

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

War is the “mother of poverty,” especially affecting civilians and families. Let us keep every effort alive so that Peace may prevail as a gift of God and the result of our commitment to justice and dialogue.

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

Tom Harris, nephew of Sr Kym Harris, OSB, Yeppoon.

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

Fr Peter Tonti, Vicar General Diocese of Rockhampton.

The First Christmas Crib

The very first Nativity scene is attributed to St Francis of Assisi. St Francis transformed one of the natural caves of the mountain into a chapel and in that little space he created a manger filled with straw. He brought in some animals and lit the hillside with torches so that people around could see the mountain filled with light.

(Stets OSF. 2022. Franciscan Field Guide. Franciscan Places, Practices and Prayers. Franciscan Media: Cincinnati 37).

Where's Leesa:

Monday 27 November to Friday 1 December, Office.

Friday 24 November 2023

Good morning everyone

Over the past few weeks, we have been farewelling in the *Message Stick* respected and valued members of our Catholic Education Family who are leaving us at the end of this year.

I hope you will allow me to express here my personal farewell to Mark Effenev, who in a week's time will retire from the role of Assistant Director: Administration for Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton. Mark's areas of responsibility include: Building Services; Early Learning and Care; Outside School Hours Care Services; and, Employee Support Services. His vast knowledge, effective leadership and determined commitment to ensuring great outcomes for all in our communities, have resulted in a significant contribution to Catholic Education and a legacy that will benefit all. Characterised by compassion and integrity, Mark's service as a Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Assistant Director (Schools and Administration) for over 36 years has been an extraordinary gift to Catholic Education.

Mark is a person I deeply respect and admire. For me personally, Mark has been a valued colleague, a loyal team member, an advisor and a person I could confidently rely on to provide encouragement, practical assistance and support in the good times but most especially, in times of great challenge. With a hallmark sense of humour and intelligent wit, he has been a wonderful role model of what it is to be a missionary disciple and I will very much miss working with Mark. In farewelling Mark, I also offer heartfelt thanks to Mark's wife Anne on her retirement from teaching after many years of service to Catholic Education. I wish Mark and Anne and all their family every one of God's many blessings in the years ahead.

This week we held our Leadership Induction Gathering for our recently appointed School Leaders and Senior Personnel. This was a great opportunity to come together to reflect and to share insights on what it means to hold a leadership position within Catholic Education. I extend my thanks to Bishop Michael for the wonderful input he provided for our new leaders. My thanks to Michael McCusker (Assistant Director: Schools – Northern Region) for his organisation and to all who contributed to planning and presenting these important days. I hope those who attended found it to be a positive and rewarding experience. May God bless our new leaders in their endeavours and in the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead.

This week we held our final Diocesan Education Council meeting and our final School Board Chair meeting for 2023. I extend my grateful thanks to all members for their generous contribution over this past year and for their ongoing commitment to the Ministry of Catholic Education.

For those in Rockhampton, the much-anticipated St Mary's Christmas Fair is on tonight from 5:00pm. The Fair is a wonderful event for the whole family, featuring stalls, rides, raffles and entertainment, including the keenly contested ham wheel. It is a great family outing in support of St Mary's Parish.

I have been humbled by the overwhelming messages of appreciation I have received following my email advice that the Cost-Of-Living Payment contained in EB10 will be paid by CEDR to eligible staff in the 22 December pay run. Please see the latest [FAQs](#) for information about COLP. Thank you to all those who took the time to express their appreciation.

I extend my thanks, on your behalf, to Gary Cooper (Employee Support Services Manager) and Belinda Hooper (Employee Support Services Payroll Coordinator) and their team for their tremendous efforts to ensure the payment benefits of the EB Agreement, you voted to accept, will have all been passed on in time for Christmas. I hope the timely payment of these benefits will assist families in these challenging economic times.

Lastly, a reminder that our final *Message Stick* for 2023 will be distributed on Wednesday next week (29 November).

God bless,

Leesa

Farewell, thank you and best wishes to Long Serving 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.

