

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Thursday 16 February 2023

Good morning, everyone

The *Message Stick* is being sent early this week as we will be gathering on Friday for our Bishop's Inservice Day livestream. I extend my sincere thanks to all involved in presenting this important day of formation, especially Kellie Jenkinson (AD: Mission) and the FIARE Team. I am very much looking forward to joining you all as we turn our attention to Evangelisation and Faith Formation and our call through the Ministry of Catholic Education to witness to Jesus' message of love and mercy. I extend my sincere thanks to Bishop Michael, our chief shepherd, for leading our formation and my thanks also to Professor Peta Goldberg rsm, for being with us and sharing her wisdom and insights.

I know a great deal of planning has been undertaken to create a Bishop's In-Service Day experience that is worthwhile and engaging as you gather in your school communities. Please ensure you have completed the required registration via the QR Code provided to your school and are familiar with workshop arrangements following the livestream. I thank you in advance for your attention and participation and I hope you find the day beneficial, both personally and professionally.

On Tuesday I attended the first Queensland Catholic Education Commission meeting for 2023 together with Bishop Michael. Discussions were held across a broad range of issues currently impacting Catholic school communities in our state including debate around Anti-Discrimination Laws, input on the National School Reform Agreement and a presentation from Australian Catholic University on *A Mission Practice Relationship Framework* currently in development. I am always very grateful for your prayerful support for members of the Commission as we work together to shape policies that will result in better outcomes for Catholic Education in Queensland.

Lent and our journey to Easter commence with Ash Wednesday next week. It's a time for us to reflect, rebalance and refresh our relationship with God and open our hearts to the empowering grace of the Holy Spirit. Thank you to all involved in the preparation of Ash Wednesday liturgies which are so significant in deepening our faith experience for ourselves and the members of our school community.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 20 February travel to Longreach; Tuesday 22 February, School visits St Joseph's Blackall and St Joseph's Barcaldine; Wednesday 22 February, Ash Wednesday, School visit Our Lady's Longreach; Thursday 23 February and Friday 24 February, CENet Board Meeting, Brisbane.

St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Sarina: Pictured below left; Leesa with Prep G and pictured right below; John Ballinger- Ochess, Principal, Leesa and Michael McCusker Assistant Director: Schools (Northern Region) at the Student Leadership ceremony last Friday.



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

Mary Kelly, mother of Joe Kelly past staff member and mother-in-law of Rachel Kelly, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Mackay.

Bill Plumb, father of Matthew Plumb, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School Bundaberg and father-in-law of Helen Plumb St Mary's Catholic Primary School Bundaberg.

Please remember in your prayers members of our extended Catholic Education Family who are unwell at this time:

Jeanette Allen, relief teacher in the Rockhampton Region.

Reflection from Pope Francis

Let us continue to stay close, with prayer and support, to the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey. And let us not forget the people of the Ukraine. May the Lord open ways of peace and comfort.

Bishop's Inservice Day Friday 17 February

Livestream link for morning session with Bishop Michael, Leesa and Peta Goldberg, click [here](#)



QCEC is pleased to continue offering opportunities for teachers aspiring to certification as Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers in 2023 and beyond, to meet some of our Queensland Highly Accomplished and Lead Catholic teachers online. Aspirants will be able to hear the individual stories of certified teachers, ask questions and gain tips for their own certification journey. These sessions are being scheduled each term during 2023. The first #HATCHAT #LEADFEED session will be held on **Monday 20 February from 3.30-4.30pm**. Registrations are open now [via Eventbrite](#). For further information please contact Lauren Roach lauren_roach@rok.catholic.edu.au

Pictured below, staff from **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcaldine** with new iPads for each classroom, a gift from Catholic Education for the school's 125th Anniversary last year and now allowing students to work one to one with teachers.



Andrew Knife from Caritas recently visited **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg** and spoke to students on Assembly. He then spent some time working with Year 5 and Year 6 students discussing Catholic Social Teachings and the difference Project Compassion makes around the world.



The Cathedral College Instrumental Music Teachers, Ms Stephanie Quinlan and Ms Aleisha Cesar recently visited **Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach** as part of the College's outreach to families in rural communities. Students from Our Lady's pictured below with Stephanie Quinlan.



Marist College Emerald held their Opening School Year College Mass and Senior Badge Ceremony, last Friday. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Truc. Leadership badges and senior badges were blessed and presented to our 2023 Student Leaders.



Last Saturday, 11 February, World Day of the Sick was observed and Year 4 Gold from **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandal** reminded us of our role as a community which includes journeying together, caring for those who suffer, and expressing gratitude for those who work in healthcare.





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**Consultant
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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](#)



Have launched an appeal for people in Turkey and Syria following the devastating earthquakes. For further information view [here](#)

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