

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Reflection from Pope Francis

Every human being, of any people or religion, every human being is sacred, is precious in the eyes of God and has the right to live in peace. Let us not lose hope: let us pray and work tirelessly so that a sense of humanity may prevail over hardness of heart.

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

**William Senn**, father of Fr Bill Senn, Associate Pastor, Cathedral Parish of St Joseph, Rockhampton.

**Domenica Fazio**, mother of Fiona Spina, St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston.

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

**Fr Peter Tonti**, Vicar General Diocese of Rockhampton.

**A Novena for Fr Peter and the needs of the world at this time** commencing this Saturday, 18 November can be accessed via this [link](#)

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

## Friday 17 November 2023

Good morning everyone

In response to the ongoing conflict in the Holy Land, the Australian Catholic Bishops have issued a communication [link](#) to the Australian Catholic community calling for "people of faith to pray with us for a lasting peace and the triumph of human dignity". In this communication, we are reminded that the innocent men, women and children caught in this conflict are our brothers and sisters: all children of God. An urgent plea for generous donations to help provide aid to those facing the harshest of circumstances has also been issued. I pray all Australians will respond generously to this appeal for donations.

With deepest compassion, we offer our thoughts and prayers to the families affected by the tragic accident in Woorabinda last weekend. The loss of these beautiful children has been deeply felt by all in the community and we extend our most sincere condolences at this very sad and difficult time.

This week we welcomed Allan Blagaich to the Diocese on his first official visit as Executive Director Queensland Catholic Education Commission, following his recent appointment. Allan's visit included attending the Emmaus College (Rockhampton) and Chanel College (Gladstone) Year 12 Graduation Masses, as well as visits to St Anthony's Catholic Primary School and St Anthony's Catholic Kindergarten in North Rockhampton; Outside School Hours Care at St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton; and, St John's Catholic Primary School in Gladstone. My sincere thanks to all respective communities for the very warm welcome we received and for ensuring Allan enjoyed an engaging and informative visit.

I was delighted to join the community at Holy Spirit College, Mackay for their Awards Evening. Congratulations to all award recipients on your outstanding achievements and to all involved in the preparation of the evening which was a wonderful event for the whole college community. While in Mackay, I also had the opportunity to visit Catherine McAuley College and St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston. My thanks to Principals, Jim Ford (Catherine McAuley College) and Nathaniel Rice (St John's, Walkerston), and their respective communities for making my visit so enjoyable.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming our recently appointed School Leaders for 2024 to our Leadership Induction Gathering in Rockhampton next week.

Today marks the final day of formal education for Year 12 students. In bidding our Seniors farewell, I offer to each of them my sincere congratulations on all they have achieved during their time with Catholic Education. I would also like to thank them for their valuable contribution to the life of their school communities, for their leadership and for their service and outreach to those in need. As these great young people embark on this new chapter in their lives, I hope they take with them fond and lasting memories of their time with us and an enduring sense of belonging. I pray that their future will be all that they would wish it to be.

Thank you to everyone for all you do at this time of the school year. I wish you God's many blessings in the coming weeks.

God bless,

*Leesa*

**Where's Leesa:** Monday 20 November, Office; Tuesday 21 November and Wednesday 22 November, Leadership Induction Days; Thursday 23 November, Office; Friday 24 November, Diocesan Education Council Meeting.

## *Farewell, thank you and best wishes to Long Sewing Staff*

As we conclude another school year, we would like to take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to our long-serving staff who are leaving Catholic Education. Their dedicated and committed service has been a wonderful blessing for their respective communities and we extend our gratitude and appreciation for the significant contribution each has made to Catholic Education over many years. Our very best wishes to you, our valued colleagues, in all your endeavours. Thank you for your tremendous service and may God bless each of you and your loved ones abundantly, into the future.

### **NORTHERN REGION**

#### **Jenny Wedemeyer**

Commenced with CEDR in 1972 at St Patrick's Convent Girls' High School (later Loyola College, Bundaberg) then to Shalom College where she has held various roles in English and Performing Arts and is currently Speech and Drama Coordinator at Shalom College, Bundaberg.



#### **Andrew Boge**

Andrew commenced with CEDR in 1982 and has held teaching positions at Chanel College, Gladstone.



#### **Christine Rasmussen**

Christine commenced with CEDR in 1983 at the Christian Brothers College, then moving to Shalom College, Bundaberg in 1984 and held various teaching positions.



#### **Catherine Nash**

Cathy commenced with CEDR in 1984 and has held teaching positions, including APRE, in Bundaberg Catholic Schools. Since 1986 Cathy has been on staff at St Patrick's, West Bundaberg.



#### **Gerry Dyer**

Gerry commenced with CEDR in 1993 and has held various teaching positions at Chanel College, Gladstone including APRE and Deputy Principal.



#### **Lorraine Knott**

Lorraine commenced with CEDR in 1993 at St Mary's, Bundaberg, where she is currently Library Assistant.



### **Term 4 Date Claimers**

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

### **Seeking Graduate & Experienced Teachers for 2024**

Applications accepted all year round

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

**Pictured below, from left, at Emmaus College, North Rockhampton:** Bernard Fitzgerald, Principal St Joseph's Park Avenue, Mick Roach, Principal St Anthony's, Leesa, Eamon Hannan, Principal Emmaus College, Allan Blagaich, Executive Director QCEC and Mike Kelso ADS: Rockhampton.



Pictured below during a visit to **Catherine McAuley College, Mackay** this week, Chris Apelt (AP: Teaching and Learning) and Leesa.



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### **Deb Handley**

Deb commenced with CEDR in 1998 and worked as a Teacher Assistant at St Patrick's, Bundaberg.



### **Glen Galea**

Glen commenced with CEDR in 2004 at Mercy College, Mackay moving to Chanel College, Gladstone in 2006 where he held teaching positions: Middle School Coordinator, Pastoral Coordinator, and House Coordinator.



### **Brenda Finning**

Brenda commenced with CEDR in 2004 and has held teaching positions in Biloela, Emerald, Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast. Brenda is currently on staff at St Patrick's, Emerald.



### **Sonya Heid**

Sonya commenced with CEDR in 2007 and has held various positions during her time at St Joseph's, Biloela.



*There will be more farewells to long serving staff in next week's Message Stick.*