

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

As we celebrate the Feast of All Saints let us ask them to sustain us in our fidelity to the Gospel and to guard our hearts in the hope of sharing their joy in communion with the Lord and with all whom we have loved.

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

Sr Patricia Heenan RSC, sister of Emeritus Bishop Brian Heenan.

Ian German, Holy Spirit College, Mackay, staff member.

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

Fr Peter Tonti, Vicar General Diocese of Rockhampton.

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

Friday 3 November 2023

Good morning everyone

Thank you again to all staff who took the time to vote in the recent Ballot on the proposed Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA). Your support in approving the proposed EBA was sincerely appreciated. I am very aware of the cost-of-living pressures being experienced by many people at the present time, so please be assured of my commitment to the remuneration benefits contained in the EBA flowing to staff as soon as possible. The proposed timeline for the payment of these remuneration benefits is set out in my All Staff Bulletin of 31 October. I hope this timeline illustrates my commitment to providing you with the remuneration benefits in the EBA in a very timely manner.

Wednesday (1 November) we celebrated All Saints Day to remember and give thanks for the thousands of people who have been saints in our lives and in the world. Yesterday (2 November), was All Souls Day, a day to offer prayers of thanks and blessing for our loved ones who have gone to their eternal rest. We remember our family members, friends, and colleagues who have passed away – *‘May perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.’*

The fires across our state this week are a stark reminder of the need for us to prepare for the summer emergency season and increased likelihood of bushfires, storms, floods and cyclones. The *Get Ready Queensland website* provides comprehensive practical information to help Queenslanders prepare for possible natural disasters this season. It is important that our schools have reviewed their critical incident and natural disaster procedures and that all in our school communities are informed about what to do should an emergency situation arise.

Congratulations to all at St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Wandal on winning this year’s *Get Ready Queensland School Competition* and securing a visit from *Get Ready Queensland* Ambassador, Johnathan Thurston.

In coming weeks, we will farewell long serving staff who are leaving us this year with a special mention of their dedicated service in the *Message Stick*. I am deeply grateful to these wonderful staff members who have contributed significantly to Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton over many years. I extend my best wishes for your remaining time with us, and may you enjoy good health and God’s abundant blessings into the future.

Finally, let us continue our efforts to pray for peace in our world and an end to violence and war. Even where hope seems diminished, prayer remains a powerful source of strength.

God bless,

Leesa

Where’s Leesa: Monday 6 November, Office; Tuesday 7 November, Melbourne Cup Missions Lunch; Wednesday 8 November, School visits, St Mary’s and St Patrick’s, Bundaberg; Thursday 9 November, School visits St Joseph’s and Shalom College, Bundaberg; Friday 10 November, 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.

Teacher Assistants from **Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay** recently attended Professional Development sessions with Minds Aligned, facilitated by Nick Bennet and Rowena Hardy. The day offered opportunities for team building and enhancement of wellbeing. It displayed our commitment to and investment in all staff and was greatly appreciated by everyone involved.



On Friday 27 October, all schools in Monto marched together in recognition of Day for Daniel (pictured below). This is the third year that this combined march has been held involving the Education Queensland Primary Schools and **St Therese's Catholic Primary School, Monto**.



Pictured below a drone photo taken by Catherine Zamparutti, teacher Certificate III in Aviation, **St Patrick's College, Mackay**.



Catherine McAuley College, Mackay recently blessed and unveiled their bronze sculpture of Catherine McAuley (pictured below) called, "Come Sit A While." Gael O'Leary the artist who created the statue reflected that she understood Catherine to be a woman of courage, infinite wisdom and deep faith; a woman who had a kind heart and a listening ear.



Pictured below from left with the statue are Sisters of Mercy, Marise Casey, Kerry-Anne Sullivan, Denise Hinton and Gael O'Leary (artist).

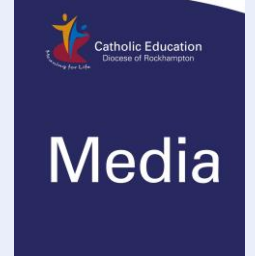


Pictured left: Students from **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blackall** recently visited Sea World on the Gold Coast as part of their school excursion to the Southeast of Queensland.

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NCEC – The importance of recognising and knowing our students: [read](#)

Pope Francis calls for ceasefire in the Holy Land: [read](#)

Synod Report: A Church that involves everyone and is close to the world's wounds: [read](#)

Term 4 Date Claimers:

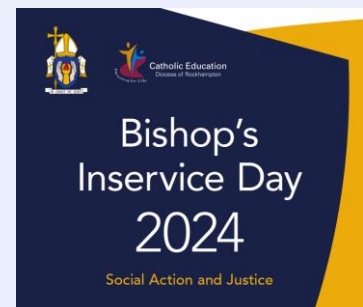
Saturday, 11 November, Remembrance Day

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.



Friday 16 February

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