

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

**Friday 16 September 2022**

Good morning everyone

The passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has touched the hearts of so many. A woman of integrity, strong faith, and an unflinching dedication to duty, she reigned with kindness, gentleness, and dignity. At her coronation in 1953 aged 25, she pledged a life of service to the Commonwealth and all within, and for the ensuing 70 years devoted herself entirely to fulfilling her promise. Throughout her reign she was steadfast and sure in difficult times and equally jubilant and ready to celebrate in life's joys and triumphs. Her devotion to her God was well known, perhaps most clearly evident to the world in her annual Christmas message, which, as Archbishop Timothy Costelloe acknowledged in his recent statement, *'invariably focused on Jesus Christ as a model of humble and generous service. It was a model she strived to emulate throughout her long life'*. Her legacy of dutiful leadership, humility and service will undoubtedly remain an inspiration for generations. We pray that now her work is done, she may rest in peace.

One of the challenges of working with wonderful people is the sadness we experience when they are called in new and different directions. Today, we bid farewell to Brad Jarro, our Indigenous Education Coordinator, who has accepted the position of Leader of the Ngutana-Lui Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Studies Centre with Brisbane Catholic Education. I take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to Brad for his significant contribution and people focused leadership which has seen tremendous growth and development of Indigenous Education across the Diocese. Through his explanations, stories, examples and resources, Brad has helped all of us grow in our knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, spiritualities and ways of knowing, being and doing. We wish Brad every blessing as he moves closer to family and we know that he will make a great contribution to Brisbane Catholic Education in his new role.

Earlier this week, I was delighted to spend time with staff and students during my visit to St Francis Catholic Primary School, Tannum Sands. I extend my sincere thanks to Meredith Grove (Acting Principal) and the school community for their hospitality and warm welcome. It was wonderful to see this vibrant, caring community living out the Gospel message and engaged in great teaching and learning.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their dedication and commitment during Term 3. I wish everyone a safe and relaxing break over the student vacation period and I look forward to working with you in our final term of 2022.

God bless,

*Leesa*

Pictured below: Brad Jarro with Bishop Michael.



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

**Clare Harmsworth**, former long serving teacher, of Marian / St Stanislaus's College (now Emmaus), North Rockhampton.

**Margaret Yardley**, mother of Lynn Wainwright, Holy Spirit College, Mackay.

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

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

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



"I willingly join all who mourn her loss in praying for the late Queen's eternal rest, and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the Nation and the Commonwealth."  
Pope Francis.

Students from **St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston** attended the recent Youth Parliament in Mackay. Pictured below from left with the students are, teacher Emma Anderson, Principal, Nathaniel Rice, Speaker of the House and State Member for Mulgrave, Curtis Pitt MP and Member for Mirani, Stephen Andrew MP.



Year 4 students at **Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach** led the school in celebrating the Feast of the Birth of Mary last Friday.



**Year 11 and 10 ACTS (A Chance to Serve) Camps** were held recently at the Capricorn Coast for students from our colleges. These camps are held annually for students in year 11 and 10 wishing to explore leadership and what that means in light of the Gospel, fostering self-development and leadership growth for all the participants.



**Congratulations to:**

**Damian Coles** on his appointment as Assistant Principal: Mission, Marist College, Emerald commencing in 2023.

**Amanda McDonald**, on her appointment as Assistant Principal: Administration, Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay commencing in 2023.

**Melissa Zahnleiter**, on her appointment as Assistant Principal: Religious Education, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Biloela commencing in 2023.

**Emma Robinson** on her appointment as Acting Assistant Principal: Curriculum, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg for 2023.

**Nikki Rutten**, St Therese's Catholic Primary School, Monto on the safe arrival of her first Grandchild, Lunar.

**Christine Penny**, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg, and husband Michael on the safe arrival of Alexander.

Congratulations to **Mackillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay**, who won the Dance Fever Challenge Spirit Award for 2022 and the overall Show Dance Award.



Year 8 Visual Art students at **Emmaus College, North Rockhampton**, have been learning about how First Nations artists tell stories in their artworks, and in response, they have designed and carved their own lino print artworks that communicate their own story.



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**Reflection from Pope Francis**



God works through unplanned events, as well as through setbacks. Let us ask the Lord to send us His Spirit so that He might help us to discern and recognise His presence.

**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](#)