

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

Everyone can discover in St Joseph a man who goes unnoticed, a man whose daily presence is discreet and hidden, an intercessor, a support and a guide in difficult times.

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

Neil McCosker, Grandfather of Brendan McCosker, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton; Christie Dendle and Anneliese Wyatt, St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon.

John Titmus, father of Julie Way, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton.

Norman Arnold, father-in-law of Leeza Arnold, Holy Spirit College, Mackay.

Fr Brian Harris OMI, Grandfather of Sam Harris, Holy Spirit College, Mackay.

Pauline Jamieson, mother-in-law of Lorraine Connolly, Holy Spirit College, Mackay.

Friday 24 March 2023

Good morning everyone

I was fortunate to spend time with our School Board Chairs on Monday and participate in a formation session on Prayer Practices presented by Derek Worden (Catholic Identity and Formation Coordinator) from our FIARE Team. Survey reports from our Enhancing Catholic School Identity project indicates a well-developed prayer life enhances the religious identity of the school which in turn enables people to be more prayerful. Sincere thanks to Derek for leading the session and gently journeying with participants towards a more meaningful personal prayer life.

I was delighted this week to visit the Entrepreneurial Expose at The Cathedral College, Rockhampton for a sample of what might be 'the next big thing'. Year 9 Business students showcased an array of creative and innovative business ideas including alarms for children in cars, apps to assist animal care, pool toys and band-aid dispensers. Congratulations to Karen McCall, Academic Dean, Business, Information and Technologies at TCC and all involved in organizing this engaging and dynamic learning opportunity for students.

This week, representatives from our Primary Schools and Colleges participated in training with Berry Street to further develop trauma-aware practices within schools and to improve overall student wellbeing. Once again feedback on the Berry Street Education Model has been very positive and I thank Brett Halter (Student Services Manager) and team for their work in facilitating this highly effective training for staff.

NAPLAN concludes next Monday, and I have heard excellent reports from schools about this year's testing. My thanks to all who have provided critical support during the testing phase to ensure great outcomes for all our communities.

This week is Harmony Week celebrating Australia's cultural diversity and advancing inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for all Australians. My thanks to all who held activities within their school communities to mark this important celebration which makes such a significant contribution to building multicultural awareness and understanding.

Today I look forward to meeting with Bishop Michael and the members of the Diocesan Education Council for our first meeting for 2023. The Council Agenda includes discussion on matters regarding Religious Institutions and Anti-Discrimination Laws, and a review of the 2022 QCE and ATAR Results Summary. I offer my sincere appreciation to all members of our DEC for giving of their time so generously and for their careful discernment of all Council matters.

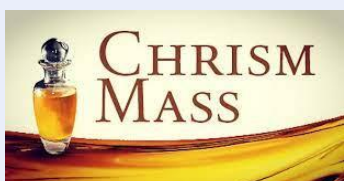
A highlight of today's DEC meeting is the launch of our newly published book "*Inspired*" – a compilation of artworks from all our schools and colleges (pictured below). The title is drawn from the beginning of our Mission Statement, *Inspired by the person and teaching of Jesus Christ, we serve the communities of the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton*. I commend our young artists on the quality of their work and the fostering of artistic endeavour by their teachers and school leaders. Congratulations to Deb Foster (Teaching and Learning Consultant) for her great work in bringing this initiative to fruition and my sincere thanks to Bishop Michael for agreeing to launch this beautiful publication today.

God bless,

Leeza



Where's Leesa: Monday 27 March, Office; Tuesday 28 March, School visit St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clermont and Farewell to Sr Helen Archer; Wednesday 29 March, School visit St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald; Thursday 30 March, Chrism Mass St Joseph's Cathedral; Friday 31 March, Office.



St Joseph's Cathedral
Thursday 30 March 2023
10.00am

Watch via livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton>.



Career Assistance Program (CAP) participants have met in Mackay and Rockhampton over the past two weeks, with participants from Bundaberg joining via Zoom.

Pictured from left: Lauren Roach (Consultant: Teacher Growth and Development) with CAP participants, Ashton Hudson, Eliza Langdon, Alison Mann, Heidi Mutch in Rockhampton.

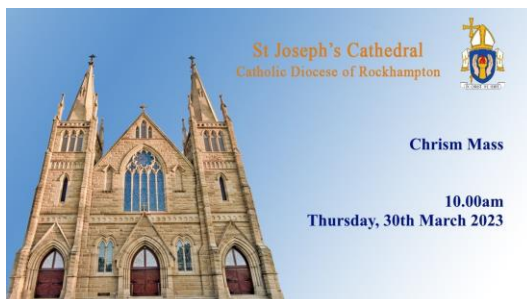
Year 10 students from **Chanel College, Gladstone**, recently attended the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) *Try a Trade Expo*. This Expo showcased careers in Construction, Manufacturing, Hydrogen, Aerospace, and STEM to Queensland's next generation of female industry leaders and talented workforce.



St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald has a new outdoor prayer space, thanks to the support of the Parents and Friends. What once was a dry and wasted piece of land is now a beautiful space within the school. Once the trees develop it will be an enclosed space for class prayers, RE lessons or reflection.



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald got into the spirit of St Patrick's Day, last Friday.



Bishop Michael extends an invitation for all to join in the celebration of the Chrism Mass, being held at 10:00am on Thursday, 30 March at St Joseph's Cathedral. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Diocese to gather with our clergy as they conclude their time of pre-Easter gathering. At the Mass, the oils of Catechumens and of the sick will be blessed, and the chrisms consecrated, to be used in Sacraments across all our communities for the next year.

For those unable to attend in person you can watch the Mass live, or later, via the St Joseph's Cathedral YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton>.

This is an important celebration for our Diocese and as we lead into Holy Week.

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Share our Good News

Catholic Education
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Gathering

17 to 19 May 2023

This **Saturday night, 25 March** we are encouraged to participate in **Earth Hour** by switching off the lights between 8.30pm and 9.30pm. More information here [Click](#)

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