

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Reflection from Pope Francis

It is only by following the Lord that we come to know him each day; only by becoming disciples and listening to his words that we become his friends and experience his transforming love.

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

**Melba Goodwin**, mother of Bill Goodwin, Principal St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg.

**Denise Ball**, staff member Emmaus College, North Rockhampton.

**Joan Smith**, former staff member Shalom College, Bundaberg.

**Sienna McGarry**, Year 9 student, Shalom College, Bundaberg.

**Barry Hage**, father of Sharon Hage, St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten, Biloela.

**Mark Cornwell**, father-in-law of Joanna Cornwell, St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton.

## 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.

## Congratulations to:

**Alexandra (Alex) Lamb**, Catherine McAuley College, Mackay and Jason Lamb on the safe arrival of Michael.

## Friday 14 July 2023

Good morning everyone

Welcome back to Term 3. I hope the student vacation period provided time for rest, relaxation and a chance to connect with family and friends.

A highlight each year in Term 3 is Catholic Education Week (CEW) and the opportunity to celebrate all that is good in Catholic Education and how blessed we are to have dedicated, committed and caring people working in our kindergartens, schools, colleges and offices. As part of CEW, this year in our Diocese we had 31 *Spirit of Catholic Education Award* nominations submitted. I congratulate all who were nominated and I thank them for the significant contribution they make each day in their respective school communities.

Earlier this week I had the great pleasure of announcing that the 2023 Spirit of Catholic Education Award recipient for the Diocese of Rockhampton is Mrs Claire Stitt (Deputy Principal: Mission) of The Cathedral College, Rockhampton. Claire will be presented with her Award at the CEW Diocesan Mass to be held at St Joseph's Cathedral at 12noon on Thursday 27 July.

I was delighted to attend this year's inspiring NAIDOC Mass celebration at Holy Family Church, North Rockhampton together with representative staff and students from our Rockhampton Region and Gladstone schools and college; Elders and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and members of the wider parish community. My thanks to Fr Alex Varghese for presiding and to Fr Jomon Poothara for assisting. I also extend sincere thanks to Phillippa Johnson and the Indigenous Education Team for coordinating such a rich and meaningful liturgy which served to illuminate this year's beautiful theme, *For Our Elders*. Students attending demonstrated exceptional respect and participation representing their school, culture and community with dignity and integrity. Congratulations to all involved. The Mackay Region NAIDOC Mass will be held at St Joseph's Catholic Church, North Mackay on Tuesday, 18 July at 9:30am.

Congratulations to all participating players, coaches and supporters on a very successful outing in this year's QISSN and QISSRL (Confraternity) Carnivals held in Brisbane over the school holidays, with a number of our Colleges featuring prominently in playoffs in the statewide Netball and Rugby League competitions. The Cathedral College (TCC) is celebrating the success of their Girls' Rugby League team who took out the Confraternity Shield defeating St Patrick's College, Mackay, in an exciting final. In the Boys' Rugby League competition, Emmaus College, Rockhampton was valiant in defeat against local rivals St Brendan's College in a thrilling Division 1 Confraternity Shield final. Chanel College, Gladstone were victorious in Division 3 overcoming Xavier Catholic College from Hervey Bay to take home the Confraternity Cup. In the Netball, Shalom College, Bundaberg topped the Division 4 competition. Whilst the standard of athletic endeavour was certainly impressive, more so, was the display of good sportsmanship and team spirit demonstrated by our competitors. My sincere thanks to all involved in providing our students the opportunity to participate in these highly regarded carnivals.

Congratulations to Year 12 student Mutua Brown from The Cathedral College, Rockhampton who was named Best Player for Queensland and Fullback in the Australian Schoolboys Rugby League Team at the conclusion of the National Championships held over the holidays.

I extend my very best wishes to performers, stage crew and all involved in musical productions at both Emmaus College, Rockhampton and Holy Spirit College, Mackay as they enter their final week of rehearsals. Both Colleges have chosen to perform *High School Musical* this year which I'm sure will delight audiences and showcase the considerable talents of all involved. My sincere thanks to all staff who have made this performance opportunity possible for students.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 17 to Wednesday 19 July, Office; Thursday 20 July, Diaconate Ordination of Peter Doherty, St Joseph's Cathedral; Friday 21 July, St Francis Tannum Sands School visit and Emmaus College Musical.



**St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald** recently held their School Musical, 'Star Wars the Empire Strikes Back'. The musical was presented by Year 6 under the direction of Mrs Roslyn Horsfall, Music and Instrumental Teacher.



**St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Mackay** recently hosted the Mackay Regional Reader's Cup. The event was supported by 10 schools from the region. St Mary's were the winners of the event and will now venture to the Southeast to compete in the state finals later this year. Below are the five Mackay Catholic schools.



Catholic Education NAIDOC Mass Rockhampton  
More photos via [collection](#)



Challenge Cup photos and results will be in next week's *Message Stick*

**St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten, Biloela** recently celebrated 10 years of operation. Families of current Kindy kids, Fr Simeon and guests joined in activities for the morning.



Pictured below at a recent **Career Assistance Program (CAP)** day in Rockhampton are from right; Ashton Hudson, Heidi Mutch, Eliza Langdon, Barb Miller (Director People and Culture CQU), Alison Mann and Lauren Roach.



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**Catholic Education Week 2023** 23 July to 29 July. Our CEW Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 27 July, 12noon at St Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton.

**Spirit of Catholic Education Awards 2023**

On behalf of everyone in Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton, we sincerely congratulate Claire Stitt, Deputy Principal: Mission, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton on being our Diocesan State Winner for 2023.



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