

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope

Francis



The missiles and bombs continue to fall on civilians, the elderly, and children. All this is inhuman, sacrilegious and goes against the sacredness of human life. #Ukraine #Peace

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.

Conor, grandson of Ross (former ADS: Western Region) and Mary Jones.

The Season of Lent



Friday 25 March 2022

Good morning everyone

This week I joined our school Principals via zoom for the annual Principals' Gathering. A highlight of the Gathering was the excellent and insightful presentations from our guest speakers including Erin Sheldrick (Student Wellbeing Project Officer) and Allahna Heywood (Counselling Services Officer) on Trauma Responsive Communication; highly respected teacher educator Bronwyn Ryrie-Jones (QELI) on Formative Assessment; and Dr Teresa Brown and Associate Professor Robyn Horner from Australian Catholic University on Catholic Identity Recontextualisation. I extend my thanks to Michael Kelso (Assistant Director: Schools Rockhampton Region) for his work in coordinating this year's Gathering.

The Mass of Chrism will be celebrated at St Joseph's Cathedral in Rockhampton on Thursday, 31 March at 10:00am. Bishop Michael has invited all in the Diocese to attend in person or via livestream for this solemn occasion in the lead up to Easter to witness the blessing of Oils. The Chrism Mass coincides with the annual gathering of all our Priests in the Diocese, and I ask that you join with me in praying that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and strengthen Bishop Michael and our priests in their ministry.

Our 2022 Bishop's Inservice Day will be held next Friday, 1 April via livestream [link](#). For the first time, all our Catholic Education communities will be gathering simultaneously marking an historic milestone for our Diocese, as we build on the success of our 2021 livestreamed event. The focus of the Day this year is the *Religious Life of the School* exploring the four interrelated components of Religious Identity and Culture, Evangelization and Faith Formation, Prayer and Worship, and Social Action and Justice. A [program](#) for the day is available via the Staff Portal and schools will have received a QR code for registration and information regarding workshops for your respective locations. Please ensure you have responded accordingly as this is important for attendance records and accreditation purposes.

I know a great deal of planning has been undertaken to create an experience that is worthwhile and engaging as you gather in your school communities. I thank all who have been involved in organizing the Bishop's Inservice Day this year especially AD: Mission, Kellie Jenkinson and her FIARE team. I also take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your participation and attention and I am sure you will find the Day of significant benefit to your professional development and faith formation. I am particularly grateful to Bishop Michael, our chief shepherd, for the gift of the Bishop's Inservice Day and for generously giving of his time to be with us and to share his wisdom with our school communities on the Day.

As the war continues in Ukraine, Bishop Michael has invited us all to join today's 12.10pm Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral in Rockhampton, in person or via livestream [link](#). The special call to prayer is in response to Pope Francis's appeal to every community and every one of the faithful to unite on March 25 as he consecrates both Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

This week is Harmony Week celebrating Australia's cultural diversity and advancing inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for everyone. My thanks to all who have conducted Harmony Week activities within their school communities for your great work in building awareness and understanding of this important celebration.

On Wednesday of this week, the Prime Minister, the Hon. Scott Morrison MP and the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP visited Rockhampton. Bishop Michael and I were invited to attend a gathering with Mr Morrison and Mr Joyce. We took the opportunity to brief the PM and Deputy PM on some of the wonderful initiatives happening in Catholic Education in this Diocese and to raise with them some of the challenges we are experiencing as a provider of Catholic Education Services in a regional and rural area.

I was humbled to be invited by the Executive Director of the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC), Ms Jacinta Collins to Chair a National Gathering of Catholic Education Directors that was held yesterday. The Agenda for the Gathering contained issues of significant importance to Catholic Education in our Diocese with Policy matters impacting on Regional, Rural and Remote Catholic Education organizations being a focus of the discussions. Other issues canvassed at the Gathering included strategies to be adopted by NCEC and Catholic Education providers throughout Australia in the lead up to the forthcoming Federal Election.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 28 March, School Visit St Anthony's; Tuesday 29 March, Office; Wednesday 30 March, School Visits St Joseph's Park Avenue and St Mary's North Rockhampton; Thursday 31 March, Mass of Chrism St Joseph's Cathedral and Office; Friday 1 April Bishop's In-service Day.

Bishop's
In-service Day
2022

"Religious Life of the School"

Link for Friday 1 April

<https://youtu.be/00ppgsR8sn4>

St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, Mackay
 Pictured below is the heart that staff and students made for National Day against Bullying and Violence. Students spent the week focusing on how to show kindness to different groups, discussed the topic of bullying and viewed a PowerPoint with information from the National Day Against Bullying Violence Website. They then chose the colour they associated with kindness and wore that colour to school.



St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald
 added **orange** to their uniform to acknowledge the importance of Bullying No Way!



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, North Mackay
 have put together some videos celebrating [Harmony](#) Day, the National [Day](#) against Bullying and Violence and the Feast of St Joseph, their [Patron](#) Saint.

Earth Hour is this Saturday 26 March at 8:30pm.
 For more information and to register click [here](#)

Various Appeals that you may wish to support:

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/>

Pictured below with Nikki Ruten (Science, STEM and Technologies Consultant CEO) are Kelly Smith (Education Officer – Rockhampton Regional Council) and Shane Anstee (Sustainability Officer from CQU) who are looking forward to working with our schools in the **Waste Watch Project** this year. All schools will begin their journey by undertaking a Waste Audit at their school early in Term 2 to decide which type of waste they will target as a school. The Waste Watch Program has the overarching goal of reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.



Schools involved with the Project are St Mary's North Rockhampton, St Joseph's Park Avenue, St Joseph's Wandal, Emmaus College North Rockhampton, St Joseph's Blackall, St Benedict's Yeppoon, St Francis Tannum Sands, St Joseph's North Mackay and St Mary's South Mackay.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg celebrated their feast day with the Year 2 Prayer Assembly and free dress day, raising \$163 for St Vincent de Paul.



Employment opportunities:

Classroom Teacher, Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone. Applications close 27 March 2022.

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

Science, SOR, Senior English Teachers, Emmaus College, North Rockhampton. Applications close 31 March 2022.

Secondary Teachers St Patrick's / Mercy College, Mackay. Applications close 31 March 2022.

Secondary Teachers, Holy Spirit College, Mackay. Applications close 31 March 2022.

Secondary Teachers, Marist College, Emerald. Applications close 1 April 2022.

Counselling Services Coordinator full time, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton. Applications close 3 April 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 and apply today.

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



Information available from the Catholic Education Staff Portal and by clicking [here](#) Nominations [online](#) [nomination form here](#)

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