Zoom. **Where:** Duhig Centre, Rockhampton **When:** 30 September 2021 **Time:** 5.15pm for 5.30pm commencement of Zoom session To **register:** Contact: (Sr) Pat Wood rsm: Email: [marypatricia.wood@gmail.com](mailto:marypatricia.wood@gmail.com) Ph: 0419203677 Please indicate in your response whether you wish to access the session via Zoom. and a link to access the session will be sent to you.



**The Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) invites teachers in the Longreach Region** to celebrate 50 years of the teacher regulation authority on Wednesday 15 September 2021. Time: 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the QANTAS Founders Museum. Bookings close 10 September 2021. To register attendance please click [here](#)

*Congratulations*

Chris (The Cathedral College, Rockhampton) and Michelle McIntosh on the safe arrival of Harry.

Renee (The Cathedral College, Rockhampton) and Jacob Williams on the safe arrival of Billie.



**Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton Teacher Touch Footy Day** will be held Saturday October 23 at Yeppoon. Registration closes Friday October 8. Open to all employees of Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton. Information has been provided to all principals and school secretaries earlier this week. For further information please contact Lisa List at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon. [Lisa\\_list@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Lisa_list@rok.catholic.edu.au)

**Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay** hockey team (pictured below) won the under 12 girls Grand Final this week. Congratulations to all involved.



Diocesan Catholic Education Office  
143 West Street | PO Box 524  
Rockhampton Queensland 4700  
1800 228 433  
[www.rok.catholic.edu.au](http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au)  
Twitter @RockyCathEd