

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Reflection from Pope Francis

In this season of Lent, may we retreat to the “desert.” May we dedicate time to silence to allow the voice of the Lord to speak to our heart and keep it in goodness.

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

**John Rogers**, husband of Anne Rogers (former staff member St Patrick’s College, Mackay) and father of Lyndal Trims (Kindergarten Director / Teacher St Brendan’s, Mackay).

Pictured below, Bishop Michael and Leesa with Student Leaders during a recent visit to **St Benedict’s Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon.**



**Thursday 23 February 2024**

Good morning everyone

I extend my appreciation to all for your participation in our Bishop’s Inservice Day last week and for your prayers and well wishes for Bishop Michael. Most of you would be aware that just minutes prior to the commencement of our livestream Bishop Michael fell sustaining injuries requiring medical attention. Hence, the reason for the delayed start. Thank you to all those in schools who ensured the pre-recorded sessions were accessed quickly and the day could proceed. I can report that Bishop Michael has recovered well and sends his sincere appreciation for the care and attention he received and for the many messages of support. He was most disappointed not to be able to deliver his presentation to all of us.

I extend my personal thanks for the commitment and professionalism of all who contributed to making the Day so successful, including our skilled IT staff and those involved in the livestream. Also special thanks to Derek Worden for his great assistance in working with me to deliver Bishop Michael’s insightful presentation.

I have been delighted to receive many messages of appreciation for the Bishop’s Inservice Day Workshop presentations that were on offer following the morning session. I extend sincere thanks to Kellie Jenkinson (AD: Mission) and members of the FIARE team for their extensive research and coordination that facilitated access to such high calibre speakers. I thank our presenters, both from within our school communities and those who were pre-recorded, for their wonderful work in delivering inspirational sessions that were engaging and meaningful. As you have already been advised, the pre-recorded sessions are now available to schools. I encourage Leadership teams to consider ways to incorporate these into further formation opportunities for your communities, as we continue our focus on Social Action and Justice throughout 2024.

I thank Bishop Michael for the gift of the Bishop’s Inservice Day that allows all of us, whether from the Catholic faith tradition or not, a chance to come together to increase our knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith that underpins all that we do in our Catholic colleges, schools, kindergartens and offices.

A very special event in the life of the Rockhampton Diocese took place on Thursday with the Ordination to the Priesthood of Peter Doherty at St Joseph’s Cathedral, Rockhampton. The Ordination was a wonderful celebration for Fr Peter and his family and for all the people of our diocese. As a former student of Shalom College, Bundaberg, Fr Peter, and his family are well known to many. On behalf of everyone in Catholic Education, I extend my prayerful best wishes to Fr Peter as he commences his vocational journey.

Finally as we continue our Lenten journey and witness to our commitment to Project Compassion I take this opportunity to share with you Pope Francis’ [Message for Lent](#) and I would invite you to take the time to reflect on his call to conversion, to freedom and to sharing a new chapter of hope for the world.

God bless,

*Leesa*

**Where’s Leesa:** Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 February, Office; Wednesday 28 February, Indigenous Education Year 12 Commencement Mass, St Joseph’s Cathedral; Thursday 29 February, Office; Friday 1 March, Diocesan Education Council (DEC) Meeting.



Pictured far left: Michael McCusker, (Assistant Director: Schools - Northern Region) and Leesa. Pictured right: Janelle Agius (College Principal) and Bishop Michael, with St Patrick's College, Mackay 2024 Captains and Student Committee Chairs.

Pictured from left at the recent Holy Spirit College, Mackay Opening Mass are Leesa, 2024 College Leaders and Bishop Michael.



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Mackay hosted their very first Wellbeing Day on 15 February to shine the spotlight on a variety of activities that promote wellbeing. Students enjoyed a range of activities, including bootcamps, yoga, cooking, building gardens, play dough, music sessions and art classes. The day was supported with funds from Qld Government's COVID Wellbeing Boost program. The aim of the day was for students (and staff) to participate in an activity that resonated with them and to help everyone find ways to tend to their own wellbeing.



For more information, please click [here](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsCatholicPrimarySchoolCentenary2024/)

Primary Schools and Colleges across our Diocese paused and reflected on **Ash Wednesday.**



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## PROJECT COMPASSION FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

### Resources

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



**Caritas Australia Mission in Action online seminar.**

**Tuesday, 5 March, 3:00pm (Qld time)**

This is a free seminar where you will hear from Caritas partners on the ground on the challenges that vulnerable communities living in the Philippines endure and overcome with our support. To register click [here](#)

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