

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis



Jesus goes the way of the prophets: he presents himself as we would not expect. He is not found by those who seek miracles, new sensations, a faith made up of power or external signs. He is found instead by those who accept his ways and his challenges.

Friday, 4 February 2022

Good morning everyone

Today marks the end of the two-week delayed start to the 2022 school year and, like you, I am very much looking forward to the full return of students on Monday. My sincere thanks to all staff in our kindergartens, schools and colleges and at the Catholic Education Office for all that you are doing to ensure teaching and learning continues and that the health and safety of all in our communities are protected.

I hope online learning for our Year 11 and 12 students proceeded smoothly this week. I am aware that our principals, teachers, and support staff worked diligently to creatively and effectively prepare and deliver quality content to our senior students during this altered start to the school year. Sincere thanks to all who contributed to ensuring meaningful learning was able to commence for our students.

This year's Bishop's Inservice Day has been moved to Friday 1 April, the last day of this term, due to the delayed start to the school year and COVID Safe Plan requirements. It is hoped that moving the date will provide schools with the appropriate focus on teaching and learning during these first weeks of face-to-face learning. My sincere thanks to Bishop Michael for accommodating this change and to all in our schools for your great support as undoubtedly this change will result in further rescheduling for schools. Our Day will be a livestream event like last year's format with a focus on *The Religious Life of the School*. Further information is available on the Catholic Education Staff Portal and via this [link](#).

I have been very touched by the many well wishes I have received on the occasion of my reaching 40 years of service in Catholic Education. A heartfelt thank you to all who took the time to contact me to pass on their best wishes. Teaching is a wonderful vocation and I have been blessed over the past 40 years to work with so many inspirational and faith-filled people. I hope all our wonderful teachers find their work with Catholic Education as personally and professionally rewarding as I have over the past many years.

As the Pandemic continues to cause grief, sadness, uncertainty, and anxiety in our communities, I ask that we remember in our prayers all those who have been impacted by COVID. In particular, we pray for our health care workers and emergency services personnel who do so much to keep our communities safe.

Ash Barty's win in the Australian Open was a joyful and uplifting experience. Occasions like this demonstrate the positive impact of sport and its ability to bridge political, cultural, religious, and social divides. My favorite image from the Australian Open was the photo of Ash with Evonne Goolagong-Cawley and Cathy Freeman – three incredible indigenous women, whose sporting careers have served to unite, inspire, and motivate generations of Australians and show what is possible if we treat others with respect and dignity.

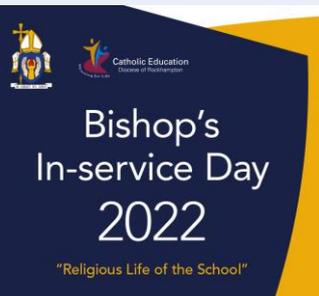
Best wishes to all in our Catholic Education family for the remainder of Term 1.

God bless

Leesa

SYNOD OF BISHOPS / FEBRUARY 2022

SYNOD OF BISHOPS: Have you taken up Pope Francis' invitation to participate in a global conversation about the Catholic Church? You still have three weeks to make a submission to your local consultation for the international Synod on Synodality, calling the People of God to walk together in our mission as Christians. Submissions close on February 27. Find out more at: <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>



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.

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

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

Safer Internet Day 2022 – Tuesday, 8 February: This year is global Safer Internet Day but as always, the content and information available at the eSafety Commissioner website should be the standard way that we stay safe online. The topic this year is “Play it Safe and Fair Online” and there is a huge selection of resources for schools, students, teachers, and parents, including videos, webinars, virtual classrooms, toolkits, storybooks, and campaign materials. You can join the conversation via social media by following @eSafetyOffice or using #PlayItFairOnline or #SID2022

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/safer-internet-day-2022>

Boarding Supervisors wanted at The Cathedral College: If you think you may be interested in a career as a Boarding Supervisor, then The Cathedral College, Rockhampton would love to speak with you. The College is currently looking for Boarding supervisors for their Girls and Boys Boarding facilities in a full time, part time or casual capacity. If you have an interest in learning more about being a Boarding Supervisor at TCC, please contact Assistant Principal: Boarding, Ron Armstrong at ron.armstrong@tccr.com.au or on 0418 157 498.

The Cathedral College, Rockhampton Laptops and Textbooks for Boarders: A 900km round road trip saw TCC Boarding students and their families from across the Central West, Central Highlands, and Coalfields collect Laptops and Textbooks in order to be ready for the start of the school year. The Cathedral College Boarding staff travelled to Blackwater, Emerald, and Alpha with learning resources for students from as far west as Longreach. Boarding parents, families and friends rallied to collect laptop devices and textbooks to ensure they made it into the hands of students before school recommences.



Check out our newest Catholic College, Catherine McAuley College, Mackay
Welcoming its first cohort of Year 7 students next Monday, 7 February 2022.
Additional [Photos](#) can be found on the Catholic Education’s Facebook page.



Congratulations to:

Jan Whelan, Mackay on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to music as an accompanist.

Carolyn D’Anna, Holy Spirit College, Mackay on 20 years service to Catholic Education. (Apologies Carolyn for inadvertently missing you from our congratulations last week).

Laura Bell, Marist College, Emerald and **Andrew Bell** on the safe arrival of Jack.



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.

Counselling Services Coordinator based at the Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton.
Applications close 18 February 2022.

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

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