

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

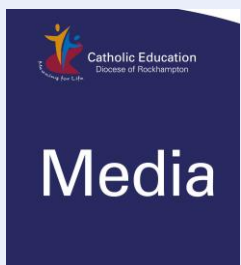
In this Season of Lent, let us learn to allow the Holy Spirit to form us so that our prayer might become a living testimony of God's tenderness.

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

Dr Alan Druery OAM, former QCEC Executive Director.

Arthur Brokes, father of Karla Falzon, APC MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay.

The Season of Lent



QCEC: Vale Dr Alan Druery OAM [Read](#)

NCEC: Catholic Schools achieve high gains in NAPLAN [Read](#)

NCEC: New website to showcase Catholic education across Australia [Read](#)

Friday 17 March 2023

Good morning, everyone

I was delighted to spend some time at The Haven at Emu Park on Monday with our 24 participants from all regions of the Diocese who attended the *Laudato si'* Retreat. These formation days provided an opportunity to explore ecological spirituality by engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and biblical perspectives, as well as Pope Francis' *Laudato si'* encyclical. My thanks to Bishop Michael for also taking the time to visit and thanks also to Derek Worden (Catholic Identity and Formation Coordinator) for facilitating the retreat and leading attendees in prayer and reflection.

This week, counsellors and teaching staff from schools across the Diocese attended facilitator training to gain accreditation to deliver the NAPCAN *Love Bites* program which focuses on respectful relationships education for young people aged 11-17 years. The program provides our young people with a safe environment to examine, discuss and explore respectful relationships in a Catholic context with embedded Catholic traditions and associated teachings. My sincere thanks to Kristin Honeyball (FIARE Consultant) for her work in coordinating the delivery of this important training with NAPCAN.

We received the sad news this week of the passing of Dr Alan Druery OAM, former QCEC Executive Director and a key contributor to Catholic Education and the Church in Queensland for many years. He leaves a legacy of dedicated, selfless service and good governance, particularly in relation to the establishment and consolidation of QCEC. To Alan's wife of almost 60 years, Helena, and to his family we offer our deepest sympathies together with our prayerful support at this sad time.

On behalf of all in Catholic Education, I extend congratulations and best wishes to the Sisters of Mercy celebrating significant Jubilees this year. Today, Sr M Geraldine Gregory and Sr M Carmel Hynes celebrate their Platinum Jubilee (70 years) and Sr Joan Shepherd celebrates her Diamond Jubilee (60 years). Also celebrating Diamond Jubilees on 29 April are Sr Beryl Amedee, Sr Mary Badger, Sr Rita Connor, and Sr Margaret Graves. We owe these wonderful women a great debt of gratitude for their contribution to and tremendous support of our Catholic school communities over many years. We thank God for the wonderful gift they are to all of us and pray for continued blessings on each one as they continue their life of devoted service.

Tomorrow, I am looking forward to our Catholic Education Luncheon at this year's St Patrick's Day Races at Callaghan Park in support of our Rockhampton Region primary schools. This day is steeped in history and a great link to our Irish forebears who were instrumental in establishing our school communities. In addition, last weekend, the 70th annual St Patrick's Day Races was held in Springsure and the Catholic Schools Raceday staged in Bundaberg last Saturday was a sellout success. I am aware of the significant work undertaken by many of our staff who volunteer their time to assist with the coordination and running of these community events and I extend my sincere thanks for your dedication and commitment.

Finally, as NAPLAN commenced this week and continues until 27 March, I extend my very best wishes to all participating students in our schools. My thanks to teachers and staff for the wonderful job they do to prepare students and for the empathetic and nurturing support provided during the testing phase. Thanks also to our IT personnel and those from the Teaching and Learning Team who work diligently to ensure testing runs smoothly.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 20 March to Thursday 23 March, Office; Friday 24 March Diocesan Education Council.

On Sunday 5 March, these environmental champions from **St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton** participated in Clean Up Australia Day. They scoured a local park in Rockhampton picking up a variety of rubbish which prevented it from ending up in waterways and causing harm to the environment.



Prep, Year 1 & 2 students from **Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach** spent time recently comparing old with newer forms of technology. The students were amazed with how technology has changed and were able to provide fantastic reasons why technology has improved over time.



The Courier Mail recently ran a story about Queensland's youngest Principals. The article featured three of our own; Peter Thurecht, Principal Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach; Trent Shillington, Principal St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcardine and Selena Cutting, Principal Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Springsure. To read the article please visit the CEDR Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/cathedrocky/>

Marist College, Emerald held their annual Music Kick Start Camp. An exciting opportunity for students to refine their performance skills under the direction of guest clinicians, Dr Rob McWilliams and Mr Paul Holley.



Staff from across the Diocese participated in the two-day **Laudato Si' Retreat** at The Haven, Emu Park this week coordinated by Derek Worden and Jocelyn Benoit. Input at the retreat was provided by: Nhaya (Aunty) Nicky Hatfield and LeLarnie Hatfield the Cultural Coordinator from Darumbal Enterprises. Bishop Michael and Leesa Jeffcoat, Valmay Burns Capricorn Coast SVDP, Michael McLaughlin Building Services Manager CEDR, and Sister Annette Arnold rsj also presented.



The 2023 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards Nominations information can be found via the CEDR Staff Portal and via the following link [Nominate](#)

Nominations should be submitted [online](#) through the Catholic Education Week website by **5:00pm on Sunday, 7 May 2023.**

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Date Claimer
17 – 19 May

Share our Good News

Catholic Education Media & Communications Gathering

17 to 19 May 2023