

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

Prayer expands our hearts and takes us down from our pedestal of self centredness. Prayer teaches us to listen to others and awakens in us the quiet contemplation.

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

Heather Bust - former staff member; St Joseph's Clermont, St Joseph's Park Avenue, St Francis Tannum Sands and St Anthony's North Rockhampton.

Ryan Craig - husband of Sheena Craig, St John's Walkerston.

Jan Webb - wife of Doug, mother of Tonia Hinton, Emmaus College North Rockhampton and grandmother of Mikinley Sugars, St John's Walkerston.

The 2024 Premier's Coding Challenge is now open for students in Years 3 to 10. Students are invited to develop an app, game or website to make their school a better place to teach, learn and play. More details can be found via this [link](#).

Friday 15 March 2024

Good morning everyone

The Mass of Chrism will be celebrated at St Joseph's Cathedral in Rockhampton on Thursday, 21 March at 10:00am. Bishop Michael has invited all in the Diocese to attend this solemn occasion in person or via livestream, to witness the *Blessing of Oils* as we journey towards Easter. I would encourage school communities to consider participating in this important Mass which holds such sacred significance in our Catholic tradition.

The Chrism Mass coincides with the annual gathering of all our priests in the Diocese, and I ask that you join with me in praying that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and strengthen our priests in their ministry.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test window commenced this week and continues until 25 March. I extend my very best wishes to all participating students in our schools. My thanks to teachers and staff for the wonderful job they do each year to prepare students. Thanks also to our IT personnel and our CEDR Teaching and Learning Team who work diligently to ensure testing runs smoothly.

I am very much looking forward to joining our school leaders and CEDR's Leadership Team at the Principals' Gathering next week. The program includes expert keynote addresses on privacy and information sharing, education and theology of childhood, the value of systemic schooling, CENet strategic overview and considerations around generative AI in schools.

Today is *National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence* and I acknowledge all those school communities who have registered to participate in various ways to recognise this important initiative. It is a great opportunity for students, staff and families to take a proactive approach to bullying prevention and education. The [Bullying. No Way!](#) website contains great resources for schools to empower communities to make a positive difference in combatting bullying in all its forms.

I am aware that many of our schools took part in *Clean-up Australia Day* recently making a significant contribution to their local communities by clearing rubbish and debris from streets, parks, bushland, beaches and waterways and promoting awareness about the impact of waste on our environment. My thanks to all involved in coordinating participation in this event as a response to Pope Francis's call for social action to care for God's creation.

We remember this coming week, the feast days of St Patrick (17 March) and St Joseph (19 March) and acknowledge the tremendous lives of faith and service of these remarkable figures in our Church history. We ask their blessing on all in our communities and pray we will be guided by their inspirational response and faith-filled discipleship as we reflect on our own journey during this Lenten season.

Best wishes and thanks to the organisers of the Bundaberg Catholic Schools Raceday this Saturday. The Day raises funds for Shalom College, St Patrick's, St Mary's and St Joseph's Catholic Primary Schools in Bundaberg. My thanks and best wishes are also extended to those involved with the Catholic Education Rockhampton Primary School fundraiser to be held at the St Patrick's Day Races in Rockhampton this Saturday.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 18 March - RBLO Meeting; Tuesday 19 March to Thursday 21 March - Principals' Gathering; Chrism Mass; Friday 22 March - Office.

Chrism Mass 2024

The people of the Diocese are invited to join Bishop Michael McCarthy and the clergy of the Diocese in the celebration of the **Chrism Mass 2024, 10:00am, Thursday, 21 March 2024, St Joseph's Cathedral**. Light refreshments will be provided after the celebration. The Mass can also be viewed online on the St Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton>

The Cathedral College, Rockhampton Boarders' Annual Formal Dinner was held recently with guest speaker, Principal at Swanwick Murray Roche Lawyers, Robert Rooney (2009 TCC College Captain). Robert recounted his experience as a TCC boarder and shared some of his academic and professional journey. Pictured below from left: Rob Alexander (Principal), Isabella, Kyra (Boarding Students), Leesa, Robert Rooney, Cooper, Chelsea, and Ben (Boarding Students) and Mick Busby (Acting Assistant Principal – Residential).



Congratulations to Matt Hodge (Deputy Principal), Chanel College Gladstone, pictured below on completion of his Education Doctorate.



Bruce and Denise Morcombe visited **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg** this week.



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Mackay
Centenary 2024

6TH - 11TH
AUGUST 2024

- Mass - Tue 6th Aug 9am
- Dinner - Fri 9th Aug
- Open Day - Sun 11th Aug

Check the St Mary's Facebook page for event details

smm_centenary@rok.catholic.edu.au

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BE THAT TEACHER

BeThatTeacher.gov.au

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](https://bethatteacher.gov.au) [#NationalTeacherWorkforceActionPlan](https://bethatteacher.gov.au)

PROJECT COMPASSION

FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

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