

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

October 1 is the feast of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, the Little Flower, the saint of confidence. This coming 15 October, an Apostolic Exhortation on her message will be published. Let us pray that Saint Therese helps us to have confidence and work for the missions.

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

James Kiernan, staff member Shalom College, Bundaberg.

Darrell Deveney, father of Kym McAndrew, APC St John the Baptist, Gladstone,

Graham Ryan, father of Monique Ryan, St Paul's Gracemere and Serentha Kajewski, St Joseph's Wandal.

Helen Harris, cousin of John Kennedy, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton.

Christine (Chris) Launchbury, mother of Jo Driver, APC St Patrick's, Bundaberg.

Ron Fitzpatrick, husband of Carmel Fitzpatrick, Church organist and great supporter of Catholic Education, Rockhampton.

Friday 6 October 2023

Good morning everyone

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope the student vacation period provided time for some rest and relaxation.

Sadly, we received the very tragic news on Tuesday of the sudden passing of James Kiernan, a much loved and highly respected teacher at Shalom College, Bundaberg. I extend my deepest appreciation to James's colleagues and to emergency services personnel who responded. Our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers are with the Shalom College community and especially with James's wife Peta, his daughters and their families.

I am also aware that quite a number of staff have experienced sadness during the holidays following the loss of loved ones. To all who are grieving we offer our most sincere prayers at this very difficult time. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. May perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in peace.

Year 12 students in our colleges have entered the final few weeks of classes before commencing their end of year examinations. I extend my very best wishes to our Seniors for a successful end to their studies to enable smooth access to their chosen future endeavours. I would ask that you remember our Seniors in your prayers as they navigate these final weeks with Catholic Education.

A wonderful highlight of Term 4 are the Awards evenings and ceremonies which will soon commence. I am very much looking forward to attending some of these occasions and I offer my thanks and appreciation to all those involved in preparing these very important events each year.

On Wednesday, I was delighted to spend time visiting school communities at St Therese's Catholic Primary School in Monto and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Biloela. My thanks to respective Principals, Doiya Knapman and Tina Knight, and staff and students for their generous country hospitality and the very warm welcome I received on my visits. Best wishes to St Joseph's Biloela who tonight mark 60 years of their school Ball.

All staff would now be aware of the outcome of the recent ballot for a proposed new EB agreement. I would like to thank those staff who took the time to vote. It is disappointing that the benefits our RI colleagues voted in favour of and will now receive, cannot also be passed on to CEDR staff. It is clear from feedback received from a number of staff, that many of you are also disappointed in the result.

I encourage you to engage with your colleagues on this important topic as we continue to work towards a positive outcome for all staff. A reminder that all questions on the EB process can be directed to eb@rok.catholic.edu.au.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 9 October, Office; Tuesday 10 October, QCEC Meeting, Brisbane; Wednesday 11 October and Thursday 12 October, Office; Friday 13 October, School visits, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon and TCC Academic Awards Evening.

Pictured left to right: Leesa school visits this week to **St Joseph's Biloela** and **St Therese's Monto**.



World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 27th October 2023

#WTDQLD



Celebrate World Teachers' Day on Friday, October 27. Our teachers make a difference every day, educating and inspiring young Queenslanders. [World Teachers' Day](#) is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to applaud Queensland teachers and their positive impact in communities and on students' lives. Get involved! Tag your thanks with #WTDQLD. Download resources, social images and read teachers stories at www.worldteachersday.com.au.

Teacher Touch Footy Day, Saturday, 28 October, Cap Coast Touch Fields, Yeppoon. Now in its 10th year, a not to be missed afternoon of fun, open to all employees of CEDR. Registrations close Monday, 16 October and additional information can be found on the CEDR staff portal. Contact Lisa List at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon, email: lisa_list@rok.catholic.edu.au

Congratulations to Steven Tucker, Shalom College, Bundaberg, (pictured below) for recently taking out the Outstanding Teacher of STEM Award at the Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence. The Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in STEM Education recognise students, teachers, support officers, schools, and education partners (volunteers, mentors, and organisations) who demonstrate an outstanding and innovative contribution to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education in Queensland.



CARITAS Australia invites Catholic Primary Schools and Colleges to become a Catholic Earthcare School Community. To find out more click [Caritas Australia | Catholic Earthcare](#) Community to receive your free Australian Guide to Laudato Si' Action Planning and gain ongoing support.

CREATIVE RESPONSE COMPETITION!

Inaugural Creative Response Competition to the 2023/2024 Social Justice Statement

An inaugural Response Competition for the 2023/24 Social Justice Statement.

The Rockhampton Diocesan Social Justice Group is encouraging engagement with this annual statement. The 2023 statement is on the theme of Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. Access via this [link](#)

Staff and students in our Catholic Schools and Colleges are invited to explore the resources available and then create a response in a preferred artistic medium. Submit your entry as a photo, video or Word document to media@rok.catholic.edu.au by Friday, 13 October 2023. A prize of \$250 is available for each category winner (Primary School, College/Open) which the winner donates to a Catholic charity of their choice. For more information, please contact your respective APRE or AP: Mission.

Australian Catholic Education Symposium. Join us in the lead up to **World Teachers' Day** for our online symposium with special guest speaker **Prof Anne Graham** followed by a panel discussion. **Wednesday 25 October 2023 3.30pm - 4.50pm (AEDT)** 3.00pm (ACDT), 2.30pm (AEST), 12.30pm (AWST) Topic: Are we listening? How can Catholic schools respond to student views for wellbeing, faith formation and learning. To register click [here](#)

Pictured below CEDR and Parish participants at the recent **Liturgy and Music Conference, Brisbane.**



Seeking Graduate & Experienced Teachers for 2024

Applications accepted all year round

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



Catholic Mission is celebrating **World Mission Month in October**, focusing on Pope Francis' World Mission Sunday message, 'Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move.' For more information click [here](#)



Schools are encouraged to sign up for Socktober helping to kick goals to support children in Timor-Leste to have a brighter future. To sign up, find out more and access resources click [here](#)

Term 4 Date Claimers:

Friday 27 October, Day for Daniel and World Teachers' Day.

Saturday 28 October, Teacher Touch Footy Day, Yeppoon.

Friday 17 November, Year 12 conclude.

Friday 24 November, Year 10 and 11 conclude.

Wednesday 29 November, Last Day for Western Schools and Monto.

Friday 1 December, last day Term 4.

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