

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

Many countries are experiencing extreme climatic events. I reiterate my appeal to leaders of Nations, that something more tangible be done to limit polluting emissions. It is an urgent challenge and affects everyone. Let us protect our common home.

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

Leo Lunney, father of Mick Lunney, Emmaus College, North 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:

Gabriella Lindeman, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg and husband, Andrew, on the safe arrival of Penelope Kate.



[Message](#) from Pope Francis

Friday 28 July 2023

Good morning everyone

I hope you have enjoyed Catholic Education Week. Once again, it has been a joyous time to celebrate all that is wonderful about our Catholic Kindergartens, Primary Schools, and Colleges. I have been delighted to hear of the many life-giving celebrations and activities held in all our communities around the diocese. I continue to be amazed by the creative and meaningful ways our schools have celebrated Catholic Education Week. Thank you to all involved for your great efforts in making these celebrations so memorable for our students, staff, families and communities.

A highlight was the Diocesan Catholic Education Week Mass held at St Joseph's Cathedral in Rockhampton on Thursday with Bishop Michael presiding. Present at the Mass were staff and student representatives from the Rockhampton Region Catholic schools, as well as from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Biloela, together with Religious Sisters, Catholic Education Office staff, invited guests and members of our parish communities. I am aware that many of you joined us via livestream and I hope you were able to enjoy the wonderful celebration as together we took time to praise and thank our God for the great gift of Catholic Education.

As you know these events don't just happen and I extend my sincere thanks to all involved in the preparation and coordination of such a joyous liturgy. Our musicians and choir certainly led the way with their uplifting, praise-filled worship and I thank all who participated for their contribution to the liturgy. Our celebration certainly reflected the Catholic Education Week theme – *Communities of Faith, Hope and Love*. I take this opportunity to pay special tribute to our Diocesan Spirit of Catholic Education Award Recipient for 2023, Claire Stitt (Deputy Principal: Mission, The Cathedral College Rockhampton), and to all our Award nominees for your dedication and outstanding contribution to Catholic Education. Please click on the following [CEDRAwards](#) for a full list of our nominees with photos from our Diocesan Mass on page 2 of the *Message Stick*.

Last Friday I was delighted to spend time with staff and students during my visit to St Francis Catholic Primary School, Tannum Sands. I extend my sincere thanks to Meredith Grove (Acting Principal) and school community for their hospitality and warm welcome. I have included a photo of the magnificent mosaic at the front of the school which was blessed this week as part of Catholic Education Week celebrations.

Congratulations to students and staff from Chanel College, Gladstone who were part of this year's musical production, *Wonderland High*, performed at the Gladstone Entertainment Centre last Friday and Saturday. From all reports the shows were a resounding success.

Finally, this week, we offer our prayers for those in our diocese joining Pilgrims from around the globe for this year's World Youth Day celebrations in Lisbon from August 1 – 6. *Come, Holy Spirit, fill their hearts and enkindle in them the fire of your love.*

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 31 July, Office; Tuesday 1 August, Office and TCC Boarders' Dinner; Wednesday 2 August, Office; Thursday 3 August, Mass to mark 150 years of the Sisters of Mercy in the Diocese of Rockhampton; Friday 4 August, Office.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK
23-29 JULY 2023 FAITH HOPE LOVE 23-29 JULY 2023

World Youth Day 2023 is being held in Lisbon, Portugal and we have the following representatives from CEDR Schools journeying with Bishop Michael as Pilgrims: Nicole Fewtrell, St Anthony's Rockhampton; Alice Warby, St Peter's Rockhampton; Louise Effenev, St Joseph's Wandal; Alice Galea, Jacinta Taske, The Cathedral College Rockhampton; Andrew Lamb, Eliza Strickland, Laura Stanfield and Cassidy Acutt, Emmaus College North Rockhampton; Dayna Giarrusso, Emmanuel Mackay; Jessie Sergiacomi, St Patrick's Bundaberg; Danniell Bryson, Shalom College Bundaberg; Mikaela Jones and Anja Winch St Joseph's Barcardine; Evelyn Walker, St Brigid's Emerald and Kazzandra Maunder, Marist College Emerald. We wish all our pilgrims safe travels and look forward to hearing of their experiences upon their return.

NAIDOC Mass Mackay was held at St Joseph's Church, North Mackay last week. Congratulations to Year 9 Holy Spirit College student, Emily G on receiving a Catholic Education Scholarship for Indigenous Students.



Pictured above from left looking at the newly completed Mosaic at **St Francis Tannum Sands** are Meredith Grove (Acting Principal), Leesa, Kylie Linforth (APC) and Libby Wilson (Acting APRE). The Mosaic was blessed as part of CEW Week celebrations by Fr Andrew Chase.

Photos from our CEW Mass Rockhampton



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