

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Friday 3 February 2023

Good morning everyone

I was delighted to hear of the great start to the 2023 School Year across all our regions. The last few years have served to remind us to appreciate the blessing of being able to welcome, in person, all in our school community to the start of a new year. It is a very positive way to build a sense of belonging and connection. Thank you to each of you as you live out the mission of Catholic Education, serving our communities with compassion and dedication, inspired by the person of Jesus Christ.

Many of our schools and colleges celebrated individual Opening School Year Masses and Liturgies this week, coming together to give praise and thanks and to ask God's blessings on the year ahead. My thanks to all involved in the preparation and planning of these joyous, uplifting liturgies that unite and strengthen communities in such a meaningful way. Please be assured of my prayers for all as we embark on a new year of teaching and learning.

Our Bishop's Inservice Day (BID) is on Friday 17 February with a focus on Evangelisation and Faith Formation. Although they are familiar themes to those of us who have had a long association with Catholic Education, in the light of changing global influences and the Church's continued practice of renewal, BID provides an opportunity for fresh perspectives and new understandings. I extend my appreciation to Kellie Jenkinson (AD: Mission) and the FIARE team for their work in coordinating this important day. I trust this formation day will be of great benefit to you in your work for Catholic Education and encourage you to come with an open heart and seek to participate fully in the day's program. Further details regarding registration and workshops will be forwarded to all staff in the coming days.

By now most staff would have completed compulsory training modules through the iRok platform. This mandatory training ensures compliance and seeks to effectively deliver valuable and pertinent information for all staff working in Catholic Education. My thanks to all who have worked to collate and update the modules and to all who have already completed their training. I would ask those who are yet to finalise their training if you would please do so at your earliest opportunity. Thank you.

Finally, thank you to all who have contributed to our special appeal for Ukraine. I am aware that donations continue to be received and we will share with you the total amount raised once the appeal has concluded. If you would like to contribute, please see your school Principal or a Leadership Team member. I hope each of you has had a great start to the year, particularly those new to our Diocese. May God continue to bless you, your families, and your school communities in the year ahead.

God bless,

Leesa

Pictured below at the **Emmaus College Opening School Year Mass** with Senior Leaders are Leesa and Eamon Hannan, College Principal.



Picture below: Principal Janelle Agius with students from **St Patrick's College Mackay** at the Mercy Campus.



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

Cathy Caird, former staff member St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton and mother of Shane, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton

John Suthers, father and father-in-law of Stuart and Sam Suthers, Principal St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blackall.

Reflection from Pope Francis

As Christians we must radiate the beauty of God's love everywhere through our lives. Faith is not a privilege to be claimed, but a gift to be shared.

This week's CEDR Media releases

Early Career Teacher Assistance Program (CAP) expands: [Read](#)

Strong growth for new college, Catherine McAuley College, Mackay: [Read](#)

Bishop Michael visited St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blackall recently spending time with each year level. Pictured below from left: Bishop Michael with Year 3 and Prep.



Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day is a worldwide initiative that is now in its 20th year of helping to create safer online spaces. This year it is on **Tuesday, 7 February** and the focus is "Connect. Reflect. Protect.". By doing these simple things, we can make every day a Safer Internet Day.

Connect safely and with purpose – by keeping apps and devices secure and using social media in positive ways.

Reflect before we act – by taking a moment to consider how what we do and say online may affect others.

Protect ourselves and others by taking action – by telling family, friends or colleagues about eSafety and how we can help.

For further information about how your school can get involved click [here](#)

Farewell and Thank you

At the end of last year Deb Groszmann, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg announced her retirement after 34 years of service. We thank Deb for all that she has done for St Mary's and Catholic Education and wish her and her husband Ian the very best of health and happiness in the next chapter of retirement.



Congratulations to Shalom College Staff, Lisa Castro (30 Years), Femia Eizema (20 Years), Leanne Hamilton (20 Years) and Kathy Laing (20 Years), pictured below with Stephen Dale, AD: Schools (Southern Region).



Peta Goldberg Workshops 2023 and Laudato si' Retreat. These workshops and retreat are being offered to all staff and additional information can be accessed via the following links: Peta Goldberg Workshops [here](#) Laudato si' Retreat [here](#)

Catherine McAuley College, Mackay 2023 Year 7 and 8 Cohort



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

Our 2023 Bishop's Inservice 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 IRok on the Staff Portal.

Congratulations to:

Staff at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg who held a bake sale to raise funds for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Ukraine appeal, so far raising \$141.

A reminder to all schools to finalise your fundraising for this appeal by the end of next week if possible.