

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton



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

**Clare Harris**, mother of Jennie Harris, former Principal, St Mary's North Rockhampton.

**Veronica Borg**, mother of Veronica Muscat, St Patrick's College Mackay and Grandmother of Jordan Muscat St John's Walkerston.

**Bev Waddington**, sister of Sr Dense Hinton rsm.

**Ian Pitcher**, father of Sarah Latham, St Mary's North Rockhampton.

**Glenis Fleury**, mother of Amanda Evans, Sacred Heart Yeppoon.

**Rachel Price**, mother of Meredith Farquhar Holy Spirit College Mackay.

**Stevan Molnar**, father of Alex Molnar Holy Spirit College Mackay.

**Diane Ayton**, mother of Matthew McGrath Holy Spirit College Mackay.

**Aloysious Ora**, Mother of Jaunita McGrath Holy Spirit College Mackay.

## Reflection from Pope Francis

Brothers and sisters, let us not forget the battered people of Ukraine who are suffering so much. Let us stay close to them with our thoughts, with our help and with our prayers.

**Wednesday 25 January 2023**

Good morning everyone

Welcome to the new school year and to the first *Message Stick* for 2023. I hope you enjoyed a wonderful break and some precious time with family and friends.

Whilst we remain very mindful of COVID-safe practices, I am most grateful that Queensland Health has declared our State has now moved to *green* status. Principals would have received a Circular containing recommendations for school communities under this updated status and inviting them to share this information with their communities. My thanks to Mark Effenev (AD: Administration) for his work in keeping abreast of changes in this area and subsequent impacts on daily operations in schools.

I am aware that during the Christmas/New Year period several families experienced loss and sadness. Please be assured of my continuing thoughts and prayers for all whose lives have been touched by sorrow. My thoughts and prayers are also very much with those experiencing ill health at this time.

Sincere thanks to everyone involved in the planning and preparation of the Opening School Year masses held in various regions last week. St Joseph's Cathedral was filled to its capacity for the Rockhampton Region Opening School Year Mass. As I sat there enjoying the prayerful and life-giving celebration, I was very much reminded of what a great blessing it is for us to be able to gather in person again and to publicly affirm our commitment to providing a quality, faith-based education for students entrusted to our care. My sincere thanks to Bishop Michael for presiding at the Mass and the priests who concelebrated with the Bishop; Kellie Jenkinson (AD: Mission), the FIARE Team and to all who assisted in many and varied ways to make the Mass a special celebration. It was also great to have people participate in the Mass via the livestream. I thank all who planned and organized Masses across our Diocese to mark the start of the 2023 School Year.

2023 is a new era for St Patrick's College Mackay, following the coming together of St Patrick's and Mercy Colleges as the one Year 7-12 Secondary School under the name of St Patrick's College. The College will operate on dual campuses with the former Mercy College site in Penn Street, South Mackay renamed *Mercy Campus* catering for Years 7-10. Senior students in Years 11-12 will continue at the historic Gregory Street campus. I am aware of the significant work undertaken for this transition to take place and I congratulate all involved. We extend our prayers and best wishes to Janelle Agius (College Principal), staff, students and families as St Patrick's College commences this new chapter of Catholic secondary education serving the South Mackay community.

A special welcome to all who are joining our Catholic Education community for the first time or are moving into new roles. I hope and pray you will find personal and professional fulfillment in your ministry. I offer my very best wishes to newly appointed Principal of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg, Kim O'Shea-Hard. With her many years of leadership experience in our Catholic schools, I know Kim will provide wonderful faith-filled and people focused leadership for the St Patrick's school community.

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate all recipients of Long Service Awards in our various regions and thank each of you most sincerely for your deeply appreciated and highly valued service over many years to the Ministry of Catholic Education.

In closing, I wish all in our Catholic education family every one of God's many Blessings for 2023. Thank you for your dedication and commitment and I look forward to working with you to help make a difference in the lives of those we are privileged to serve.

God bless,

Leesa

**Where's Leesa:** Monday 30 January, Office; Tuesday 31 January, Opening School Year Mass Emmaus College North Rockhampton; Wednesday 1 February and Thursday 2 February, Office; Friday 3 February, Opening School Year Mass The Cathedral College, Rockhampton, School visit St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton.



Some photos below from the **Opening School Year Mass, St Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton.**



**Career Assistance Program (CAP) Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton** is proud to welcome our Career Assistance Program participants to our schools across Central Queensland. The Career Assistance Program is an initiative designed to support pre-service teachers who are currently studying at university. Following a successful pilot, the Career Assistance Program has now expanded to 11 primary schools in Rockhampton, Mackay and Bundaberg. Information is available [here](#)

Pictured below from left are Alison Mann, one of our 2023 CAP participants based at St Paul's Gracemere, with Anthony Greene, Principal and Mentor Teacher Kasey Gilbert.



