

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis



Friday 29 October 2021

Good morning everyone

Last Sunday (October 24) was World Mission Sunday. On that day the global Church came together to support mission efforts during October which is designated as World Mission Month. It has been great to hear of the wonderful initiatives happening in our schools to raise awareness and funds for the Missions during Mission Month, particularly the uptake of the Socktober activities. Through these activities our students give witness to our Catholic social teaching that calls us to have a preferential option for the poor. The nurturing in our school communities of a culture of compassion and kindness is fundamental to a Catholic education. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all involved in organising and implementing these generous initiatives in our kindergartens, primary schools and colleges.

Our Year 12s are now well into their final examination period, and I know you would join me in wishing them every success for the remainder of their assessment. I also wish those Year 12s who are continuing their traineeships and work preparation all the best in these final weeks of the school year. As educators, we strive to ensure all our students grow in faith, knowledge and wisdom through prayer, the pursuit of academic excellence and the fostering of skills that will stand them in good stead for their life's journey. I hope and pray this has been the experience for the Senior class of 2021 and I offer my heartfelt congratulations and thanks for the great contribution they have made to Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton.

This week I attended the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) Directors' gathering to hear updates on funding and School Improvement and information on key election issues in the education sector from NCEC Executive Director Jacinta Collins. Discussions included political advocacy strategies, the importance of consistent messaging, funding commitments, early years education and religious freedom. Please pray for our Catholic Education representatives engaging with leaders and decision-makers responsible for establishing party platforms, that their efforts will result in positive outcomes for all in our school communities.

In continuing bicentennial celebrations for Catholic Education in Australia and to mark World Teachers' Day, I was very pleased to attend the *Faith in the Future Virtual Symposium* this week, hosted by NCEC. The panel discussion, moderated by Australian broadcaster Geraldine Doogue, included a keynote address by internationally acclaimed education researcher, author and practitioner, Dr Lyn Sharratt titled *This is the Work*. The event provided some thought-provoking perspectives and conversations on the education landscape and the contribution of Catholic Education historically, now and into the future.

Today we celebrate World Teachers' Day and say thank you to all our wonderful teachers for their dedication and commitment to their vocation. I offer my sincere appreciation to all our teachers for the great work you do each and every day to ensure students in our kindergartens, schools and colleges grow in knowledge and faith in a safe and caring environment. I am constantly inspired by the commitment our teachers have for their school communities and to teaching as an honoured profession.

We also celebrate Day for Daniel today, Australia's largest child safety education and awareness day. Our partnership with the Morcombe Foundation has greatly assisted in making our school communities safer and I commend the [Day for Daniel](#) resources and information to you and encourage your participation in this worthwhile initiative.

Next week we celebrate All Saints' Day (1 November) when Catholics remember and venerate saints from around the world throughout history, known and unknown. The inspirational lives of these men and women mirror Christ's message of love and mercy and show us how to respond to our call to holiness. May we draw strength, guidance, and encouragement from their courageous example as we too seek to understand God's plan for us through our roles in Catholic Education and personally as followers of Christ.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 1 November, Office; Tuesday 2 November Melbourne Cup Missions Fundraiser; Wednesday 3 November and Thursday 4 November, Office; Friday 5 November, Blessing and Opening St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gracemere.

The preaching of the Gospel reinvigorates hope because it reminds us that God is present in everything. He accompanies us and gives us the courage and creativity we need to start anew.

Please remember in your prayers those members of our extended Catholic Education Family who have recently passed away.

Violet Tarry, mother of Sandra Drake, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton and grandmother of Rhianna McDonald, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton.



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.

Matthew Deeth, Holy Spirit College, Mackay.

This week we welcomed **Kylie Cahill** (pictured below) to Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton commencing in the role of Student Protection Officer. Kylie has a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Justice Administration and 20 years of experience in child protection related positions. Kylie has worked in several locations in the CQ area and previously worked with CEDR as a Student Counsellor, based at Emmaus College, St Anthony’s North Rockhampton and St Mary’s North Rockhampton. Her counselling experience and skills beyond schools relates to sexual assault client support. Kylie has returned to Catholic Education with a passion to support staff to build a safe and responsive environment for students who are experiencing harm.



St Therese’s Catholic Primary School, Monto *Heart Heroes* are raising funds for Defib Monto.



St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg participated in ‘Crazy Socks’ Day to help raise money for the Catholic Mission initiative during Socktober.



Congratulations to the Emmaus College, North Rockhampton Year 8 Rowing Squad Layla, Harry, Tristram, Nicholas and Jye who attended their first regatta on the Fitzroy River earlier this year placing first in their first event. At the Queensland titles held in September in Rockhampton they took out the Gold Medal as the Queensland State Champions. Pictured below from left: Harry, Jye, Layla, Nicholas and Tristram.



Pictured below Mike Kelso Assistant Director: Schools (Rockhampton Region) presenting a gift to **Leonie McKenna** (Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon) in recognition of her retirement and 27 years’ service to Catholic Education.



Employment Opportunities

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

- Secondary Teachers, Holy Spirit College, Mackay, commencing in 2022. Applications close 1 November 2021.
- Humanities Coordinator, Mathematics Coordinator, Human Resources Coordinator, Shalom College, Bundaberg, commencing in 2022. Applications close 3 November 2021.
- Indigenous Career Pathways and Transition Officer, Catholic Education Office Rockhampton, commencing in 2022. Applications close 7 November 2021.
- Full-Time Kindergarten Teacher St Anthony’s Catholic Kindergarten commencing 17 January 2022. Applications close 14 November 2021.



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:

Elizabeth Carter, on her appointment as Assistant Principal: Religious Education (APRE) at St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Park Avenue commencing in 2022.



Faith in the Future Virtual Symposium

which was held on Wednesday 27 October was recorded and can be viewed via

www.200years.catholic.edu.au

“Day for Daniel is an opportunity for Australians to teach children to report and ask adults to support them.”

Day for Daniel
FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER, 2021

WORLD TEACHERS’ DAY | 29 OCTOBER 2021

#ThankQldTeachers