

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Reflection from Pope Francis

At the heart of Christian life is the gift to be friends with the Lord. This friendship sets us free from the dreariness of individualism and the risk of a meaningless, loveless and hopeless life.

Friday 22 March 2024

Good morning everyone

This week I joined our school Principals, Catholic Education Leadership Team members and senior staff for the annual Principals' Gathering. The three-day program included insightful and informative sessions. I extend my thanks to Michael Kelso (Assistant Director: Schools – Rockhampton Region) with great support from Trinity Daley and Lauren Atkinson, for their work in coordinating this year's gathering. I also take this opportunity to thank our Principals for the outstanding work they do and for their incredible commitment to their respective communities and to the ministry of Catholic Education. The Gathering concluded with our attendance at the solemn celebration of the Mass of Christ at St Joseph's Cathedral.

I was delighted to gather with our Regional Board Liaison Officers (RBLs) via zoom on Monday. Our RBLs assist our School Boards in each region to help optimise the vital pastoral role our Boards provide within our school communities in the nurturing and development of our Catholic ethos and identity. School Boards provide invaluable support to Principals on pastoral matters through a process of discernment and shared decision making. My sincere thanks to all RBLs for their generous commitment of time and expertise in supporting our communities.

This week is Harmony Week celebrating Australia's cultural diversity and advancing inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for everyone. I acknowledge all the wonderful work our communities do in embracing the diverse cultures represented in our schools, in particular, the great efforts to champion Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage. I am always thrilled to hear of the successful post school pathways our graduating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have forged whether through employment, tertiary studies, traineeships, or apprenticeships. Of note, five of our 2023 Year 12 Graduates were successfully awarded university scholarships this year to assist tertiary studies in the areas of health, law, justice, international relations, architecture and design and advanced sciences. I extend my sincere congratulations to scholarship recipients and all graduates on a successful start to their career or work life.

On Tuesday we marked the feast day of St Joseph, Husband of Mary, an important day for so many of our school communities whose charism stems from the exemplary life of St Joseph, a life characterised by unwavering faith and humble service. As Patron of our Diocese, we ask St Joseph to inspire and bless us and lead us ever closer to holiness.

This Sunday we commence the celebration of Holy Week with Palm Sunday. Everyone is invited to participate in the solemn and sacred liturgies of Holy Week as we deeply reflect on the very essence of our faith.

Our final Term 1 edition of the *Message Stick* will be distributed earlier than usual next week, as our far western schools conclude Term 1 on Wednesday.

God bless,

*Leesa*

**Where's Leesa:** Monday 25 to Wednesday 27 March, School visits to the Central Highlands with Bishop Michael; Holy Thursday 28 March, Office.



2024  
SPIRIT OF  
CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION  
AWARDS



**Nominations for the 2024 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards will open next Monday 25 March.** Find out more about these annual awards [here](#).

Aunty Joan  
Hendriks  
Reconciliation Award

2024  
SPIRIT OF  
CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION  
AWARDS



This award, named in honour of **Aunty Joan Hendriks**, a Ngugi elder, is awarded to an individual or team creating positive change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff.

The **online nomination form** for these awards will go live next Monday 25 March and can be accessed here [nominate](#)

**St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Sarina** recently held a blessing and opening ceremony for their new Yarning Circle. The students were educated about the Yarning Circle including the plants that surround it. The Yarning Circle will continue to grow and it is their vision that the staff and students will in time be able to use the plants in their understanding of First Nations culture and histories.



**Principals' Gathering 2024**



**Media Consent Reminder:**

Media Consent informs our school communities of how image of students can or cannot be used. For example, some families are happy for student photos to be published in the newsletter but not on social media. All schools received information and directions regarding this in Circular 2023-170 Parental Consents.

TASS is now recording a record number of NON-Media Consents because student information has not been updated by Parents or Carers. It is VERY important that families are reminded that failure to renew media consent has now automatically defaulted to NO which limits the ability of schools to share stories in pictures for all media and photo opportunities for 2024. This will also have an impact on de-identified data reporting which will affect school results in several areas.

Should you require any further clarification or information please contact Cindy Crehan at CEO on 4994 8000.

**St Patrick's College, Mackay** celebrated the College Feast Day, St Patrick's Day, with Mass.



**Scholarships now open for Teachers graduating in 2024**

Receive an early offer of permanent employment

[rok.catholic.edu.au/careers](http://rok.catholic.edu.au/careers)



**Applications for the following positions closing soon:**

Kindergarten Teacher, St Francis Xavier Catholic Kindergarten, Mackay. Closes 27 March.

Manager Business Intelligence, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton. Closes 28 March.

Cleaner, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clermont. Closes 29 March.

Library Assistant, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald. Closes 29 March.

Administration Assistant, Emmaus College, North Rockhampton. Closes 29 March.

Media and Communications Officer, Holy Spirit College, Mackay. Closes 29 March.

Library Coordinator, St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, Mackay. Closes 29 March.

Finance Officer, Marist College, Emerald. Closes 1 April.

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

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