

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis



The arguments for peace are stronger than any calculation of particular interests and confidence in the use of weaponry.

#PrayForUkraine

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 McIntosh, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

The Season of Lent



Nominations are now open for the Peter Doherty Awards. School communities are encouraged to nominate students, teachers and support officers who deserve recognition for their outstanding achievements in STEM.

For more information, please click [here](#)

Friday 11 March 2022

Good morning everyone

The flood devastation experienced by those in Southeast Queensland and in New South Wales is heartbreaking. I had previously provided you details of the [Vinnies Flood Appeal](#) – I would also commend to you the [Diocese of Lismore 2022 Flood Appeal](#) as a direct way to assist those in our extended Catholic Education family in a region which has suffered the full brunt of the disaster. Please give generously where you can as we keep these communities in our thoughts and prayers, that they will be sustained by the kindness of others.

I was very pleased to attend a Regional Education Roundtable Meeting this week, with Rockhampton Principals and sector stakeholders hosted by the Hon Michelle Landry MP, Federal Member for Capricornia, and the Hon Fiona Nash, Regional Education Commissioner. Discussions centred on the issues, solutions, and possible opportunities within the education sector in our region and what steps could be implemented to improve education outcomes in regional Australia. This round of consultation comes as Commissioner Nash, Australia's first Regional Education Commissioner, rolls out the Australian Government's response to recommendations from the Naphthine Review and Halsey Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education. I will look to communicate any key milestones as the project develops.

This week, representatives from our Primary Schools and Colleges participated in training with Berry Street to further develop trauma-aware practices within schools and improve overall student wellbeing. We commenced our partnership with Berry Street last year and feedback from participants has been extremely positive. I extend my sincere thanks to Brett Halter (Student Services Manager), Erin Sheldrick (Student Wellbeing Project Officer) and the Student Services team for their work in facilitating this valuable training for our staff.

Also, during this current fortnight, two cohorts comprising thirty-seven staff are participating in the Graduate Certificate in Education – Safeguarding Children and Young People. This course is facilitated in partnership with ACU and fully sponsored by Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton. My sincere thanks to staff for their commitment to ongoing learning and professional development in Student Protection and Safeguarding.

Catholic School Parents Queensland (CSPQ), our peak parent body for our school Parents and Friends Associations, marks their 60-year anniversary this weekend. CSPQ works to assist parent engagement in all our schools and advocates strongly for parents in Catholic schools with State and Federal Governments in areas such as funding, curriculum, health, child safety and road safety. CSPQ Executive Director, Mrs Carmel Nash OAM, has been a great friend to Catholic Education in our diocese and has worked tirelessly over many years for our parent bodies. We extend our congratulations to Carmel and all in CSPQ for reaching this significant milestone and offer our great appreciation for the tremendous support and collegiality we have been fortunate to receive over the last 60 years.

I am very much looking forward to attending the annual St Patrick's Day Races at Callaghan Park in Rockhampton this Saturday. In addition to being a very enjoyable event for the local community, the Race Day is a fund raiser for Catholic Primary Schools in the Rockhampton region. Catholic Education is pleased to be associated with the St Patrick's Race Day as it also celebrates the lives of the thousands of Irish people who travelled across the seas to Australia and who made such a significant contribution to the foundation and development of Catholic education in our Diocese and beyond.

This year one of the races will be named in honour of Terry Molloy, a great friend of Catholic Education, who passed away last year. Terry was a long serving member of the St Patrick's Day Race Club and his valued contribution to the Club and to the wider Rockhampton community earned him the respect and admiration of all who had the privilege to know him. It is very fitting that Terry's daughter, Maria Learmonth, who is a staff member at The Cathedral College, will be in attendance at the Race Day.

Finally, to all involved in our Raceday events this weekend - St Patrick's Day Races in Rockhampton, and our Catholic Schools Raceday in Bundaberg - I extend my heartfelt thanks for your hard work in hosting these significant community events and wish all a very successful day.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 14 March and Tuesday 15 March, Office; Wednesday 16 March, school visits, St Peter's Rockhampton, and St Joseph's Wandal; Thursday 17 March, school visit St Paul's Gracemere; Friday 18 March, Diocesan Education Council Meeting.



Spirit of Catholic Education Awards 2022

Nominations are now open

Information will be available from the Catholic Education Staff Portal and by clicking [here](#)



SYNOD OF BISHOPS: Don't miss out on this opportunity to take part in a global conversation about the Catholic Church. How are we called to walk together as Christians? How can we listen to one another in making important decisions about our faith and our mission? The deadline for online submissions in the local consultation for the international Synod on Synodality is Sunday, March 13. Find out more and share your contribution at:

<https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence: Catholic school communities are encouraged to participate in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Friday 18 March. This year's theme is *Kindness Culture* and schools are being encouraged to share their activities and events on social media using the hashtags #BullyingNoWay #2022NDA #KindnessCulture. To find out more and access school resources please click [here](#).

Mercy College Students have given up their time and used their gifts to assist the poor by making little ornamental houses which are being sold to fundraise for Caritas.



Congratulations to the St Therese's Monto Christmas Fair Committee who recently received an Australia Day Award for the 2021 Monto Event. Pictured below on the left is Sarah Avis who received the award on behalf of the committee.



Various Appeals that you may wish to assist with:

Caritas Ukraine. Donations to the Caritas Australia Ukraine Crisis Appeal can be made by visiting [here](#).

St Vincent de Paul Flood Appeal 2022. Donations to help flood victims in Queensland and New South Wales can be made via this link [Donate](#)

Lismore Catholic Diocese Flood Appeal For more information, please click <https://www.lismorediocese.org/>

PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

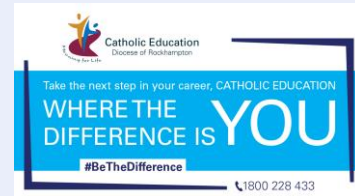
Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Employment opportunities:

Classroom Teacher, St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, Mackay. Applications close 11 March 2022.

Secondary Teachers 2023, various subjects, Catherine McAuley College, Mackay. Applications close 14 March 2022.

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

Science, SOR and Senior English Teachers, Emmaus College, North Rockhampton. Applications close 18 March 2022.

Japanese Teacher and Physical Education Teacher, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton. Applications close 18 March 2022.

Graduate Teacher Scholarship Program (full time), Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton. Applications close 31 March 2022.

We are hiring in Central Queensland **Graduate and Experienced Teachers K – 12.** Recruiting from June 2022 to January 2023.

Relief Teachers (all regions) Visit our website our website and apply today.

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

Catholic Education Office
143 West Street (PO Box 524)
Rockhampton Q 4700
Reception 4994 8000
www.rok.catholic.edu.au