Mark Effenev

Mark commenced with CEDR in 1987 and has held teaching positions in Rockhampton, Clermont and Gladstone as well as Principalship positions at St Joseph's, Barcardine, St Mary's, North Rockhampton, Sacred Heart, Yeppoon, Acting AD: Schools – Rockhampton Region, AD: Schools and currently AD: Administration CEDR.



ROCKHAMPTON REGION

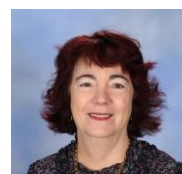
Rose Connor

Rose commenced with CEDR in 1977 at St Joseph's, Park Avenue and has held various teaching positions in Monto, Longreach, Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Gracemere. Rose is currently on staff at St Anthony's, North Rockhampton.



Lynne Conlon

Lynne commenced with CEDR in 1979 at St Joseph's, Park Avenue and has held various teaching positions in Mackay and Rockhampton. Lynne is currently on staff at St Mary's, North Rockhampton.



Lynette Fellowes

Lynette commenced with CEDR in 1980 at the then Marian / St Stanislaus College, North Rockhampton and has held various teaching positions across Rockhampton including Dean of HPE at The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.



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Term 4 Date Claimers

Wednesday, 29 November, last day Term 4, Western Schools and Monto

Friday, 1 December, last day Term 4



NCEC – The overfunded 'private' school myth ... again: [Read](#)

Anne Effenev

Anne commenced with CEDR in 1983 at St Mary's, Bundaberg and has held teaching positions at Catholic schools in Monto, Bundaberg, Clermont, Gladstone, Barcaldine, Rockhampton and Yeppoon. Anne is currently on staff at St Benedict's, Yeppoon.



Ron Howell

Ron commenced with CEDR in 1985 at Emmaus College, North Rockhampton and has held various teaching positions as well as Head of Science at Emmaus College, North Rockhampton.



Helen Howell

Helen commenced with CEDR in 1986 at the then Marian / St Stanislaus College, North Rockhampton moving to Emmaus College where she has held various teaching positions as well as, Acting Assistant Principal: Administration, Acting Assistant Principal, Acting Principal and is currently Deputy Principal.



Louise O'Shaughnessy

Louise commenced with CEDR in 1986 at St Anthony's, North Rockhampton and has held various teaching positions in Longreach, Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Yeppoon as well as Acting APC and is currently in the position of Curriculum Consultant at the Catholic Education Office.



Peter O'Shaughnessy

Peter commenced with CEDR in 1987 at the then St Joseph's Christian Brothers College, Rockhampton and has held various teaching roles in Rockhampton and Yeppoon as well as Faculty Leader (Maths) at Emmaus College, North Rockhampton



Christine Murphy

Christine commenced with CEDR in 1987 at St Peter's, Rockhampton and has held various teaching positions in Biloela, Emerald, Springsure, and Rockhampton, as well as Instrumental Music Coordinator, Acting APRE and APRE at St Mary's, North Rockhampton.



Claire Stitt

Claire commenced with CEDR in 1998 at The Cathedral College, Rockhampton and during that time has held various teaching roles as well as Assistant Principal: Religious Education, Deputy Principal: Mission and Acting Principal.



Robyn Strahley-Wright

Robyn commenced with CEDR in 2002 and has held various teaching positions within Rockhampton and Emerald. Robyn is currently on staff at Emmaus College, North Rockhampton.

**Jessica Richards**

Jessica commenced with CEDR in 2003 and has held various teaching positions in Rockhampton, Gladstone and Emerald. Jessica is currently on staff at St Peter's, Rockhampton.

**Rebecca Faria**

Rebecca commenced with CEDR in 2005 and has held various teaching positions at St Mary's, North Rockhampton.

**Stephen Hunt**

Stephen commenced with CEDR in 2007 at St Peter's, Rockhampton and has held various teaching positions in Springsure, Gracemere, Emerald and Rockhampton, as well as Acting APRE, APRE and Acting Principal. Stephen is currently on staff at St Anthony's, North Rockhampton.

