

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope

Francis



Persevering in the daily recitation of the Rosary, we can meet each other every day with Mary.

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

Stan Paul, father of David Paul, Principal St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, Mackay and Matthew Paul, Mercy College, Mackay.

Doris McSherry, wife of Vince McSherry, former Principal Holy Spirit College and mother of Scott McSherry, Mercy College Mackay.

Jennifer Champion, mother of Jodi Champion and Neil Champion, St Patrick's College, Mackay.

Ursula Murray, mother of Paula Eva, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Mackay.

Irene Watkins, grandmother of Vikki Watkins, St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone, former teacher with Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton.

Maria McGeever, sister of Carmel Daveson Mackay and Barb Robinson former St Peter's staff member.

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 22 October 2021

Good morning everyone

Last Saturday morning, I was delighted to join The Cathedral College community to celebrate 100 years of Girls' Boarding at the magnificent building known as Genazzano, located on the Range site. Bishop Michael led the gathering in a beautiful Liturgy that incorporated the Blessing of a Frieze of Catherine McAuley and a Rose Garden where Catherine McAuley Roses were in full bloom.

A century ago, the Sisters of Mercy had the vision, the courage and the faith in God to have the dream of Genazzano and that dream came to reality with the building being Blessed and Opened on 24 September 1921. Although I was never a boarder, I did attend the Range College as a Day Student and remember visiting Genazzano from time to time. Whilst Genazzano has seen many refurbishments and renovations over the years, it remains '*Home on the Range*' for the boarders of today as it has been for generations of girls over the past century.

There have been thousands of people who have been integral to the continuing story of Genazzano and the boarding of girls on the Range site. I was so pleased to be at the Centenary Celebrations to offer to all of these people my heartfelt thanks and the assurance that their hard work, their sacrifice and their commitment will always be part of the story of Catholic Education in this Diocese.

It was very special to have a large number of the Sisters of Mercy with us for the Genazzano Centenary Celebration and to be able to thank them for the gift that Genazzano has been for the girls who have boarded there over the past 100 years and for the Ministry of Catholic Education. Throughout the years, the Sisters have stayed faithfully committed to ensuring Genazzano remained *a home away from home* where girls could live and grow in faith and knowledge and have the opportunity to go and change the world.

Sr Joanne Molloy rsm has documented Genazzano's rich history in the publication *Genazzano Home on the Range 1921 to 2021*. This very interesting and informative read serves to capture for generations to come the wonderful story of Genazzano. My congratulations and thanks go to Sr Joanne for writing this history of Genazzano. I also thank Rob Alexander (Principal), Ron Armstrong (Assistant Principal: Boarding) and all involved for staging such a truly meaningful and memorable Centenary Celebration of Girls' Boarding at Genazzano.

I was very pleased to be able to attend the St Patrick's College Valedictory Evening in Mackay earlier this week, and to have the opportunity to congratulate graduating students and award recipients on their outstanding achievements. My thanks to all those involved in what was a wonderful evening that was enjoyed by students, their parents, and staff alike. I extend my very best wishes to students in all our colleges in their future endeavours and I pray God will bless them in abundance.

Whilst joining the Student Protection Committee for their final meeting for 2021 this week, I was pleased to be able to take the time to acknowledge the contribution of Ms Anne Czekanski as she attended her last Committee meeting before retiring at the end of the year. As I mentioned last term when Anne announced her retirement, we have been so blessed to have had Anne serving in the Student Protection Coordinator role for the past 18 years. Her passionate commitment to the safety and welfare of our students instigated the introduction and development of robust policies, processes, and protocols, setting new benchmarks for the way schools approach student protection. I thank Anne most sincerely for her valued membership on our Student Protection Committee, from which positive change was frequently launched.

Finally, I ask that you join with me in praying for our Senior students as they enter their final External Assessment period. We pray that the Holy Spirit will be ever at their side as a source of courage, wisdom, and strength.

God bless, *Leesa*

Where's Leesa: Monday 25, NCEC Directors' Forum, RBLO Meeting; 25-26 October Leadership Team Planning Days; Wednesday 27 – Thursday 28 October, Office; Friday 29 October DEC Budget Meeting.



Pictured at the 100-year celebrations of Genazzano are from left; Ron Armstrong Assistant Principal: Boarding, The Cathedral College, Sr Joanne Molloy rsm, Sr Margaret Dixon rsm and Leesa Jeffcoat.



We are being encouraged to start preparing for the disaster season and wide range weather events that can impact Queensland including bushfires, storms, floods, and cyclones. For more information click [here](#)

Congratulations to:

Camille Morris on her appointment as Deputy Principal Holy Spirit College Mackay, commencing in 2022.

Nicole Anderson St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton on her appointment as Assistant Principal: Curriculum, (APC) at St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gracemere commencing in 2022.

Kylie Cahill on her appointment as Student Protection Officer, Catholic Education Office Rockhampton, commencing Monday 25 October 2021.

Congratulations to St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gracemere Year 5 and 6 Teams who are the Rockhampton Regional Conference winners for Wonder of Science 2022.



Bruce and Denise Morcombe visited St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, North Mackay this week, reinforcing the messages in the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum.



As part of Socktober Crazy Sock Day is being held in schools around the Diocese raising awareness and funds for Catholic Missions. Pictured below some crazy socks from Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone.



NCEC are hosting the *Faith in the Future Symposium* next Wednesday 27 October. This free virtual event will run from 3:00pm to 4:15pm (AEDT). Please note start time is 2.00pm Queensland time. For more information and to register please click [here](#)

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

- Specialist Teachers - The Arts (including dance and drama) and Digital and Design Technology - St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston commencing January 2022. Applications close 25 October 2021.
- Project Officer – Educational Assessment (Mackay Region). Applications close 31 October 2021.
- Middle Leader and Teaching positions 2022, Marist College, Emerald. Applications close 31 October 2021.
- Kindergarten Teachers (part time / full time) St Joseph's, Biloela and St Brendan's, Mackay commencing 17 January 2022. Applications close 31 October 2021.