

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

Prayer gives us strength to strive ahead, overcome our fears and glimpse the salvation that God prepares for us, even amid the darkness. Prayer also draws God's salvation near.

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

Kevin Casey, former councillor and deputy mayor Mackay and great friend and supporter of Catholic Education.

Robert Chellingsworth, father of Demi Fraser, St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton.

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

Stephenie Broadbent, mother of Robyn Finch, Emmaus College, North Rockhampton.

Congratulations to:

Eliza Langdon (second year CAP student, St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton) on receiving the ALEA Prize for education students with an outstanding achievement in core English Language and Literacy subject in their course. Eliza is pictured below (right) with Dawn Haynes from ALEA.



Thursday 15 February 2024

Good morning everyone

The *Message Stick* is being sent early this week as we will be gathering on Friday for our Bishop's In-Service Day.

I extend my sincere thanks to Bishop Michael for the gift of the Bishop's In-Service Day each year. I thank him for leading this important day of Formation for all who serve in the ministry of Catholic Education. My appreciation also goes to our Workshop presenters for giving generously of their time and talent to share with us very valuable insights on our focus topic this year "*Social Action and Justice*".

I am also very grateful to Assistant Director: Mission, Kellie Jenkinson, the FIARE Team and all our APREs and AP: Mission for their excellent work in planning and organizing our Bishop's In-Service Day for 2024. I know their dedication and commitment will result in a Formation experience that is worthwhile and engaging for your school community. Special thanks to Rob Alexander (Principal) and The Cathedral College community for hosting our Livestream this year.

Important communication has been sent to schools regarding attendance expectations and instructions for registration, accessing the livestream and links to Workshops. Please ensure you complete registration details as provided to you via the All-Staff Email issued earlier today and through your school. Also please familiarize yourself with the Workshop arrangements for your school community following the Livestream. I thank you in advance for your wholehearted participation in this special day for our schools and I hope you find the Bishop's In-Service Day 2024 beneficial, both personally and professionally.

Lent commenced this week with Ash Wednesday. Over the next 40 days of the Lenten Season, we are invited to take time to respond to the Gospel call to prayer, fasting and good works. As you know, Caritas Australia's main annual fundraising campaign, *Project Compassion*, is a key social action focus for us during Lent and I would encourage communities to participate as we look to support programs which alleviate poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity in vulnerable communities.

I was delighted to accompany Bishop Michael, earlier this week, on visits to St Benedict's and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary Schools in Yeppoon. We were both very grateful for the warmth of the welcome and the wonderful hospitality extended to us. It was great to be able to spend time with staff and students and to see first-hand the outstanding teaching and learning that occurs at St Benedict's and Sacred Heart and at all our schools each day.

As you know Bishop Michael and I have recently visited schools in Rockhampton and in our Southern and Northern Regions. Bishop Michael has expressed how much he has enjoyed the opportunity to personally meet so many students and staff and to witness the nurturing, faith-filled communities that our schools are. Bishop Michael and I are looking forward to finalizing arrangements for future visits to our Central and Far Western school communities.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 19 February to Wednesday 21 February, Office; Thursday 22 February, Ordination of Peter Doherty, St Joseph's Cathedral; Friday 23 February, Meeting Melbourne.

NORTHERN SCHOOL VISITS



Emmanuel Kindergarten, Mackay is doing something practical for Lent this year by reaching out to the Mobile Kindy project in Fiji. *“As we enter Lent we will be focusing on Social Action and Justice locally and globally and how we can make a difference in other people’s lives wherever they live. Through this project the children in our kindergarten will gain an understanding of the lives of families in different cultures and reflect on little ways we can implement the virtues in our daily lives.”*



Pictured above: Mini Vinnies Team on Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday at **St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg**, raising funds for Caritas as part of the school’s commitment to social action and justice.

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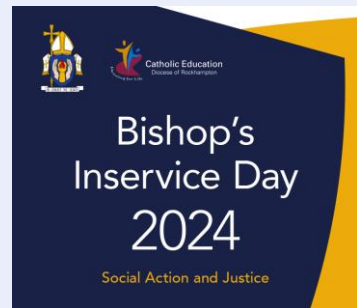
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CATHOLIC EDUCATION
Diocese of Rockhampton



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Bishop’s Inservice Day
Live Stream
Friday, 16 February
Commencing at 8.45am.

https://youtube.com/live/Xl_nwoDv2S8A?feature=share



Resources

These resources are designed to assist schools to create lasting change for all future generations.

Diocesan Catholic Education Office
143 West Street | PO Box 524
Rockhampton Queensland 4700
1800 228 433
www.rok.catholic.edu.au
Twitter @RockyCathEd