**Northern Region Primary School staff** gathered last week with Bronwyn Ryrie Jones (University of Melbourne) for professional development focusing on *Responsive Instruction*, looking at where students are at in their learning through formative assessment and using this knowledge to tailor teaching to their needs. Pictured below are staff from St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Mackay with Bronwyn second from left.



**Staff from our Catholic Kindergartens** gathered in person and via Zoom in Rockhampton last week for staff training and in-service. Pictured below: Tracey Novak (Early Learning and Care Manager), Catherine Simmonds, Bronwyn Berry, Madison Williams, and Susan Higgins.



**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Springsure,** pictured below Prep and Year 1 First Day 2023.



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Compliance and Risk Coordinator Rockhampton. Applications close Sunday 29 January.

Accountant (Schools Support) Rockhampton. Applications close Monday 30 January.

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

**Congratulations to: Adam Vanderlinde,** Holy Spirit College Mackay and Nicole Vanderlinde, on the safe arrival of Ava Emma.

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

Our 2023 Bishop's In-service Day will be held on 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 livestreamed to all schools and then staff being able to choose two workshops to attend for the afternoon session at their school. Registration for BID is via I Rok on the Staff Portal and further details will be forwarded in due course.

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*Congratulations and sincere thanks to the following Long Serving Staff*

**20 to 30 Years**

Fiona Clerc, St Peter's Rockhampton; Kaylene Vonhof, St Anthony's North Rockhampton; Kate Peers, St Benedict's Yeppoon; Nicole Anderson, St Paul's Gracemere; Linda Messersmith, St Mary's North Rockhampton; Michelle Conway, Emmaus College North Rockhampton; Brooke Black, St Joseph's Park Avenue; Leslie Hoyes, Catholic Education Office; Maria Greene, Catholic Education Office; Trinity Daley, Catholic Education Office; Kym McAndrew, St John the Baptist Gladstone; Angela Robinson, St Joseph's Bundaberg; Leanne Hamilton, Shalom College Bundaberg; Femia Eizema, Shalom College Bundaberg; Melissa McBride, Star of the Sea Gladstone; Michael Pace, Holy Spirit College Mackay; Karen O'Shea, MacKillop Mackay; Belinda Van Lint, St Mary's South Mackay; Angela Beardmore, St Patrick's College Mackay; Kathryn Laing, Shalom College Bundaberg; Joe O'Driscoll, Shalom College Bundaberg; Dorota Cook, St Patrick's College Mackay; Christine Burchell, St Mary's South Mackay; Zoe Rippingale, St Joseph's North Mackay; Fleur Kirkman, Sacred Heart Yeppoon; Ann McCutcheon, St Joseph's Park Avenue; Monica White, St Joseph's Bundaberg; Shereen Svendsen, Sacred Heart Yeppoon; Ron Armstrong, The Cathedral College Rockhampton; Jamie Emerick, St John the Baptist Gladstone; Michelle Bohne, Holy Spirit College Mackay; Katherine Roelofs, St Joseph's Bundaberg; Sheila Thorne, Sacred Heart Yeppoon; Valda Bettridge, St Joseph's Clermont; Angela Acharya, Sacred Heart Yeppoon; Linda -Anne Mullane, Sacred Heart Yeppoon; Sally Page, Sacred Heart Yeppoon; Stacey Banks, St Mary's South Mackay; Lisa Castro, Shalom College Bundaberg; Marissa Browne, St Mary's Bundaberg; Bruce Collins, Emmaus College North Rockhampton; Susan Misselbrook, The Cathedral College Rockhampton; Mark Green, Marist College Emerald; Brett Halter, Catholic Education Office; Andrew Stein, The Cathedral College Rockhampton; Brian Martin (Catechist) Mackay; Annette Lynn (Catechist) Bundaberg; Kathryn Maloney (Catechist) Capricorn Coast.

**40 years**

Michelle Brady, Catholic Education Office; Robyn Finch, Relief Teacher Rockhampton Region; Eamon Hannan, Emmaus College North Rockhampton; Joan Rayner, St Benedict's Yeppoon; Carmel Lando (Catechist) Sarina; Maria Goulevitch (Catechist) Moranbah.

**50 Years**

Margaret Hallinan (Catechist) Rockhampton

Pictured below: 20 Years Recipients at St Joseph's Cathedral with Bishop Michael and Leesa



Pictured below: Kym McAndrew and Melissa McBride, Gladstone with Carmel Kriz AD: Teaching and Learning



Pictured below: The presentations to long serving staff at the Opening School Year Mass at St Joseph's Church North Mackay, with long serving staff at the front of the church.



Pictured below: Stephen Dale ADS: Southern Region; Monica White, Principal St Joseph's, Angela Robinson and Katherine Roelofs.



**Catholic Education Office**

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