

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Reflection from Pope Francis



**Friday 11 February 2022**

Good morning everyone

I trust the return to school of students this week has gone smoothly. I know so much effort was put in by a great many people to ensure all was in readiness for the return of students. It has been delightful to hear the wonderful stories of our students returning to face to face learning this week and the warm welcome our kindergarten, school and college communities have provided to our families. Thank you to each of you, as you continue to be the compassionate face of Christ to all who encounter our Catholic school communities. I hope you will enjoy the year ahead as part of our Catholic Education family.

The Opening School Year Masses usually held around the Diocese at this time are undoubtedly a much-anticipated celebration. Sadly, these in-person gatherings were not able to go ahead at the present time. Some of our communities were able to celebrate Mass via livestream and my heartfelt congratulations to all involved in coordinating these uplifting celebrations. I am sure we will all be looking forward to safely gathering later when restrictions allow us to come together in prayer.

Last Friday you would have received an All Staff [Bulletin](#) from me outlining information about the four weeks of our school year (7 February to 4 March). I would ask that you take the time to read and understand the information provided so you are fully aware of our processes and practices during this time as we look to protect your health and wellbeing and that of our students. Please contact your principal with any concerns or queries.

In that spirit, I would like to thank all staff who are exercising best practice in monitoring their health and abiding by all recommendations around work attendance. Together with testing, these are two critical defences in limiting the spread of COVID in our communities. The Queensland State Government has provided limited supplies of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) to schools to assist staff and students, who are displaying symptoms, meet the recommendation to access a COVID test. Our kindergartens, primary schools and colleges are also attempting to source RATs from a variety of suppliers to be available to assist in return to work for staff who develop symptoms. In addition, education staff who present at Queensland Health testing clinics will be given priority access to testing. Thank you for your continued efforts in keeping our communities healthy.

Safer Internet Day was held on Tuesday and my congratulations to all those who participated in the worthwhile activities promoted through this eSafety Commissioner initiative. This year's focus, *Play it Fair Online*, calls on internet users to make life online enjoyable by being kind and respectful to each other. I commend the [Safer Internet Day 2022](#) website to you as it contains a wealth of information and resources to assist students and families in making the internet safer and more enjoyable for all users.

This year's World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on 4 March in over 170 countries around the globe under the theme "*I know the plans I have for you (Jer 29:11)*". I invite you to visit the website [here](#) for more information and resources to plan how you might like to participate.

This coming Sunday 13 February is the fifteenth anniversary of then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, making an Apology, on behalf of all Australians, to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Apology expressed our national sorrow for the impact past laws, policies and practices had on our First Nations people, particularly the Stolen Generations.

As we mark the fifteenth anniversary of this very significant event in our nation's history, we in Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and we commit ourselves each day to working together to promote justice and reconciliation.

God bless,

*Leesa*

The Lord climbs into the boat of our lives when we have nothing to offer Him; to enter our voids and fill them with His presence.

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

**Betty Lipke**, mother-in-law of Kate Lipke, Diocesan Education Council member.

**Don McCusker**, Bundaberg, uncle of Michael McCusker, AD: Schools (Northern Region) and Anne Effenev, St Benedict's, Yeppoon.

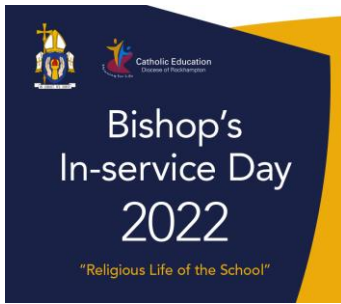
**John Costigan**, former staff member, Shalom College, Bundaberg.

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

**Mick Holmes**, husband of Linda Holmes, APC St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Sarina.

**Daniel McIntosh**, son of Chris, The Cathedral College Rockhampton and Michelle McIntosh, brother of Harry.

**Alma Campbell**, mother and mother-in-law of John Campbell, Catholic Education Office and Deb Campbell, Sacred Heart, Yeppoon.



Please note change of date to  
**Friday 1 April**

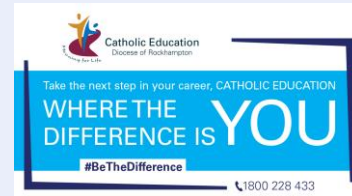
Our focus this year, *Religious Life of the School*.

Information is available via the Catholic Education Staff Portal or contact Kellie Jenkinson (Assistant Director: Mission) 4994 8103.



**SYNOD OF BISHOPS:**

Hundreds of groups and individuals across the country have shared their stories about how all members of the Catholic Church can walk together to carry out our mission as Christians. Have you? The local consultation process for the global Synod on Synodality is open for two more weeks – until February 27. Join with family, friends, parishioners or participate yourself. Find out more at: <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>



**Employment opportunities:**

**Classroom Teacher Year 3, St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton.** Applications close 13 February 2022.

**Administration Assistant (Casual) CEO Rockhampton.** Applications close 13 February 2022.

**Specialist Teacher (PE/Arts), MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay.** Applications close 13 February 2022.

**Counselling Services Coordinator CEO Rockhampton.** Applications close 18 February 2022.

**Classroom Teacher, St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone.** Applications close 18 February 2022.

**Teacher (History, English, Legal Studies and Religious Education), Chanel College, Gladstone.** Applications close 20 February 2022.

**Teacher (Spanish), Catherine McAuley College, Mackay.** Applications close 18 March 2022.

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

*Welcome back to our students for Term One, 2022*

Pictured from left: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Springsure and St Anthony's, North Rockhampton



Star of the Sea, Gladstone, Emmaus College, North Rockhampton and Holy Spirit College, Mackay



St Patrick's/Mercy College, Mackay and Chanel College, Gladstone



**Date Claimer: World Day of Prayer 10:00am Friday 4 March, St Joseph's Cathedral.** Prepared by the Women of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Guest Speaker, Sr Kym Harris.