

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

**Friday 14 June 2024**

Good morning everyone

This has been a most memorable week for me. I am humbled and truly honoured by the meaningful events held to mark the end of my time as Director of Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton and I sincerely thank Bishop Michael and the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton for such a generous farewell.

The beautiful Mass of Thanksgiving at St Joseph's Cathedral on Wednesday was very special. I am most grateful to Bishop Michael for presiding and I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who attended in person or via livestream. To experience such a joyous and uplifting liturgy in a full Cathedral surrounded by priests and religious, friends and colleagues, staff and students was truly amazing. I am most thankful to all involved in the preparations – I am so deeply touched by your extraordinary efforts. I feel exceptionally grateful for the many prayers and blessings I have received.

I also very much enjoyed the luncheon and celebrations held at the Rockhampton Leagues Club following the Mass. The many kind words and thoughtful sentiments expressed were deeply moving and I was overjoyed by the presence of so many who have journeyed with me during the last 23 years. To all who attended, especially those who travelled, it was indeed a memorable occasion for me and a celebration I will treasure. I am aware of the detailed preparation and organisation that was undertaken and to all who contributed I offer my heartfelt thanks.

Congratulations to Employee Support Services (ESS) here at the Catholic Education Office on hosting a highly successful HR and Payroll gathering for colleagues from Catholic Education Diocesan offices across Queensland. Held over two days last week, the gathering provided an opportunity for a range of learning and information sharing opportunities for attendees. From all reports the sessions really 'hit the mark' resulting in some valuable and insightful discussions. My sincere thanks to Gary Cooper (ESS Manager) and the ESS Team for their efforts in creating a positive learning experience for participants.

This week, I was delighted to attend a farewell dinner in honour of Queensland Catholic Education Commission Chair, The Hon. Margaret White AO, as she concludes her time in the role after six years of dedicated leadership. I am very grateful for Margaret's insight and wisdom and her expert guidance of the Commission throughout her tenure. I take this opportunity to wish Margaret God's blessings in abundance as she commences this new chapter.

I extend best wishes to all involved in this year's Rockhampton Catholic Schools Gala Concert being held next Wednesday. The concert will be staged at the Pilbeam Theatre showcasing the wonderful talents of our gifted musicians. Sincere thanks to our dedicated music teachers who give so generously and to those who work alongside them to support students in their musical endeavours.

God bless,

**Leesa**

**Pictured left:** Leesa and Bishop Michael with the Papal Blessing that was presented to Leesa on behalf of the Diocese.



**Pictured below from left:** Allan Blagaich (Executive Director QCEC), Leesa, Michael McCusker, Bishop Michael and Jacinta Collins (Executive Director NCEC).



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

**David Rossiter**, father of Alison Roberts, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Springsure.

**Joy Philippi**, mother of Joy Philippi, Diocesan Office, Sonya Acutt, Emmaus College, grandmother of Cassidy Acutt, Emmaus College and former teacher St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton.

**Interested in learning more about the Catholic Church's position regarding relations with other Christians and people of other faiths** and want to know what is happening in Queensland in this area?

You are invited to a free presentation with Margaret Naylor from Brisbane Archdiocese on **Saturday, 13 July from 9:30am to 12noon** This presentation will be **live streamed** for people across Queensland.

**For registration: follow the link to the booking site or use the QR code:**

<https://app.tickets.org.au/eb/EcumenicalInterfaithPresentation>



Marist College, Emerald farewelled Sister Carmel Boyle pbvm and Sister Colleen Livermore rsm last week from Mary Immaculate Parish, Blackwater. Pictured below with Mark Green, Principal.



**Congratulations to all our 2024 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards and Aunty Joan Hendrik's Reconciliation Award Nominees.** A total of 32 were received from across our Kindergartens, Primary Schools and Colleges this year.

A full list of Recipients can be accessed via the following [link](#)

State Awardees for 2024 will be announced on Monday, 8 July and receive their awards at the State Launch of Catholic Education Week on Sunday, 21 July in Cairns.

**Diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving for Leesa – Wednesday, 12 June**



**Reflection from Pope Francis**

Jesus preached and healed the sick by the power of the Holy Spirit. And it was precisely the Spirit that made him divinely free, that is, capable of loving and serving without measure or conditioning.

**SEEKING GRADUATE AND EXPERIENCED TEACHERS FOR 2025**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 29 JULY 2024**

**Apply Today!**



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



**2024 VET Pathways Forum 12 to 13 August, Rockhampton.**

In a pioneering joint effort, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) and Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) have joined to deliver the VET in Schools Pathways Forum. This marks the first time the event has been held in regional Queensland. For more information click [here](#)