

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

There are moments when life seems to be a sealed tomb: all is dark and around us we see only sorrow and despair. In John 11:1-45, Jesus tells us that in these moments we are not alone.

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

Roy Gray, grandfather of Nathaniel Rice, Principal St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston.

Graham Zonca, father of Sue Kahler, MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay.

Wednesday 29 March 2023

Good morning everyone

I was delighted to join the community at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clermont on Tuesday this week for a special school visit as we say farewell and thank you to Sr Helen Archer rsj, after more than 30 years of service. Sr Helen also gathered with many parishioners, students and families, current and past staff and members of the wider Clermont community for a special morning tea following the parish Mass on Sunday celebrated by Fr Jayanthi Maddala. Past Principal, Wes Rose (now Principal St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Mackay) and representatives from the Sisters of St Joseph were present for the weekend celebrations. I extend my appreciation to St Joseph's, Clermont Principal, Mrs Sheila Challacombe and the school community for the wonderful celebrations held to farewell Sr Helen and for the warm welcome I received during my school visit. Sr Helen's departure marks the end of an era. For 123 years St Joseph's has been blessed with the presence of the Sisters of St Joseph who founded the school in 1900. Thank you, Sr Helen, for your remarkable service, for showing us the way to follow Mary MacKillop's "rule of life" and how to trust in God's divine providence. Our communities have treasured the great gift of your presence and we wish you every one of God's many blessings as you continue your life of service.

While in the Central West, I also very much enjoyed my school visit to St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Emerald, and I extend my thanks to Mr Chris Ferguson and the school community for their wonderful welcome and hospitality.

Thank you to our Regional Board Liaison Officers who joined in our virtual gathering this week. I would like to acknowledge their significant contribution to assisting in the operation of our School Boards and for offering their time and talents so generously.

The Mass of Chrism will be celebrated tomorrow in St Joseph's Cathedral with parish and school representatives, staff from the Catholic Education Office and all our priests from across the Diocese present to witness the blessing of oils by Bishop Michael. The blessed oils, to be used in all parishes for the administration of sacraments throughout the liturgical year, include the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of Holy Chrism.

I take this opportunity to ask you to join in prayer for Bishop Michael and our priests as they conclude their annual gathering at The Haven. We thank Bishop Michael and all our priests for their faith-filled service to our Diocese.

Our journey into Holy Week commences this weekend with Palm Sunday. I invite you to take time this Easter to join in the Liturgies on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday recalling the Easter Triduum of Our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection.

May God's many blessings be with you this Easter and may the student vacation period provide you with time to rest, relax and refresh in the company of family and loved ones.

God bless,

Leesa

Photos below from Sr Helen Archer's farewell in Clermont:



Media

WIN News Career Assistance Program (CAP) [View](#)

Have you nominated yet?

2023 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards

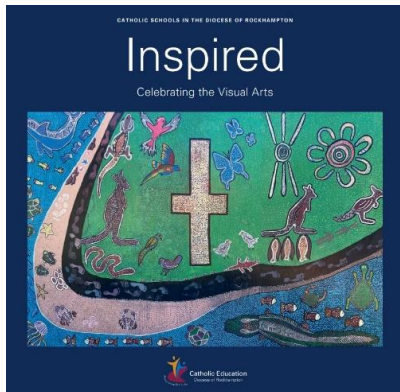


Nominate on line [here](#)
Nominations close
Sunday 7 May 2023.

Inspired: Celebrating the Visual Arts

INSPIRED is a wonderful showcase of some of our clever and creative student artists. The publication also acknowledges and celebrates the inspiring work of classroom and specialist teachers. Each school has received two copies of *INSPIRED* to display in their front office, library or staff room. For digital access, teachers and students can borrow a copy of *INSPIRED* via the [Sora](#) eBook library.

Pictured below at the launch last week are from left; Deb Foster (Teaching and Learning Consultant), Carmel Kriz (AD: Teaching and Learning), Bishop Michael and Leesa.



TEACHX Nominations Open: Do you know an inspiring Queensland registered teacher doing outstanding work in a school or early learning centre? Nominations are available from the Queensland College of Teachers website and close on Friday 2 June 2023. Click [here](#) for further information.



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg Year 4s (pictured below) celebrated Palm Sunday this week.



Year 1 students from **Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach**, recently visited the Winton Dinosaur Museum as part of their science unit.



Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay welcomed local firefighters last week who spoke to Prep students about safety.



Living Holy Week following Jesus means learning how to come out of ourselves to reach out to others and to go to the outskirts of existence, to be the first to move towards our brothers and sisters, especially those who are most distant, those who are forgotten, those who are most in need of understanding, consolation and hope. There is so much need to bring the living presence of Jesus, merciful and full of love.

Pope Francis.

The opportunity is now!

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Graduate Teacher Scholarship Program

Applications close **3 April 2023**

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Applications now open for prospective graduates. Apply [here](#). Watch our video [here](#).

Share our Good News

Catholic Education Media & Communications Gathering

17 to 19 May 2023

Diocesan Catholic Education Office
143 West Street | PO Box 524
Rockhampton Queensland 4700
1800 228 433
www.roc.catholic.edu.au
Twitter @RockyCathEd