

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Friday 10 February 2023

Good morning everyone

On Monday I was pleased to welcome Dr Shannon O’Gorman (Education Officer – Queensland Catholic Education Commission) to present and facilitate a workshop on *School Refusal - A Systemic, Trauma Informed Response*. Dr O’Gorman worked with staff from various CEDR teams for the day. The session confirmed that school refusal is “multifaceted, complex, and difficult to treat” and Dr O’Gorman provided the group with a framework for planning, tracking, and reviewing school refusal that could be utilised in school settings. My thanks to Stephen Dale (Assistant Director: Schools - Southern Region) for his leadership in arranging this important learning opportunity.

Yesterday I joined the St Patrick’s College community in Mackay on the joyous occasion of their Opening School Year Mass. It was an historic and uplifting celebration giving praise and thanks to our God as two wonderful college communities – Mercy College and St Patrick’s College – come together under the one banner, St Patrick’s College. I take this opportunity to acknowledge and pay tribute to the many staff and families who have contributed in countless ways over many years to these strong and vibrant places of teaching and learning. It is on the strength of these foundations that Catholic Education moves securely and confidently into this new phase of ministry serving the Mackay community. There was a great sense of energy and anticipation at the gathering, and I extend my thanks to all involved in the planning and preparation of this wonderful celebration.

I was delighted to assist Fr Peter Tonti in presenting Marg Hallinan a special long service award following 9.30am Mass at St Joseph’s Cathedral on Sunday, recognising a remarkable 50 years serving as a Catechist. Sincere congratulations to Marg in appreciation of her inspirational Catechetical work witnessing to Christ’s message of love and mercy and sharing the Good News to all God’s children.

Sincere thanks to Deb Mallett (Acting Principal), staff and students at St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, North Mackay for their wonderful hospitality and welcome yesterday. Today I am very much looking forward to visiting John Ballinger-Oches (Principal), staff and students at St Anne’s Catholic Primary School, Sarina and Wesley Rose (Principal), staff and students at St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, South Mackay catching up on all the wonderful news and great things happening in their school communities.

The Federation of Catholic Bishops’ Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO) Assembly in Suva, Fiji is entering its final days of deliberations. As you might be aware, Bishop Michael has joined counterparts from participating Bishops Conferences for prayer and discernment on wide ranging issues facing the global Church. Detailed information on the aim and goals of the Assembly, the program and contributing documentation is available [here](#) on the FCBCO website. Please pray for all involved in these impactful gatherings ahead of the First Session of the 16th General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October.

God bless,

Leesa

Pictured below the **St Patrick’s College Mackay** Leadership Team with Michael McCusker, far left and Leesa far right.



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

Alwyn Rice, grandfather of Nathaniel Rice, Principal St John’s Catholic Primary School, Walkerston.

Robert Edwards, father of Doug Edwards, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

Reflection from Pope Francis

Let us set out each day praying for one another, working together as witnesses of peace. In all things let us love one another from the heart.

Congratulations to:

Eliza Rehbein, **St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg**, and husband Mitch on the safe arrival of Percy John.



A New era for St Patrick’s College, Mackay [Read](#)

Where’s Leesa: Monday 13 February, Office; Tuesday 14 February, QCEC Meeting Brisbane; Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 February, Office; Friday 17 February, Bishop’s Inservice Day.

Congratulations to Margaret Hallinan on her 50 years service as a Catechist. Pictured below from left; Leesa, Margaret, Fr John Hogan, Fr Peter Tonti following a presentation to Margaret at St Joseph's Cathedral last Sunday.



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg welcomed Fr Don White to the school recently to lead their liturgy as Year 6 leaders pledged their commitment to leading the school.



Pictured below from left; Peter Smith, Principal St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton, Student Leaders and Leesa during a recent school visit.



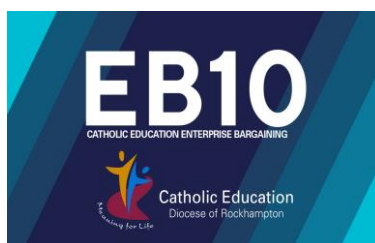
Palms Australia

Palms Australia is seeking qualified teachers to work overseas for one or two years as professional mentors alongside a local teacher. For more information call 02 9560 5333 or click [here](#)

Pictured below **Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone** celebrated their Opening Year School Mass recently, with Parish Priest Fr Andrew Chase. Year 6 leaders were also presented with their badges.



Date Claimer
Bundaberg Catholic Schools' Race Day,
Saturday 11 March



Staff Update 8 February 2023.
Please click [here](#) to read the update.

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DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

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Consultant Inclusive Curriculum
Rockhampton. Applications close 5.00pm Friday 24 February.

Consultant Formation Identity and Religious Education (FIARE)
Applications close 5.00pm Monday 27 February.

Student Wellbeing Coordinator
Catholic Education Office. Applications close 5.00pm Sunday 5 March.

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

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

Our 2023 Bishop's In-service Day will be held next Friday, 17 February and will focus on Evangelization and Faith Formation. The format will be as per the past couple of years with the morning session which will be livestreamed to all schools and then staff being able to choose two workshops to attend for the afternoon session at their school. A QR Code will be available on the day to register attendance.

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