

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

**Friday 4 November 2022**

Good morning everyone

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcaldine, celebrated their 125 Year Anniversary in style last weekend commencing with Mass on Friday night celebrated by Bishop Michael, followed by the Meet and Greet Dinner at the Town Hall. A tribute to the Sisters of Mercy who established St Joseph's in 1896 was a highlight of the evening. The presence of Sr Denise Hinton (representing Sr Anne Keim - Northern Community Leader), Sr Rita Connor (30 years in Barcaldine), and Sr Justina Bedford (last Religious Principal at Barcaldine) provided a wonderful connection to the Sisters of Mercy and their incredible contribution to St Joseph's and the community of Barcaldine. My sincere thanks to Trent Shillington (Principal) and the St Joseph's community for their hard work in planning and presenting such a meaningful and enjoyable celebration for all who attended.

I joined our Primary and Secondary Principals for their respective meetings during the week to review the year and discuss preparations and projects for 2023. My thanks to all our Principals for their faith-filled leadership of our school communities and for all they do in support of their staff, students, and families.

This week I filmed my annual Christmas Message. I was delighted to be joined by students from St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton, who assisted in bringing the video to life. Their patience, enthusiasm and perseverance were very much appreciated. My thanks to Peter Smith (Principal) and Michelle Paterson (APRE) for their warm welcome and great work in preparing students. I look forward to sharing the message with you in the final week of term.

Many of you in our Catholic Education family would know John Kennedy, who currently serves as Administration and Governance Coordinator at the Catholic Education Office. After much prayerful discernment, John has decided that the end of 2022 is the right time for him to retire from his role with Catholic Education after over 43 years of exemplary service.

As a teacher, John spent many years at St Joseph's CBC, Rockhampton in addition to being a foundation staff member at The Cathedral College. John has worked at the Catholic Education Office since 2006 where he has enjoyed the respect and admiration of his colleagues both in the Office and in the school communities he served. John treats all whom he encounters with care and courtesy and in both his personal and professional life, he very much embraces and lives out the values and ethos that underpins all we are called to do in the Ministry of Catholic Education.

On behalf of Catholic Education, I thank John for his many years of loyal, dedicated and faith-filled service and I wish John and Ingrid every one of God's many blessings into the future.

God bless,

*Leesa*

Where's Leesa: Monday 7 November, ECSI Meeting, Brisbane, Education Planning and Finance Meeting; Tuesday 8 November to Thursday 10 November, Office; Friday 11 November DEC Budget Meeting.

Pictured below: Trent Shillington (Principal) and Bishop Michael McCarthy at the 125 Year Celebration at St Joseph's Barcaldine, last weekend.



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

**Valsamma Jacob, India,** sister of Fr Shaiju Lookose CMI, Central Western Region.

**Peter Langdon,** brother of Cathy Quinn, past Principal, Mercy College, Mackay, Des Langdon, St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone, Bill Langdon, former teacher St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton and brother-in-law Helen Langdon, St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon.

## Reflection from Pope Francis

The life of Jesus and the saints tell us that the seed of peace, in order to grow and bear fruit, must first die. Peace is not achieved by conquering or defeating someone; it is never violent; it is never armed.

Since 2017, Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) and the Australian Catholic University (ACU) have partnered to deliver the **Graduate Certificate in Education - Safeguarding Children and Young People**. The four Units involved in the two-year degree are: Working with Children and Young People: Ethics, Values and Practices; The Theology of Childhood: Close to the Mystery of God; Safeguarding Childhood: Perspectives from Law and Welfare; and Safeguarding Children: Implications for Professional Practices in Institutional Settings. The course is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and understanding of contemporary issues and responses to safeguarding children and young people through the exploration of conditions and factors that facilitate or impede child-safe environments.

This year, the following CEDR staff have completed the course: **Rockhampton Region;** The Cathedral College: Monil Beotra, Tim Murphy (Audit); Catholic Education Office: Amanda Houston, Erin Sheldrick (Mackay Office), Tim Collins (Audit); St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Park Avenue: Kirsty McLeod; Emmaus College: Andrew Pratt, Yacob Kial, Narelle Sommerfeld, Andreas Theoharous. **Southern Region;** St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone: Marcelle Bowden. **Western Region;** St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald: Chris Ferguson; St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald: Tegan Green. **Northern Region;** MacKillop Catholic Primary School: Kristy Cundell, Holy Spirit College: Jenna Eddy, Karen Morley, St Brendan's Catholic Primary School: Shaye Gaviglio, Mercy College: Rachel Kelly.

**St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone** recently had a full week of activities for Socktober including, Trash and Treasure Stall, 10 cent Challenge, Soccer Shootout and Crazy Sock Day.



**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcardine, 125 Year Celebration**



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- Formation Identity and Religious Education (FIARE) Consultant, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton.

For further information and other employment opportunities please click [here](#)

**2023 Date Claimer**

**Bishop's Inservice Day**  
2023  
Friday 17 February  
Evangelisation & Faith Formation



**REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
*Left We Forget*

**Remembrance Day**  
**Friday, 11 November**

At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month – we will remember them. The Armistice, an agreement to end the fighting of World War I as a prelude to peace negotiations, began at 11:00am on 11 November, 1918.