

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

In this season of Lent, let us pray together for the tormented Ukrainian people and for Palestine, for Israel and for the many peoples torn apart by war. Let us think of the huge amount of suffering; let us think of the wounded, innocent children.

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

John Ryan, father of Michelle Mugliett, St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston.

Ron Luckel, father of Michael Luckel, IT Manager, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

Congratulations to:

Nelly Collins, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton and Joshua Collins on the safe arrival of Georgie Marie.

Maddie Harney, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton and James Harney on the safe arrival of Sophie Mari.



NCEC:

Stop distorting the facts, it's time for the full Gonski says Catholic education chief

[Read](#)

NCEC:

Catholic school enrolments top 800 000 students [Read](#)

Friday 1 March 2024

Good morning everyone

By now most people reading this *Message Stick* will be aware that I will be concluding my time as Director of Catholic Education on 31 December 2024 when my current contract expires and that I will be on leave from 1 July. If you have not had the opportunity to read the communication I sent to all staff and other members of our Catholic Education family regarding the conclusion of my time as Director, please click on this [link](#).

I have been overwhelmed and humbled by the lovely messages I have received following my announcement. I will reply personally to everyone who has contacted me, as soon as possible, but in the interim, please accept these few words as my heartfelt appreciation for the warmth of the sentiments expressed in your lovely messages. I look forward to seeing many of you in the months ahead prior to 1 July.

This week is Rare Diseases Awareness Week and I continue to be inspired by the compassionate and life-giving way our schools whole-heartedly embrace students and families facing life-limiting challenges. I commend the great work of the community at St Joseph's, Bundaberg, who took the opportunity this week to provide engaging and informative activities to raise awareness and build understanding around the complex journey undertaken by families impacted by rare diseases. It's very heartwarming to see this witness to our Catholic teaching on the value and dignity of all human life and to appreciate the love and commitment of families on this journey. My sincere thanks to all in our communities who provide such care and compassion as they journey together with families faced with a loved one experiencing a rare disease.

This week our third cohort of schools participating in the Leading Mathematics Education Project gathered in Rockhampton for their first two-day workshop. Participants focused on whole school approaches and the implementation of responsive instructional strategies to cater for a broad range of learners. Over 20 teachers and leaders from St Mary's and St Josephs in Bundaberg, St Mary's and St Brendan's in Mackay, St Anthony's Rockhampton and Sacred Heart Yeppoon commenced a two-year commitment to this project to enhance learning experiences and provide an outstanding Mathematics education for all students.

Also, this week, we welcomed to Rockhampton external auditors PwC Australia who are working with finance teams across CEDR to finalise the 2023 Annual Financial Statement Audit. The external Audit provides independent oversight to our financial operations, ensuring our compliance requirements are met. My sincere thanks to Amanda Houston (Assistant Director: Business and Strategy) for overseeing this process with great support from the Finance Team and all our finance staff in schools and colleges.

Thank you to all school communities for your outstanding support of Caritas and Project Compassion. It's wonderful to hear of the creative and meaningful ways schools are embracing this very important initiative as we seek to assist those working tirelessly to help the most vulnerable communities.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 4 March, Office; Tuesday 5 March, The Cathedral College Boarders' Dinner, Wednesday 6 March to Friday 8 March, Office.

Kindy kids from **St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten, Biloela** learnt about and participated in an Ash Wednesday Prayer this year.



Harmony Week is an annual celebration of Australia's cultural diversity and the benefits it brings to the entire Australian community. In 2024, Harmony Week runs from Monday 18 to Sunday 24 March and is celebrated during the week that includes the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March. Schools play a vital role in promoting ideas of harmony, togetherness and belonging during this important time. We encourage you to share your stories of how your school marks Harmony Week by heading to <https://www.harmony.gov.au/> to [share](#) your story.

Late in Term 4 2023, students from **Marist College, Emerald** (pictured right) took part in the nationwide Nuclear-Powered Submarine Propulsion Challenge which was open to high school students in Year 7-12. As part of the challenge, students had to create a presentation on nuclear submarines. With the assistance of Ryan Weis (Teacher), the team was successful in winning the junior division for Queensland which earned them a trip to HMAS Stirling in Western Australia to see first-hand how submarines work.



AITSL is exploring the impact of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (Teacher Standards) across all 4 career stages: Graduate, Proficient, Highly Accomplished and Lead. Which Teacher Standards have the greatest impact on your practice to improve student outcomes? What are the most effective ways to use the Teacher Standards in your context? We want to hear from you!

AITSL are collecting information via this [survey](#). It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Survey link: <http://s.alchemer.eu/s3/Impact-of-Teacher-Standards>



Pictured left: Staff and students from **St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone** and **Chanel College, Gladstone** with Fr Peter Doherty (front centre) following his Ordination at St Joseph's Cathedral on 22 February.

Fr Peter will take up his new appointment in the Gladstone Parish later this year.

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Celebrate the impact of teachers with the Be That Teacher campaign. This initiative, part of the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan, features stories of teachers changing lives. Learn more at <https://bethatteacher.gov.au> [#BeThatTeacher](#) [#NationalTeacherWorkforceActionPlac](#)



Resources

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

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