

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis



To give hope to others: sometimes it is simply enough to be kind; to put aside your own worries and priorities to show interest; give the gift of a smile; speak an encouraging word; create a space for listening amid so much indifference.

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

Justin Nelson, Year 6 student, St Francis Catholic Primary School, Tannum Sands.

Vinod Kumar, teacher The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

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

Make Africa Food Crisis Hunger History

Caritas Australia is taking its Make Hunger History campaign to schools and parishes across Australia to raise funds for its Africa Food Crisis Appeal. Schools can download Powerpoints, videos etc. to spread the word. Download resources for primary and secondary via this [link](#). Donations can be made at caritas.org.au/food-crisis/

Friday 12 August 2022

Good morning everyone

I was delighted to spend some time at the Curriculum Gathering this week which saw curriculum leaders from across our Diocese coming together face-to-face for the first time since 2019. The programme included presenters such as Dan Haesler (Sydney-based), who focused on the skills of coaching, and Bronwyn Ryrie-Jones (Melbourne-based) who focused on Responsive Instruction. Participants also had the opportunity to engage with Kathryn Tully and Joanne Gordon from QCAA, and Sharon Foster from ACARA, to learn more about the underpinnings and directions of the revised Version 9 of the Australian Curriculum. It was wonderful for our curriculum leaders to spend time in conversation with each other, as well as with our guest presenters. My sincere thanks to Carmel Kriz (Assistant Director: Teaching and Learning) and her team for the significant work in coordinating and presenting this gathering for our curriculum leaders.

I extend my deep thanks to all those who assisted with collating all the pieces of information and documentation required for this year's Census, in particular staff members here at the Catholic Education Office. The Census provides the community and the Australian Government with information about schools and students in Australia and highlights some of the needs of each school's students. Importantly, the Government uses the Census data to calculate funding and to create informed and tailored policies for Australian Schools. Census Day was Friday, 5 August, and my thanks to all involved in ensuring that the data collected was accurate and provided in a timely way.

I was delighted to see a number of our principals recognised at the recent Catholic Schools Secondary Principals Australia (CaSPA) National Awards announced during the CaSPA conference in Canberra recently. Congratulations, firstly to Jim Ford (Principal Catherine McAuley College, Mackay) who was one of five Principals from across Australia nominated for a CaSPA Excellence in Leadership Award and, in addition, received a Meritorious Service Award for 15 Years of Service. Also receiving Meritorious Awards for Years of Service were Eamon Hannan (Principal Emmaus College, Rockhampton) for 15 years and Dan McMahon (Principal Shalom College, Bundaberg) for 30 years. Congratulations Jim, Eamon and Dan.

Monday, 15 August, is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics. This is just one of two Feast Days (the other being Christmas Day) observed by Catholics in Australia as Holy Days of Obligation and is evidence of the Catholic reverence accorded Mary. On Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation Catholics attend Mass. The Assumption signals the end of Mary's earthly life and according to our faith was welcomed, body and soul, into heavenly glory, as decreed by Pope Pius XII in 1950. As we celebrate the Assumption of Mary into Heaven, we pray for an end to war and conflict in our world and we pray that those who are sick at this time will experience God's healing.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 15 August, Office; Tuesday 16 August, Brisbane QCEC Commission Meeting, Workplace Relations Committee and ACU Chapter; Wednesday 17 August to Friday 19 August, Office.



Pictured from left the Federal Treasurer Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP with Leesa and Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm, Assistant Minister for Education with Leesa at the Central Queensland Jobs and Skills Forum at CQUniversity.

Australian Olympic Change-Maker. Nominations for the Australian Olympic Change-Maker are now open. This program recognises and rewards students who are living the Olympic spirit through leadership and powering positive change in their communities. Nominations are open to all Australian secondary schools and schools can nominate up to two students per school from Years 10-12 who are creating positive change. Each nominee will receive an invitation to attend a virtual Olympic Forum, certificate of recognition, and the opportunity to be selected by a panel of Olympians to attend the National Olympic Change-Maker Summit. To find out more click [here](#). Nominations close Friday 26 August 2022.



National Child Protection Week runs from **4-10 September 2022**. National Child Protection Week will continue to embrace the overarching message that **'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go'**. This year we will be shining a light on children growing up safe and supported. You can read more about this year's theme [here](#).

The Cathedral College VINNIES Cook-Up: Making someone else's life better was the motivation behind The Cathedral College's annual Vinnies Cook-Up. 65 students and staff prepared over 200 meals for struggling families and raised over \$500 to contribute to the school's \$1500 donation to St Vinnies.



Year 1 students at **St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston**, recently celebrated 100 days of school. A fantastic day was had by all. This included games, puzzles, art and craft, story writing, dancing and of course a big party with lots of party food.



Last week **Year 2 students from Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone** excitedly headed off on an excursion to the Calliope Historical Village. They looked through several different buildings – Larsen's Cottage, an old schoolhouse, the woolshed with a 1920's fire engine (pictured below) and a prison, to name a few.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcardine held their Cooking Club catch up this week with Miss Madeline. Muffins were on the agenda.



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Queensland Road Safety Week

ROAD SAFETY FIRST

Queensland Road Safety Week 22-26 August 2022

Schools are encouraged to start planning for QLD Road Safety Week (22-26 August 2022), an annual event to encourage and build community support for road safety. This year's theme is **'Road safety starts with me'**. We are asking staff, parents and students to wear yellow one day during the week in their support for road safety. A range of activities and resources are available for schools from the Department of Transport and Main Roads [StreetSmarts website](#).