

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Friday 23 June 2023

Good morning everyone

Term 2 concludes this week and at this halfway point in the year there is a great deal happening in our schools and some exciting events on the horizon.

This week, I joined Leadership Team members from our Primary Schools and Colleges, as well as senior CEDR staff, together with priests of the diocese for a wonderful two-day Formation Gathering with renowned theologian, Fr Richard Lennan exploring the topic *Co-Responsibility for the Mission*. Fr Richard's presentations provided great insights for contemplation and a renewed reflection on our roles within Catholic Education as a Ministry of the Church. I am most grateful to Bishop Michael for his vision and wisdom in securing Fr Lennan to present at these important days. Photos from the gathering are provided on Page 2 of the *Message Stick*.

NAIDOC Week will be held nationally, during the second week of the school holidays, 2-9 July. The week provides an opportunity to celebrate, recognize and learn more about the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. I look forward to attending the NAIDOC Week Mass in Rockhampton on Tuesday 11 July at Holy Family Church, North Rockhampton at 10:30am. The Mackay NAIDOC Week Mass on Tuesday 18 July at St Joseph's Church, North Mackay at 9:30am. We extend to all our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families every best wish for NAIDOC 2023.

Queensland Independent Secondary Schools Netball (QISSN) and Confraternity Rugby League (QISSRL) Carnivals commence in Brisbane this Sunday with Mass and respective Opening Ceremonies. Games get underway on Monday (26 June) concluding with finals on Friday (30 June). I extend my sincere thanks to coaches, teachers, assistants, and all involved in providing students the opportunity to participate in these significant events. Hallmarked by outstanding athleticism and great sportsmanship, QISSN and QISSRL (Confro) have a proud tradition of memorable sporting contests played in great spirit. Our very best wishes to all for a safe and successful Carnival.

I am very much looking forward to this year's Challenge Cup competition which will be held in the first week of Term 3. This Carnival brings together teams from all our Primary Schools for three days of Netball and Rugby League. Characterised by excellent athletic endeavour and a wonderful spirit of camaraderie, respect and unity, Challenge Cup provides a great opportunity for our Primary School communities to come together to form friendships, build a sense of belonging and strengthen our wider Catholic Education community. I offer my very best wishes to everyone involved in Challenge Cup 2023.

On Wednesday night, I was delighted to attend the Rockhampton Catholic Schools' Gala Concert at Emmaus College showcasing the wonderful talents of our gifted musicians. My sincere thanks to the dedicated teachers who give generously to foster in their students a love of music and to all those who work alongside teachers to support students in their musical journey. I also acknowledge and congratulate students on their efforts for the Gala, no doubt involving many hours of individual practice, lessons and rehearsals.

Finally, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to everyone for your great efforts this term. I hope the two weeks of the student vacation period will be a time of rest and relaxation for you.

God bless,

Leesa

Reflection from Pope Francis

God is not far away, but knows you and loves you; God wants to hold your hand, even when you travel on steep paths, even when you fall. Indeed often in your weakest moments, you can feel God's presence more strongly. God is with you, God is with us.

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

Yvonne (Vonnie) Bowes, Aunt of Amanda McDonald, Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay.

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:

Selena Cutting, Principal Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Springsure and her husband Colin on the safe arrival of Pippa.

Yoon Noy, St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston, and husband Kyle on the safe arrival of Bree.



Pictured from left at the Formation Gathering are Fr Matthew Moloney, Parish Priest Capricorn Coast Parish, Bishop Michael, Marie Martin, Fr Richard Lennan, Presenter and Professor of Systematic Theology in the School of Theology and Ministry, Boston College, USA, and Leesa Jeffcoat.

Photos from the Formation Gathering this week



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Catholic Education Week
23-29 July 2023

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

More information will be provided early Term 3.

2023 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards
Nominees announced!

Congratulations to our 2023 Spirit of Catholic Education Nominees. A full list of Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton Nominees can be accessed [here](#)

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