

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

The Gospels teach us how important it is to remain with Jesus. It is by staying with him that we learn to recognise the beauty of love that he gives.

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

Max Martin snr, father and father in law of Max, Principal, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon and Marie Martin Catholic Education Office.

Norma Tanna, former staff member, Chanel College, Gladstone, Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone, relief teacher in the Gladstone Region.

The Season of Lent



Friday 10 March 2023

Good morning, everyone

This week, I was delighted to welcome our Principals to Rockhampton for our face-to-face leadership gathering facilitated by *The Brown Collective*. Professional learning focused on the important issue of Compliance across various areas in school operations. I am aware of the significant preparation undertaken to tailor structured modules specific to CEDR which certainly provided relevant and detailed information to assist Principals and CEDR Managers in their leadership roles. Sincere thanks to Mark Effenev (Assistant Director: Administration) and all who have assisted in bringing together these high calibre professional development days.

A highlight of the gathering was the launch of our new *Leaders' Wellbeing Program*, an initiative aimed at supporting and promoting the health and wellbeing of all leaders within CEDR. We have partnered with Ford Health to deliver this comprehensive program to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of our leaders by investing in a combination of proactive and responsive initiatives. My sincere thanks to Stephen Dale (Assistant Director: Schools – Southern Region) for leading the introduction of this Program and to Trinity Daley (School Support) for her great support. Last week saw the finalisation of an extensive re-roofing project involving eight schools, boarding facilities at The Cathedral College, and the Catholic Education Office. This work resulted from a severe hailstorm that hit Rockhampton a few years ago. Commencing mid-2021, the project involved complex coordination from negotiating insurance claims to delivering onsite construction in live school and work environments. The project was expected to take three years and has been delivered in close to half that timeframe. My sincere thanks to the CEDR Building Services Team, and in particular, Brendan McCosker, for his skilled coordination of logistics and to all who contributed to the successful completion of this major undertaking.

In recent weeks, external auditors PwC Australia have worked with finance teams across CEDR to wrap up the 2022 Annual Financial Statement Audit. The external Audit is an important function, providing independent oversight to our financial operations and ensuring our compliance requirements are met. My sincere thanks to Amanda Houston (Assistant Director: Business and Strategy) for overseeing this process with great support from the Finance team. My thanks also to all our finance staff in schools and colleges for your prompt and professional response to audit queries and requests.

I am aware of the great efforts being undertaken in our schools and colleges to support the work of Project Compassion, Caritas Australia's annual Lenten appeal. Our communities have a great tradition of generously participating in this wonderful initiative to help vulnerable communities around the world. Over recent years Caritas has experienced dramatic funding cuts at a time when global need has escalated, so there is an even greater need to do what we can to enable their vital work to continue. The Caritas [website](#) provides great information and resources to assist fundraising efforts for Project Compassion.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 13 to Friday 17 March, Office.

Pictured at the Launch of the Leaders' Wellbeing Program are from left: Leesa, Bernadette Brennan, Principal St Joseph's Wandal; John Mula, Consultant; Trent Shillington, Principal St Joseph's Barcaldine; Alison Wales, Principal Holy Spirit College Mackay; Stephen Dale, AD: Schools - Southern Region, Amanda Houston, AD: Business and Strategy.



Nominations close
Sunday 7 May. [Nominate](#)

Principals' Gathering



Pictured below: Yr 12 Indigenous students from Colleges across the Diocese, with Leesa far left and Bishop Michael front row right, following the Yr 12 Indigenous Commencement Celebration Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral last week.



The Parish of North Mackay and Farleigh has a monthly Eucharistic Celebration to administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to those who are unwell and/or elderly in the community. Students from Year 4S and Year 4M at **Emmanuel Catholic Primary School**, (pictured below) attended the March Mass, the first of 2023, and participated in various ministries. They then joined the parishioners at the morning tea which followed the Mass.



National Student Voice representative nominations are now open.

In 2022, Ministers agreed to establish a National Student Voice (NSV) to enable student perspectives to be considered in education decision-making. The Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) now invites nominations for suitable student representatives from Years 5 to 12 to the NSV. Please submit student nominations via this [short form](#) to QCEC by **close of business on Wednesday 15 March 2023**. Please direct any questions to Hannah Orchard – Education Officer hannaho@qcec.catholic.edu.au or phone call (07) 3316 5852.



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Date Claimer **17 – 19 May**

Further information to follow.



Share our Good News

Catholic Education Media & Communications Gathering

17 to 19 May 2023

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