

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

**Friday 14 October 2022**

Good morning everyone

This week, I joined our Leadership Team, Student Protection contacts, School Counsellors, Principals and other key staff for our Student Protection gathering, delivered via Zoom. The comprehensive training by skilled presenters covered legal issues for schools and information on intake processes and case assessments at the Department of Child Safety and Youth and Women. The gathering also featured a detailed discussion on what it means to be resilient in 2022 including ways to build resilience as individuals and as school communities. My thanks to Brett Halter (Student Services Manager) and the Student Services team for their work in coordinating the gathering. I commend all who work so hard to protect and care for the children in our kindergartens, primary schools, and colleges.

Recently we received the news that after some 25 years, Sr Margaret (Marg) Dixon was retiring from her role at The Cathedral College (TCC). Sr Marg's retirement marks the end of an era, as there has always been a Sister of Mercy on staff since the College opened in 1991 – a tangible link to the Range College (founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1895), which came together with the Christian Brothers College to form TCC.

In 1998, Sr Marg came to the College in the newly established role, of what we know today, as Assistant Principal: Mission. I had the great pleasure of working alongside Sr Marg during my time as TCC Principal. Before commencing at TCC, Sr Marg had served as a teacher and in senior leadership roles, including Principal, at a number of our Catholic Primary schools. As a person of great faith, deeply committed to the Mercy charism and to the education of young people, Sr Marg has made a very significant contribution to Catholic Education through her years of service and dedication.

I had the good fortune to attend Mass yesterday at St Joseph's Cathedral where the TCC community came together to give prayerful thanks for all that Sr Marg has given to the life of the College over the past 25 years. Though her daily presence at TCC will be sadly missed, we thank Sr Marg for the lovely, caring person that she is and for all that she has given so selflessly to thousands of staff, students and their families in our Catholic schools. Marg, we wish you all of God's many blessings today, tomorrow and into the future.

Today, I have the great pleasure of joining with Bishop Michael to officiate at the Blessing and Opening of completed capital works at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Park Avenue. The redevelopment is a significant milestone in the life of the school resulting in a remarkable sitewide transformation. My thanks to Bernard Fitzgerald (Principal), staff, students, and families for extending such a warm welcome to all attending this special celebration. Thanks also to all those involved in the planning and construction of these wonderful new facilities that have already proven to be well-utilized and a wonderful addition to the vibrant and dynamic teaching and learning that happens every day at St Joseph's.

The College Academic Awards Ceremonies for 2022 commenced this week. I was pleased to be able to attend the Emmaus College Awards Evening on Wednesday night and I am looking forward to attending the Awards Evening at The Cathedral College tonight. Regrettably, I am unable to attend the Awards events at all of our Colleges this year, but I do offer my sincere best wishes and congratulations to all award recipients on their academic success. Most importantly, I thank the dedicated staff who have helped students grow in faith and knowledge and nurtured in them a lifelong love of learning.

Finally, CEDR welcomed this week three new staff members who commenced in senior roles: (pictured below with Leesa from left) Jessica Gorman (Talent Acquisition Coordinator), Simon Graham (Workplace Health and Safety Manager) and Charlotte Simmons (Counselling Services Coordinator). We wish them every success in their new roles.

God bless,

*Leesa*



**Please remember in your prayers those members of our extended Catholic Education Family who have recently passed away.**

**Peter Catlin**, grandfather of Cooper Diplock, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton.

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

**Jacob**, Year 3 St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald.

**Stephen Smith**, husband of Nola, Emmaus College, North Rockhampton.

**Where's Leesa:** Monday 17 October, Office; Tuesday 18 October, St Patrick's College, Mackay Valedictory Evening; Wednesday 19 October, Office; Thursday 20 October, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton Boarders' Farewell; Friday 21 October, The Cathedral College Year 12 Farewell Mass and Office.

**Congratulations to Lachlan (pictured below) from St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald** who was one of 25 students across Queensland to be awarded the **2022 NAIDOC Medal of Excellence**, after entering the NAIDOC Week competition this year.



**St Francis Catholic Primary School, Tannum Sands, Vacation Care students (pictured below)** attended an afternoon at Boyne Island Library to listen to author Chris Collin. The afternoon consisted of audience participation and interaction.



**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Biloela** held its 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Ball last Friday at the Civic Centre. Students made a grand entrance as all year groups from Kindy to Year 6 were welcomed (watch [here](#)).

The theme this year was "A whole new world".

**Pictured below at a special farewell dinner held in Bundaberg** last week are (from left): Fr Peter Tonti (Parish Priest), Stephen Dale (AD: Schools - Southern Region), retiring St Patrick's Catholic Primary School Principal, Mark Fox and Leesa. Fr Peter Tonti, Stephen Dale, retiring Shalom College AP: Mission, Mary Taylor and Leesa.



**St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg** Year 6 students are currently visiting Brisbane, checking out the sights including the Queensland Museum and Suncorp Stadium.



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**Congratulations to:**

**Jorden Muscat, St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston** and Brad Alexopoulos on their recent marriage.

**Erika Small, St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton** and Ben Milne on their recent marriage.

**Reflection from Pope Francis**



Facing the danger of nuclear war, let us learn from history. Even 60 years ago there were huge tensions, but the way of peace was chosen. As the Bible says, "Ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is and walk in it." Jeremiah 6:16