

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis



Peace in our homes, our families, our schools and communities. Peace in all those places where war never seems to end. Peace for those faces which have known nothing but pain.

Please remember in your prayers recently deceased members of our extended Catholic Education Family.

Ian Mansfield, father of Belinda Whittaker, Finance Secretary, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald.

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

Dougy Craig, grandson of Julie Turner, Kindergarten Equity and Curriculum Coordinator.

Vinod Kumar, teacher The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

Friday 5 August 2022

Good morning everyone,

I very much enjoyed hearing the many reports of Catholic Education Week activities and celebrations as they continued to flow in throughout this past week. I was particularly delighted to learn of the wonderful activities enjoyed by our Kindergarten students in various centres including the creation of a 'Why I like coming to a Catholic Kindergarten' wall at St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten in Bundaberg and creative exploration of the theme Communities of Faith, Hope and Love at St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten, Park Avenue. My sincere thanks to all for organizing, coordinating and participating in the many activities that occurred during Catholic Education Week to make it such a meaningful and joy-filled celebration.

I was very pleased to be able to join the community at Marist College, Emerald last Friday for the Official Blessing and Opening of recent Capital projects as well as to mark the College's 25th Anniversary. My sincere thanks to Mark Green (Principal), staff and students for their warm welcome and wonderful hospitality.

Our priests gathered at The Haven at Emu Park this week for their annual Retreat to spend time in prayer and contemplation. I take this opportunity to extend sincere thanks to all clergy in our Diocese for their pastoral and prayerful support of all in our Catholic Education communities, for their presence in our schools and for being the face of Christ through their ministry in our parishes. We ask our loving God to protect and guide our priests and provide them with spiritual nourishment as they dedicate their lives to their vocation.

The Retreat gathering concludes with a Jubilee Mass being offered this morning at Holy Family Church, North Rockhampton at 10am, for those priests celebrating significant anniversaries of Presbyteral Ordination. I look forward to attending this very special Eucharistic celebration and joining with representatives from our Rockhampton Region schools, our Catholic Education Office, other members of the parish and wider diocesan community. Priests celebrating special anniversaries include Fr Frank Gilbert (65 years), Emeritus Bishop Brian Heenan (60 years), Fr Kevin Johnson (60 years), Fr Pat Mooney (50 years), Fr John Hogan (40 years), Fr Alex Varghese (30 years), Fr Shaiju Lookose (15 years), Fr Sijo George (15 years) and Fr Jayanthi Maddala (10 years). We offer our congratulations and thanks for their service and wonderful example.

Congratulations to Taryn Gollshewsky (Physical Education teacher at St Patrick's Bundaberg) on a magnificent effort to finish fourth in the Commonwealth Games Discus Final. Taryn narrowly missed a Bronze medal but being the fourth best Discus competitor in the Commonwealth is a wonderful achievement. Your Catholic Education family is very proud of your efforts Taryn. Congratulations to all the past students of our Schools who competed with distinction at the Commonwealth Games.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 8 August to Thursday 11 August, Office; Friday 12 August, Queensland Directors' Forum, Brisbane

Working Well—Employee Assistance Program

This confidential service is available to all staff and their immediate family members through CatholicCareCQ on 1800142422 or www.working-well.org.au. Employees have access to the Google Wellbeing Site ([link](#)) on the CEDR portal. This site has information and resources for all staff to support their mental health and well-being. It includes ideas to monitor and manage stress, support self-care and access additional services.

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Queensland Training AWARDS

Congratulations to staff and students named as regional winners in the **2022 Queensland Training Awards**. Our winners included Riley Donovan (Marist College, Emerald) Vocational Student of the Year; Martine David (The Cathedral College, Rockhampton) School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year; Gregory Pullen (Marist College, Emerald) VET Teacher or Trainer of the Year. Riley, Martine and Greg now progress to the State Award rounds with Queensland winners announced on 17 September at a State Gala Dinner in Brisbane.

Didgeridoo lessons were part of NAIDOC Day celebrations during Catholic Education Week for students at **St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gracemere** (pictured above). The day began with a meaningful assembly and Welcome to Country by Darumbal woman, Tori Mann, followed by a range of engaging activities from traditional face-painting and dancing, to sharing of cultural histories, games and storytelling. Thank you to St Paul's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and invited guests for presenting these wonderful experiences for the school community.

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IMPORTANT DATES

**Feast of Mary MacKillop
Monday 8 August**

**Feast of the Assumption
Monday 15 August
Holy Day of Obligation**

**Curriculum Gathering
Wednesday 10 August -
Friday 12 August
Rockhampton**



Pictured left: **Taryn Gollshewsky** (PE teacher, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg) competes in the Women's Discus Final at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England this week. Taryn finished fourth narrowly missing a podium finish by only 14 centimetres.

School community members of **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Springsure**, were grateful recipients of a CRT Schools Grant through Springsure Rural. The grant was used to purchase a beautiful outdoor table for Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 students to engage in their learning activities. Pictured below: (far left) Selena Cutting (Principal OLSH) and students give the picnic table a test run with CRT Springsure Store Manager, Krystie Smith (far right).



Two Year 5 and 6 teams from **St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald**, competed in the Regional Readers Cup held in Clermont recently. The Rebel Readers (pictured above) took out first place and Brigid's Bookworms placed third in a very close event. The Rebel Readers progress to the State Readers Cup to be held in Brisbane in September. Congratulations to all students on their participation and success.



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