

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from

Pope Francis

Dear young people, God sees how good you are. God knows what has been sown in your hearts. Let it grow. Treasure it with care so that when the inevitable moment of fatigue comes, you can revive the graces of these days. *WYD 2023*

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:

Patrick Egan, Emmaus College, Rockhampton on his appointment as AP: Mission, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton commencing in 2024.

Anne O'Malley on her appointment as Acting APRE, St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, Mackay for Term 4, 2023.

Shaye Curd, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg and husband Leith on the safe arrival of Bronte.

Melissa McLeod, Holy Spirit College, Mackay and husband Ben on the safe arrival of Ryan.



QCCE Catholic schools sector welcomes investment in anti-vaping education.

Friday 11 August 2023

Good morning everyone

It has been wonderful to see the extraordinary images of World Youth Day 2023 shared by our diocesan pilgrims. We have witnessed scenes of joy and celebration as Catholic young people from all over the globe have gathered with enthusiasm and energy, united in faith. I am certain the experience of attending Mass led by Pope Francis for an estimated 1.5 million pilgrims in Lisbon, Portugal, will be a memory that lasts a lifetime. We look forward to the safe return of our 17 diocesan pilgrims and hearing more about their World Youth Day experiences.

Next Tuesday (15 August) is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics and evidence of the special place Mary holds in the Catholic faith tradition. The Assumption recalls the end of Mary's earthly life when, according to our faith, Mary was assumed, body and soul, into heavenly glory. We honour Mary and her great example of how to live a life of faith and service to God.

The Year 11 ACTS (A Chance to Serve) Camp at the Capricorn Coast this week saw 75 students from across the Diocese gather with facilitator David Jorna from Project Hatch to reflect, to share experiences and to explore their spirituality. I offer my sincere thanks to Kellie Jenkinson (Assistant Director: Mission) and members of the Faith, Identity and Religious Education (FIARE) Team for their leadership in organizing and providing this student retreat experience.

CEDR staff currently enrolled in the *Graduate Certificate of Education – Safeguarding Children and Young People* post-graduate course met for their second semester gathering this week in Rockhampton. Including this year's cohort of 26, close to 100 staff members have committed to studying the Safeguarding course since its introduction in 2017. My sincere thanks to Brett Halter (Student Services Manager) and the Student Services Team for providing staff this valuable professional development.

I extend my sincere thanks to all those who assisted with collating the information and documentation required for this year's Non-Government Schools Census, in particular staff members here at the Catholic Education Office. The Census provides the community and the Federal Government with information about Australian schools and highlights some of the needs of each school's students. Importantly, the Government uses the Census data to calculate funding and to create informed and tailored policies for Australian Schools. I know that great care is taken to ensure the data collected is accurate and provided in a timely way.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 14 August to Friday 18 August, Office.

Friday 18 August 2023

A national commemorative service will take place in Canberra on Friday 18 August 2023 recognising the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. The service will take place on Vietnam Veterans' Day (18 August) at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra and will be broadcast nationally by the ABC. Some 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam which was the longest conflict Australia was involved in during the 20th Century. More than 3,000 Australians were wounded and 523 lost their lives during the Vietnam War. The broadcast will commence at 10:00am. For more information visit the [commemorative services](#) pages of the DVA website.

Mary MacKillop: Australia's first and only Saint. Born in 1842, Mary was a woman of faith and courage who cared for the poor and marginalised in colonial Australia, especially children – just like Jesus. She later formed the 'Sisters of Saint Joseph – the Josephites' and built schools and orphanages all over Australia. Catholics all around the world celebrate her **Feast Day on 8 August**. Mary of the Cross, MacKillop – Pray for Us! To watch the Shaping a Nation video, St Mary MacKillop click [here](#)

The Prep students from **St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg** led Courtyard Prayer recently with the theme, *We love the way God made us*.



The **Cathedral College, Rockhampton Rice House High Tea** coincided with the 150th anniversary celebrations for the Sisters of Mercy and Catholic Education Week. The High Tea was Ryan House's way to continue the mission of the Sisters of Mercy and their outreach to vulnerable communities.



World Youth Day: Bishop Michael with 1.5 million young pilgrims, 10,000 Priests & 700 other Bishops, celebrating Mass with Pope Francis in Lisbon, Portugal.



Year 6 students from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, North Mackay recently visited the ABC Tropical North Studios and Star 101.9 Mackay to learn about news and radio.



Students from **St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald** enjoy working in the school gardens demonstrating sustainability, with fresh strawberries being a highlight of their hard work.



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National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

Official **BULLYING NO WAY!** school

Date Claimer:

Providing safe and inclusive learning environments to prevent bullying. **Friday 18 August** marks the 2023 [National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence](#), Australia's key school bullying prevention initiative.

This year's theme, *Growing Connections*, promotes the importance of student connectedness and sense of belonging, helping students feel accepted, respected, included and supported. [Free resources](#) are available for schools to assist them build a proactive approach to bullying prevention and education.

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