

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Reflection from Pope Francis

Let us pray for peace in the Holy Land, so that disputes may be resolved through dialogue and negotiations and not with a mountain of dead on each side.

To view Pope Francis' Video Message for Peace in the Holy Land click [here](#)

Wednesday 29 November 2023

Good morning everyone

This is the final *Message Stick* for 2023. I hope you agree the past year has featured many exciting events, positive initiatives, wonderful celebrations, life-giving Masses and Liturgies and excellence in teaching and learning, all contributing to 2023 being a successful year of achievement for the Ministry of Catholic Education.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to every member of our Catholic Education family for all you have contributed to the life of our schools, colleges, kindergartens, or the Catholic Education Office over the past year. I commend you on your professionalism, your giftedness and your generosity of heart and spirit.

Whatever role you carry out, you each make a meaningful contribution to the compassionate care of our students and their families. I thank you for your support and care of one another and for all you do to ensure our schools are safe and nurturing places of faith and of great teaching and learning. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who generously donate their time and talents in many ways to build and sustain our communities.

To our Bishop and pastoral leader, Bishop Michael, I extend my deep gratitude for his ever present prayerful and practical support and for presiding at so many significant occasions in our school communities and for Catholic Education. I would particularly like to thank Bishop Michael for his leadership of our World Youth Day (WYD) Pilgrims and for helping to make their Pilgrimage an enriching and life-changing experience for our 17 Catholic Education teachers who participated in WYD 2023. I also thank our Priests and the members of Religious Congregations for their wonderful support of Catholic Education and for their faith-filled presence in our school communities.

This Sunday marks the commencement of Advent – that season of waiting, longing, and spiritual preparation for celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Saviour. As we light the first of the four Advent candles, the candle of Hope, let us renew our support for those adversely affected by on-going conflicts, and in a spirit of Christmas Hope, prayerfully petition our ever-loving and generous God to quickly bring an end to hostilities.

Finally, I wish each of you a Blessed and Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please find here a link to my [Christmas Message](#) together with this delightful version of Andrew Chin's [We Light a Candle](#) performed so beautifully by students at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton.

I pray that God will keep you safe as you enjoy treasured time with family and friends and may the peace and joy of Christmas be with you at this wondrous time of year.

I look forward to seeing you all once again in 2024.

God bless,

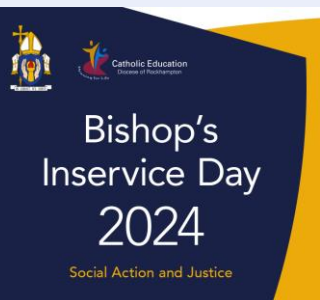
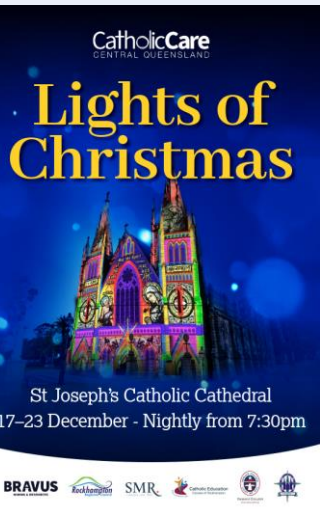
*Leesa*



*Wishing you a blessed  
and holy Christmas*

The Director and Staff of Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton  
wish you every blessing of the Christmas Season.

We take this opportunity to advise you that the Catholic Education  
Office will be closed from Friday 22 December 2023 and  
will re-open on Thursday 4 January 2024.



Friday 16 February 2024

## 2024 Important Dates:

15 January  
Week 0 commences

19 January  
9:00am Opening School  
Year Mass  
St Joseph's Cathedral  
Rockhampton (live-  
streamed)

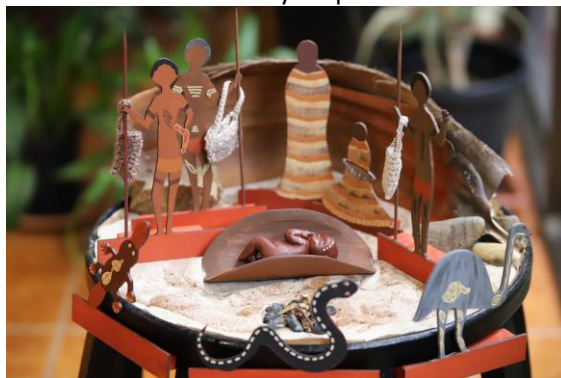
22 January  
Term 1 commences



Sincere thanks to the Staff and Students from St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton who assisted with this year's Christmas Video. Pictured below: students with Leesa during the video shoot.



The Season of Advent and the Church's new liturgical year commences this weekend, and we use this time in preparation for the coming of Christ. Pictured below (left) is the Advent Wreath at the Catholic Education Office. In the forefront of the Advent Wreath is the Indigenous Nativity Scene (pictured right) which is part of the Catholic Education Office Prayer space this Advent.



Pictured below at last week's **Leadership Induction Days** are CEDR Leadership Team Members and New Staff to the Catholic Education Office and CEDR Schools for 2024. Pictured below back row from left: Leesa Jeffcoat, Mike Kelso, Mark Effeney, Bianca McLeish (Student Wellbeing Coordinator), Tim Collins, Jo-Anne Perry (Compliance and Risk Coordinator), Scott Murray (Principal St Therese's Monto 2024), Michael McCusker, Laura Campbell (Acting APRE St Joseph's Bundaberg), Stephen Dale, Carmel Kriz, Kellie Jenkinson. Front row from left: Elizabeth Wilson (Acting APRE St Francis Tannum Sands), Georgia Maloney (APRE St Anne's Sarina), Penny McKeown (AP: Pedagogy and Practice, Shalom College), Philippa Rea (APC Emmaus College), Shona Gibson (APC St Anne's Sarina), Stacey Hogan (Kindergarten Director St Joseph's Park Avenue), Sharon Hage (Kindergarten Director St Joseph's Biloela).



## Seeking Graduate & Experienced Teachers for 2024

Applications accepted all year round

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

### Congratulations to:

Peter Smith, Principal St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton who was the winner of the **2023 CEDR Footy Tipping Competition**.

Peter is pictured below with Mike Kelso (AD: Schools - Rockhampton Region) accepting his award.



CEDR also acknowledges Datacom for their sponsorship of this competition.

### 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.

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