

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

Humanitarian law is to be respected, especially in Gaza. Please let no more innocent blood be shed, neither in the Holy Land nor in Ukraine. War is always a defeat, always.

Please remember in your prayers members of our wider Catholic Education Family who are unwell.

Deb Campbell, Catholic Education Office, wife of John Campbell, Catholic Education Office.

We also remember in our prayers this week:

Our Senior students as they enter their final External Assessment period. We pray the Holy Spirit will be ever at their side as a source of courage, wisdom, and strength.



**CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS
QUEENSLAND**

Catholic School Parents Queensland (CSPQ) have provided a link to the recording of the Webinar held last week, *Artificial Intelligence in the School and at Home*.

<https://cspq.catholic.edu.au/events>

Friday 20 October 2023

Good morning everyone

Due to very low participation rate and the close result in the ballot for a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA), I advised you recently that a re-ballot will be conducted for eligible staff to vote again on the proposed EBA. The negotiations with the Independent Education Union Australia (IEUA) on this EBA, as you know, have been long and protracted. I give you my personal assurance that I have listened very attentively to issues raised by the IEUA and I have endeavoured to respond in a positive and meaningful way to address the issues they put forward. At all times, I have conducted these negotiations in good faith and with my overriding objective being to provide the teachers and support staff who work in our Catholic schools with an attractive package of remuneration and workplace benefits which appropriately recognise and reward their outstanding work.

I have always been respectful of the role played by the IEUA leadership and their school-based representatives and my hope has always been to work constructively with the Union to deliver the best possible outcomes for our staff. I sincerely believe that the proposed EBA we are once again putting before you to consider and vote upon is fair and just and provides our valued staff with significant and meaningful remuneration increases and enhanced working conditions. If I did not believe that to be the case, I would not be placing the proposed EBA before you again for your respectful consideration. I had hoped that the IEUA would recognise our strong commitment to the welfare of our teachers and support staff that underpins this EBA and the real benefits, including back pay, that will flow to them as soon as possible if the proposed EBA is approved. Accordingly, I hoped that the IEUA would encourage a YES vote by their members in this re-ballot but regrettably and disappointingly that appears not to be the case.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposed EBA, please do not hesitate to discuss these with your School Principal or contact Gary Cooper, Employee Support Services Manager at the Catholic Education Office in Rockhampton.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 23 October, Office; Tuesday 24 October and Wednesday 25 October, Meetings Brisbane and ACU Forum; Thursday 26 October, Marist College Academic Awards Evening; Friday 27 October, Office.

Prayer for Peace:

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, came into the world to do your will and leave us his peace. Through the intercession and example of our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Peace, grant us the wisdom and humility to reflect that peace in our world. Inspire our thoughts, words and deeds to bear witness to your presence in our hearts. May your Holy Spirit fill us with every grace and blessing so that we may all pursue what leads to peace for all humanity. Amen.

Concern continues to grow as unrest escalates between Israel and Hamas. Very **disturbing content circulating on social media** has prompted the eSafety Commissioner to issue warnings around the significant risk to the psychological and emotional well-being of young people exposed to this level of extreme violence. Important information is contained in eSafety's guidance www.esafety.gov.au/report/illegal-harmful-content and schools have been provided advice to assist in supporting our students and families with regard to disturbing online content. Prayers for peace are urgently needed and I invite you to join me in petitioning our Mother Mary in this month of the Rosary to intercede with our loving God to hasten an end to the horrific conflict.

October Month of the Rosary: By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a certain devotion. The month of October is dedicated to the holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). (Excerpt from [Teaching Catholic Kids](#)) **What is the Rosary?** The Rosary is a method of prayer, which involves contemplating the mysteries, or scenes, of the life of Jesus, through the eyes of his mother, Mary. This contemplation is the heart of the Rosary. Contemplation is a form of praying in which we think about, mull over, and meditate on the specific scene. We put ourselves in the scene and make it present to us. It's a way of praying to immerse ourselves in the life of Jesus and listen to what he wants to teach us. Repeating the prayers enables the body to enter into meditation. (Excerpt from The Formation-RLoS tab on the FIARE google site), information on the Rosary for use in schools and can be accessed [here](#)

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Biloela recently celebrated their 60th St Joseph's School Ball. Watch [here](#)



Congratulations to **St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton** student, Maggie. Last term, she proudly represented Australia at the Dwarf Games in Germany, showcasing her incredible skills in basketball, soccer, and athletics. Last week Maggie was recognised at the prestigious Darumbal Award Night and was named the Primary School Student of the Year for 2023!



Emmanuel Kindergarten, Mackay celebrated their 10th anniversary this week with current families and students. Fr Andrew Hogan joined the celebrations along with Noleen Kliese (APRE Emmanuel Catholic Primary School).



Seeking Graduate & Experienced Teachers for 2024

Applications accepted all year round

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

Congratulations to:

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandal who are the 2023 winners of the Get Ready Queensland School Competition. Watch [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 Term 4, Western Schools and Monto.

Friday 1 December, last day Term 4.

 **Caritas AUSTRALIA**
Gaza Crisis Appeal is aiming to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to people affected by the conflict. Donate now either via [here](#) or by scanning the QR Code below.



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