

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Reflection from Pope Francis

Let us pray together that the international community commit itself concretely to abolish torture, guaranteeing support to victims and their families.

**Please remember in your prayers recently deceased members of our wider Catholic Education Family.**

**Patricia Day**, grandmother of Troy Day, IT Support, Northern Region.

**Please remember in your prayers members of our wider Catholic Education Family who are unwell at this time.**

**Brendon (Ben) Hall**, father of Lachlan Hall, Marist College, Emerald.

## School Visits

Leesa pictured below with Preps at St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, North Mackay (top) and St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Allenstown.



## Friday 9 June 2023

Good morning everyone

Our Year 11 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from across the diocese gathered at the Capricorn Coast this week for a three-day Leadership Camp. The Camp provided an opportunity for students to come together to meet, learn, share and interact whilst reflecting on their identity, leadership potential and post school direction from a cultural perspective. Sincere thanks to Phillippa Johnson (Indigenous Education Coordinator) and team for providing this important personal development opportunity for students.

I commend for your consideration the upcoming *Creating Futures Summit* hosted by Griffith University School of Education and Professional Studies under the theme *Transforming InDigenous Education in practice On, From, With and In Country, flowing with the TIDE*. This year's Summit on Tuesday 13 June focuses on further improving efforts to embed Indigenous knowledges and work with Indigenous communities with a view to achieving Indigenous student success both now and in the future. Please visit the [Creating Futures Summit 2023](#) website for further information and to register.

Sincere thanks to Kellie Jenkinson (Assistant Director: Mission) and her team for the very successful CHRISTOS gathering that was held at The Haven, Emu Park this week. Participants from our schools and colleges gathered to reflect on their personal journey, explore their spirituality and faith, and take some time out to carefully discern a response to their call to leadership. Please pray for our school leaders and for those contemplating stepping into a leadership role, that they will be guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit as they offer their gifts and talents to further the Mission of Catholic education.

This week, staff from 21 of our schools and colleges completed their second stage of training on trauma-aware practices delivered by Berry Street. Participants undertook three days of face-to-face training on the Berry Street Education Model (BSEM) which provides strategies to increase engagement of students with complex, unmet learning needs and to help all students improve self-regulation, relationships, well-being, growth and academic achievement. I extend my sincere thanks to Brett Halter (Student Services Manager) and the Student Services team for their work in facilitating this valuable training for our staff.

I very much enjoyed spending time with community members at St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton earlier this week and I thank Peter Smith (Principal, St Peter's) and the staff and students for their warm welcome. Today, I am very much looking forward to visiting Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone. I know I will have a very enjoyable visit with Jennett O'Mullane (Principal, Star of the Sea), and the wonderful staff and students at Star of the Sea.

Later today, I will join Bishop Michael and the school community at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School for the Blessing and Opening of redevelopments that have taken place at the school over the past couple of years. Congratulations and sincere thanks to all involved in this significant capital project which supports St John's transition to a full four stream school in response to continued demand from local families choosing a Catholic education for their children. We ask God to bless in abundance the St John's community.

On Wednesday of this week, we learnt of the appointment of Allan Blagaich as the new Executive Director of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. On behalf of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton, we warmly welcome Allan to this role. I look forward to working with him to advance the best interests of the Ministry of Catholic Education in Queensland.

I share with you an update ([read](#)) provided by the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) regarding the ongoing challenge of religious freedom for faith-based schools. It details concerning threats to the rights of parents to choose a faith-based school for their children and the right of faith communities to continue to teach and operate faith-based schools. It is important for us to have an awareness of these issues and I ask that we pray together for the protection of our faith communities and the freedoms that are fundamental to our way of life in Australia.

Finally, I wish the students and staff of The Cathedral College, Rockhampton every success with their production of the musical *School of Rock* at the Pilbeam Theatre over the next two days.

God bless,

Leesa

### Where's Leesa:

Monday 12 June, Office; Tuesday 13 June, Queensland Catholic Education Commission Meeting; Wednesday 14 June, Office; Thursday 15 June, Rockhampton Show Holiday; Friday 16 June, Diocesan Education Council.





**Outside School Hours Care at St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gracemere** recently commissioned an artwork to represent the children gathering together and waving goodbye as they leave each day. Schools of fish symbolise the children gathering, boomerangs represent the children returning each day and the turtles show OSHC staff watching over them.

The mural was created by artist Lyn Mann with the help of OSHC students.

Bishop Michael was the main celebrant at the **Holy Spirit College, Mackay** Feast Day Mass last Friday, joined by Fr Andrew Hogan and Fr Stephen Hanly.



Pictured below enjoying Feast Day celebrations are (from left) Lesley Fraser (HSC Assistant Principal: Mission) and Sisters of Mercy Sr Denise, Sr Kerry-Anne, Sr Marise and Sr Lila.



**St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten, Blackall** celebrated their 10-year anniversary this week gathering with friends and family for the special event which included sharing a commemorative cake.



**Griffith University** lecturers from the **School of Education and Professional Studies, Dr Linda Willis and Professor Beryl Exley** will present a **Parent Engagement** information session via Zoom to our School Board Chairs on Monday.

The presentation will outline the EPIC (Engaging Parents in Inquiry Curriculum) research which provides strategies and advice for schools on ways to move from parent involvement to parent engagement.

The goal of this Queensland-based research was to bring parents closer to their child's learning and wellbeing in the early, primary and secondary years of schooling.

The findings indicate that effective parent engagement takes many forms.



Students from **Shalom College, Bundaberg** recently participated in the district Maths Team Challenge sending 10 teams to compete against all schools in the region in Junior (Year 7 and 8), Intermediate (Year 9 and 10) and Senior (Year 11 and 12) sections. One of the Year 11 teams took out first place in the Senior section. Congratulations to all involved.

## Catholic Education Seeks Graduate & Experienced Teachers

Apply today for offers of employment for 2023 and 2024

Applications close 30 July 2023



1800 228 433 | rok.catholic.edu.au



For further information and other employment opportunities please click [here](#)



The QCT is running an online webinar on Thursday 15 June regarding **transitioning from provisional to full registration**. Register at: [Events](#)



**Vatican News:** Pope Francis' June prayer intention: for an abolition of torture: [Read](#)

**Australian Embassy to the Holy See** hosts series of events highlighting contributions of Indigenous peoples: [Watch](#)

**Media and Communications Gathering wrap up:** [Watch](#)

Diocesan Catholic Education Office  
143 West Street | PO Box 524  
Rockhampton Queensland 4700  
1800 228 433

[www.rok.catholic.edu.au](http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au)  
Twitter @RockyCathEd