

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Reflection from Pope Francis

Life can be filled with contradictions, frustrated desires, broken dreams and lost friendships. Yet, the Resurrection of Jesus allows us to believe that all will be redeemed.

**Please remember in your prayers, members of our wider Catholic Education Family who are unwell at this time:**

**Harley Biles**, Year 11, The Cathedral College, son of Jill (and Nathan), St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton.

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

**Joan Travers**, mother of Mary O'Donnell.

**Iris Rice**, grandmother of Nathaniel Rice, Principal St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston.

**Hazel and Clyde Jensen**, parents in law and parents of Michelle Jensen, Catholic Education, and husband Greg.

**Nea Wakely**, mother of Lisa O'Brien, APRE St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone.

## Friday 19 April 2024

Good morning everyone

By now you would have received the wonderful news from Bishop Michael that he has appointed Michael McCusker as the Diocesan Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Rockhampton from 1 July 2024.

Many of you would know Michael from his many years of dedicated service to Catholic Education in this Diocese. Michael has been a very valued and highly respected member of the Catholic Education Leadership Team over the past 12 years in his capacity as Assistant Director: Schools - Northern Region.

I could not be more pleased that Michael will be the next Director of Catholic Education in this Diocese. From working closely with him these past many years, I know Michael to be man of deep faith who has the personal gifts and the professional skills to be an outstanding leader of Catholic Education. Michael can be assured of my prayerful support and my commitment to a very smooth and fulsome leadership handover. Post 1 July, Michael knows I will always be available to assist him, if needed, and to provide him with any advice he may seek as he settles into his new role.

I am sure you all join with me in congratulating Michael on his well-deserved appointment to the role and I know we will hold him in our prayers as he prepares to lead Catholic Education into a new and exciting future.

On Thursday, I spent time with staff undertaking the *Graduate Certificate of Education - Safeguarding Children and Young People* post-graduate course at their Semester 1 gathering in Rockhampton. Including this year's new cohort of 15, more than 100 CEDR staff members have committed to studying, or have attained, the Graduate Certificate Safeguarding course since its introduction with CEDR in 2017. My sincere thanks to Brett Halter (Student Services Manager) for providing staff with this valuable professional development.

This Sunday is World Day of Prayer for Vocations, a time to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each of us, and a time for dedicated prayer for vocations to the Priesthood. Holy Spirit Seminary, Banyo has issued a [daily prayer calendar](#) with each day of the month dedicated to a seminarian, deacon, member or members of staff, or for priests in a particular stage of their vocational journey, calling for our prayerful support to carry them to the heart of Jesus.

I have very much enjoyed accompanying Bishop Michael on visits to our Far Western Primary schools this week. My sincere thanks to Principals Peter Thurecht (Our Lady's, Longreach), Samantha Suthers (St Joseph's, Blackall) and Trent Shillington (St Joseph's, Barcaldine) and their respective school communities for their welcome and hospitality.

Thank you to all our school communities for your tremendous support for Caritas during their Lenten Project Compassion Appeal. I am continually inspired by the creative ways our schools each year embrace Project Compassion and raise valuable funds for communities in need.

Next Thursday is ANZAC Day and I thank all those in our school communities who have organised commemorative activities and liturgies and those who have coordinated student participation in local marches and ceremonies. This special day of remembrance is a clear reminder of the bravery and sacrifice of those who have defended our way of life and to whom we owe our greatest respect and gratitude. The freedoms we enjoy have been hard earned. We remember and acknowledge all who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations and pray that each of us will honour that service as instruments of peace in our daily lives.

God bless,

Leesa

**Where's Leesa:** Monday 22 April to Wednesday 24 April, Office; Thursday 25 April ANZAC Day – Public Holiday; Friday 26 April, Office.

The **Diocesan Sacramental Working Party** works together to animate the Sacraments of Initiation policy for the Diocese of Rockhampton. The group works with Bishop Michael to provide advice and support to sacramental preparation teams throughout the diocese. The group is seeking a suitable individual to undertake a paid, short-term project, to develop resources, aligned to policy, which parishes could utilise for the preparation process. Ideally, the successful applicant will have knowledge of sacramental preparation and have a contemporary understanding of both theology and pedagogy. If this sounds like you, please feel free to outline your interest and suitability by emailing the Working Party via [bishopsoffice@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:bishopsoffice@rok.catholic.net.au) (please include the subject line 'Attention: Sacramental Working Party'). Expressions of interest are due Friday 19 April, 2024.

Students from **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Springsure** recently visited Residents at Woodbine, the Multipurpose Health Service and Aged Care Facility, chatting with residents and sharing cards.



**Are you a pre-service teacher due to graduate in 2024 or 2025?** Find out all you need to know about working with Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton by registering to attend a live Q&A session. Speak directly with: **Consultant: Teacher Growth and Development** - Lauren Roach and **Talent Acquisition Coordinator** - Jessica Gorman. Register your interest through the below link: <https://forms.office.com/r/6j6SD6wLa0> Wednesday 24 April 2024, 5:00pm to 5:45pm



**Nominations for the Queensland College of Teachers' TEACHX Awards will remain open until Friday 10 May 2024.** Queensland Catholic school communities are encouraged to nominate an inspiring registered teacher doing outstanding work in their school or early learning centre. This year, there are seven award categories. Find out more here: <https://buff.ly/30C8bpy>



## SUPPORT YOUR REGIONAL SEMINARY

With your kind support, you ensure the future of our faith through ordained leadership. You remind our seminarians in formation that they have a congregation of the faithful carrying them in prayer as they discern God's calling in their lives.

Please know that you are always included in the daily prayers of seminarians and staff at Holy Spirit Seminary. We are so grateful for your continued support, and we pray that God will bless you abundantly for your generosity.



Make your gift to support seminarians using the envelopes provided, call us on (07) 3324 3200, scan the QR code or go to [catholicfoundation.org.au/seminary](http://catholicfoundation.org.au/seminary)



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

**Spirit of Catholic Education Awards 2024**

[Nominate](#)

**Nominations close Sunday 5 May.**

[Nominate](#)

**Nominations close Sunday 5 May.**

**Diocesan Catholic Education Office**  
143 West Street | PO Box 524  
Rockhampton Queensland 4700  
1800 228 433  
[www.rok.catholic.edu.au](http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au)  
Twitter @RockyCathEd