

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

**Friday 9 September 2022**

Good morning everyone

This week we marked National Child Protection Week (NCPW). The safety and wellbeing of the children in our care is paramount for all Catholic kindergartens, primary and secondary schools operated by Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton. I extend my sincere thanks to each of you for all that you do to ensure the safety of our students as we reflect on the NCPW overarching message that: 'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go', and in particular, this year, the emphasis on highlighting that **children grow up safe and supported**.

You would have received a [letter](#) from me early this week via email reflecting on creating safe environments for our students and the need to deeply listen to the voice of each young person in our care. I would ask that you ensure you take the time to read this important communication.

This week I attended the three-day National Catholic Education Conference in Melbourne where I had the opportunity to hear from international and national church and sector presenters across a broad range of issues shaping Catholic Education in Australia within the context of the theme, *The Future is Listening*. I was also fortunate to co-present a session for Conference participants detailing the National Regional and Remote Catholic Education Workforce Strategy, together with fellow Catholic Education Directors Debra Sayce (Western Australia), Greg O'Mullane (Northern Territory), Nichii Mardon (Diocese of Port Pirie, South Australia) and Chris Smyth (Catholic Schools Office, Armidale, NSW).

Today, I am in Brisbane attending the Queensland University of Technology Trauma-Aware Education Research Forum to hear a series of keynote addresses from recognized leaders in this field of research. We have seen the great benefits of using a trauma informed approach to support students with complex and unmet learning needs and I extend my thanks to Brett Halter (Student Services Manager), Erin Sheldrick (Project Officer – Student Wellbeing) and Allahna Heywood (Acting Counselling Services Coordinator) for their continued work in building awareness, knowledge, and skills in Trauma-Aware practice within our schools and colleges.

I extend our deepest sympathies to the Sisters of Mercy on the recent passing of Sr Anne-Marie Kinnane. Sr Anne-Marie lived an extraordinary life of service to others and was a pioneer in social work in Rockhampton. Along with Fr Frank Gilbert, Sr Anne-Marie was the co-founder in 1974 of the Christian Family Centre which became CentacareCQ and which we know today as Catholic Care. Over the past almost 50 years, Catholic Care has helped thousands of Central Queenslanders improve their lives in a variety of ways and our community owes heartfelt thanks to Sr Anne-Marie and Fr Frank for their vision in establishing this Catholic Ministry of care and compassion. The funeral service for Sr Anne-Marie was held yesterday at the Range Chapel. I know you will join with me in keeping in thought and prayer Sr Anne-Marie's family, friends, and the sisters at this sad time. May Sr Anne-Marie Rest in Peace with the God she served so well in her earthly life.

Finally, I wish all our valued staff a great last week of Term 3. I congratulate you and thank you for all that you do every day for our Catholic Education students, families, and communities.

God bless,

*Leesa*

**Where's Leesa:** Monday 12 September, Office; Tuesday 13 September, school visit St Francis Tannum Sands, Wednesday 14 to Friday 16 September, Office.

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

**Sr Anne-Marie Kinnane rsm**, Rockhampton, wonderful friend, and supporter of Catholic Education.

**Sr Josephine Curran rsm**, Brisbane (formerly Sr M Agatha).

**John Bush**, father of Carmel Dawson, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton.

**Therese Suokallio**, former parent, volunteer and wonderful supporter of Holy Spirit College, Mackay.

**Jill Stanke**, mother of Narelle Parle, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

**Brian Dunn**, husband of Leanne and former staff member of Mercy College, Mackay.

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

**Henir Labossiere**, Canada, father of Jocelyne Benoit, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton.

**Tricia Duncan**, wife of Greg Duncan, Holy Spirit College, Mackay.

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

**Vinod Kumar**, teacher The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

Congratulations to **St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald** students, pictured below: Emily, Georgina, Audrey and Addison. They placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the State at the Queensland Reader's Cup Finals in Brisbane.



Students from **St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Sarina** recently met Her Excellency The Hon Dr Jeannette Young, Governor of Queensland at a function in Mackay. Pictured below students from St Anne's with the Governor and Principal John Ballinger-Oches.



### *Congratulations to:*

**Mark Francey** on his appointment as Assistant Principal: Curriculum, St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald commencing in 2023.

**Michelle Jensen** on her appointment as Consultant: Inclusive Curriculum commencing 2023.

**Karla Falzon** on her appointment as Assistant Principal: Curriculum, MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay commencing 2023.

**St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone** celebrated Teacher Aide Appreciation Week, extending thanks and gratitude to their dedicated team of Teacher Aides.



Congratulations to students from **Mercy College, Mackay** pictured below: who took out first place at the Queensland final of the University of Newcastle, Science and Engineering Challenge held at the Gold Coast. Mercy College secured the win against eight other regional finalist teams from around the state.



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Reflection from  
Pope Francis



Let us pray to Blessed John Paul I asking him to obtain for us the smile of the soul. Using his words let us ask for what he himself used to request: "Lord take me as I am with my defects, with my shortcomings, and help me become what you desire me to be."

World  
Teachers'  
Day QLD  
2022

Friday 28th October 2022

Day for Daniel Friday 28  
October 2022

Has your school registered  
for the day? The theme this  
year is *brave conversations*,  
and the day will focus on  
challenges and choices about  
online safety and grooming.  
To register click [here](#)

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