

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Friday 2 February 2024

Good morning everyone

This week I was delighted to spend time with Bishop Michael visiting our Southern Region schools and colleges. It has been a joy to connect with staff and students and to spend time in so many classrooms engaging in warm conversations. It has been pleasing to witness the authentic, nurturing, and uplifting learning environments our Catholic schools provide. My sincere thanks to our Southern Region Principals and school communities for your kind welcome and generous hospitality. I am very much looking forward to accompanying Bishop Michael to visit our Northern Region schools and colleges next week.

As you are aware, our annual Bishop's Inservice Day is approaching and will be held on Friday 16 February. This Day is a wonderful opportunity for all CEDR staff to engage in formation and learning and to hear important perspectives from Bishop Michael on our theme 'Social Action and Justice', that help shape and inform our Mission. Importantly, the Bishop's In-Service Day also allows teaching staff to meet annual accreditation requirements to teach in a Catholic school.

Communication was distributed to all kindergartens, schools, and colleges this week regarding the Bishop's Inservice Day Program and arrangements for the day, including registration details. As you gather as a whole-of-staff group within your respective communities, I look forward to joining you via livestream from The Cathedral College, Rockhampton, for the morning session, before we all break into school and staff groups for a series of workshops for the remainder of the day. My thanks to Leadership teams for ensuring all staff have access to the required details and to all involved in coordinating arrangements within our school communities.

My thanks to all staff for completing our Student Protection, Code of Conduct, ICT Code of Practice, Modern Slavery, and Workplace Health and Safety training modules. The comprehensive information provided helps foster safe and fair work environments, ensures we meet our duty of care to all staff, and meets compliance legislation. Most importantly, this training significantly contributes to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of students entrusted to our care. These are serious responsibilities and I very much appreciate your participation and involvement.

I have enjoyed hearing positive comments about the Opening School Year Masses held in the various regions. I offer my sincere thanks to all involved in the planning and organising of these joyous celebrations.

I trust that the 2024 school year has commenced well for all in our Catholic Education family. In thanking you for your dedication and commitment, I pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen and guide us all in the year ahead.

God bless,

Leesa

*Bishop Michael and
Leesa visiting St
Joseph's,
Bundaberg pictured
with Emma
Robinson (APC),
Monica White
(Principal), Fr Don
White and Fr Sijo
George.*



Where's Leesa: Monday 5 February, Office; Tuesday 6 February, St Joseph's North Mackay, MacKillop North Mackay, St Brendan's Bucasia; Wednesday 7 February, Catherine McAuley College Mackay Opening School Year Prayer Celebration and Stage 2 Blessing and Opening, St Mary's Mackay, St Anne's Sarina; Thursday 8 February, St Patrick's College Mackay Opening School Year Mass, Emmanuel North Mackay, St John's Walkerston; Friday 9 February, Holy Spirit College Mackay Opening School Year Mass, St Francis Xavier Mackay.



**Reflection from
Pope Francis**

Loving is the greatest gift. We receive it when we make room for the Lord in prayer, when we welcome Him in His transforming Word and in the humility of His broken bread.



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

Michael Merrin, stepfather of Elizabeth Wilson (St Francis, Tannum Sands).

Rita Carsten, mother of Susan Pacheco (Star of the Sea, Gladstone) and Anne-Maree Hayman (St John the Baptist, Gladstone).

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

Anne Mitchell, mother of Elizabeth Wilson (St Francis, Tannum Sands).



Pictured above are Year 6 School Leaders at **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blackall**, and their families at the Junior Joeys Leadership Induction ceremony. Leaders promised to create a great learning environment by becoming living examples of the school's five virtues: Respect, Responsibility, Service, Integrity and Relationship with God.



Bishop Michael and Leesa spending time with students and staff at **St Anthony's Catholic Primary School** (above left) and **St Peter's Catholic Primary School** (above right) while visiting kindergartens, schools and colleges in the Rockhampton Region during Week 1 of term.



The school community at **St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Sarina**, received a special photo (above) and message from seafarers thanking them for the Christmas gift boxes the crew members received while docked near Hay Point over the holidays. The boxes were collected as part of the school's Giving Mass prior to the Christmas holidays, and were provided to Stella Maris for distribution to the ships around Hay Point for crew members who were away from home and family over Christmas.

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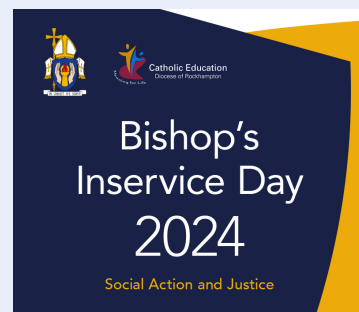
[here](#)



#HATCHAT #LEAD
Monday, 19 February
3.30pm – 4.30pm

QCEC information zoom session for Catholic school teachers aspiring to certification as Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers in 2024 and beyond. Participants will be able hear the individual stories of certified teachers, ask questions, and gain tips for their own journey.

[More information](#)



Friday, 16 February

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