

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:

Bernadette (Bernie) Ryan, mother of Grace, Year 10 Marist College, Emerald.

Ray Busby, father and father-in-law of Melissa Collins, APRE Sacred Heart, Yeppoon and Tim Collins ADS (Western Region); father and father-in-law of Michael Busby, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton and Kyria Busby, St Anthony's North, Rockhampton; Grandfather of Nellie Boyle, St Brigid's, Emerald.

Reflection from Pope Francis

In his Annual Lenten Message Pope Francis highlights the relationship between the Lenten journey and the synodal journey. Read the article [here](#)



NCEC: Record number of students in Catholic schools shows support for faith-based education. [read](#)

NCEC: National Catholic Education says NAPLAN changes will put learning data into the hands of teachers sooner. [read](#)

Friday 24 February 2023

Good morning, everyone

Greetings to all from the Central West where I have been visiting our Primary school communities this week. It's a great joy to be able to spend time in this region of our diocese and experience the wonderful hospitality and special character of these school communities which are such an important part of the rural centres they serve. My sincere thanks to Principals Peter Thurecht (Our Lady's, Longreach), Trent Shillington (St Joseph's, Barcaldine) and Samantha Suthers (St Joseph's, Blackall) and their respective staff and students for your great welcome and the chance to learn more about all the wonderful things happening in these vibrant and dynamic places.

I was particularly delighted to join the community at Our Lady's for their special Ash Wednesday liturgy marking the start of Lent and our journey to Easter. Over the next 40 days of the Lenten Season, we are invited to take time to respond to the Gospel call to prayer, fasting and good works. To assist us in this time of preparation I commend to you the Lenten Pastoral letter [read](#) from Bishop Michael encouraging us to take up the opportunity to look outward and do good work through supporting Project Compassion, Caritas Australia's main annual fundraising campaign. Funds raised support programs which alleviate poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity in the most vulnerable and marginalized communities in the world.

On Tuesday, representatives from our Rockhampton Region schools attended a special Liturgy of the Word at Emmaus College to launch Project Compassion across the Diocese. They were joined by Caritas Australia Leadership Team member, Rocky Naickar, from Sydney for the event. Sincere thanks to all involved in preparing and planning the launch and to those who attended for your support and participation. I am aware that our schools and colleges go to great efforts to support Project Compassion and I thank you, once again, for all you do to promote this significant Lenten campaign.

Finally, I extend my great appreciation to all for your participation in our Bishop's Inservice Day last week, in particular, for your patience and prayers as our team worked to overcome technical challenges. I hope the presentations from Bishop Michael and our keynote presenter Professor Peta Goldberg rsm, provided some new perspectives on how we approach *Evangelisation and Faith Formation* within our communities. The gift of this day not only provides our teachers with their Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School, but more importantly, for all of us, whether from the Catholic faith tradition or not, a chance to come together to increase our knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith that underpins all that we do in our Catholic colleges, schools, kindergartens and offices as we serve in the Ministry of Catholic Education. In thanking Bishop Michael for the gift of this day, I also thank each of you for your great contribution in helping to ensure the success of this year's Bishop's Inservice Day.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 27 February to Thursday 2 March, Office; Friday 3 March, Year 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commencement Mass, St Joseph's Cathedral Rockhampton.

Pictured right, photos from Leesa's recent visits to **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcaldine** and **Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach.**





The oceans of the world are interwoven with the future hopes of all peoples.

With care for the oceans a central theme of the recent Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania assembly in Fiji, a statement focused on the oceans was prepared during the gathering. Titled *The oceans of the world are interwoven with the future hopes of all peoples*, the statement speaks of the need for “deeper ecological conversion” and to embrace “the challenge of integral ecology”. Please find the statement [here](#)

Please note: This statement is different from the bishops’ concluding statement from the assembly, which can be found here [read](#)

Best wishes to **Noah Cookson, Teacher Assistant, St Brendan’s Catholic Primary School, Mackay** who is currently a contestant on Australian Idol. Noah is pictured below with students from St Brendan’s.



Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday was observed around our schools this week. **St Brigid’s Catholic Primary School, Emerald** held a pancake breakfast raising \$500 for Project Compassion.



Elizabeth Carter, APRE **St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Park Avenue** (pictured below) spent some time with the St Joseph’s Kindy kids explaining the meaning of Ash Wednesday.



Project Compassion in conjunction with CARITAS Australia was launched at Emmaus College, North Rockhampton this week with an invitation extended to all local Catholic schools to attend. Pictured below from left; Bishop Michael and students from regional Catholic schools, Eamon Hannan (Principal) Emmaus College, Rocky Naickar, CARITAS Sydney Office and Bishop Michael.




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Student Wellbeing Coordinator
Catholic Education Office
Applications close 5.00pm
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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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