

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

I am following apprehensively and sorrowfully what is happening in Israel. May the attacks and weaponry cease. And let it be understood that terrorism and war do not lead to any resolutions. War is a defeat. Let us pray together that there be peace in Israel and Palestine.

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

Chris Roberts, father of Mark Roberts APRE, St Paul's, Gracemere.

Where's Leesa:

Monday 16 October, Office;
Tuesday 17 October, Office and Emmaus College Academic Awards Evening;
Wednesday 18 October, Office;
Thursday 19 October, Secondary Principals' Meeting, Primary Principals' Meeting and The Cathedral College Boarders' Farewell;
Friday 20 October, The Cathedral College Year 12 Farewell Mass.

Friday 13 October 2023

Good morning everyone

The start of this week saw the sad and confronting news of escalated conflict and war declaration in the Middle East. In this month of October, that is dedicated to the Rosary, we join with Pope Francis to pray through the intercession of Mary, *"for the gift of peace for the many countries of the world marked by war and conflict"* (Pope Francis). We also give thanks for the cherished blessing of peace in our own lives and communities, and may we do all we can to promote a way of peace and love of neighbour as Christ did.

We also hold in prayer, members of our wider Catholic Church family tragically affected by the plane crash near Canberra claiming the lives of three siblings (aged between 6 and 11) and their grandfather. The children's father works in the Chancery Office for the Catholic Diocese of Armidale and the children attended Catholic schools. We ask our loving God to comfort and sustain the Smith family and all who loved and cared for those lost.

On Monday, many in our communities tuned in to a highly informative free webinar on *Artificial Intelligence (AI) in School and at Home* delivered by Jo Butterworth, Executive Director – Curriculum Services Division at Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA). The widespread participation of parents and staff in the event indicated the heightened awareness of the rapid growth of digital technologies and the subsequent influence on young people. Promoting safe and ethical use of AI in our communities is paramount. I offer my sincere appreciation to Catholic School Parents Queensland for facilitating access to this important information.

I was delighted to be present at the Queensland Catholic Education Commission on Tuesday for the official induction of newly appointed QCEC Executive Director Allan Blagaich. On behalf of CEDR, I extend sincere best wishes to Allan in his new role. Many of us will have an opportunity to meet Allan when he visits us in November.

Workplace Health and Safety (WH&S) representatives from our colleges gathered this week in Rockhampton for their annual gathering and training in-service, and our Primary school WH&S contacts will come together next week. Stephen Penfold from Top Consulting Safety is leading attendees through an intense 2½-day program covering a wide range of topics. My thanks to Simon Graham (WH&S Manager) for his work in coordinating these important sessions for staff.

Today, I am very much looking forward to my school visits at the Capricorn Coast and spending time with students and staff at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and St Benedict's Catholic Primary School. I thank the respective School Principals Max Martin and Julie McLaughlin and their communities for hosting what I know will be very enjoyable visits.

Congratulations to all students who will be recognised at the Academic Awards Presentations that will be held in our colleges in the coming weeks. Each Award recipient is to be commended on their application to their studies and I also thank teachers and staff for their dedication, commitment and for helping students achieve their potential. I hope students, their families, teachers and the wider college communities enjoy these special events in the life of their college.

God bless,

Leesa



Photo L to R; Leesa, Allan Blagaich, new QCEC Executive Director and Bishop Tim Norton, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Brisbane, during the Commissioning Mass for Allan Blagaich.

Australian Catholic Education Symposium

25 October 2023 | 3.30pm AEDT

Prof Anne Graham



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, 2:30pm Queensland, 3.30pm (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](#)

World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 27th October 2023

#WTDQLD



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

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon Prep Students recently welcomed representatives from Yeppoon Rotary Club to the school. The Club donated books which the Prep Students are now enjoying reading.



St Patrick's College, Mackay recently presented to Sister Denise Hinton, rsm, (pictured below centre) on behalf of Mercy Works, as part of their fundraising a cheque for \$3500. These funds will go towards helping vulnerable communities in Australia and Southeast Asia. Thank you to all who contributed to the Term 3 Vinnies fundraisers - your contributions are appreciated.



Congratulations to **The Cathedral College, Rockhampton** who are the Queensland Touch Footy Champions for the 5th year running.



Students from **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcaldine** recently visited the Council Chambers to experience a mock Council meeting. All of the students were engaged in this immersive experience and discussed how the Barcaldine Regional Council makes decisions to benefit the community.



The Synod on Synodality, what is it? Colm Flynn reports from Rome, watch [here](#)

Pope Francis writes: I thank all who are accompanying in prayer the Synod that is taking place, an ecclesial event of listening, sharing and fraternal communion in the Spirit. I invite everyone to entrust the proceedings to the Holy Spirit.

Seeking Graduate & Experienced Teachers for 2024

Applications accepted all year round

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

Congratulations to:

Christina Brimelow, St Patrick's, Bundaberg and husband Joel on the safe arrival of Luca.

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