

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

In the account of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-11), the Acts of the Apostles show us two areas of the Holy Spirit's working in the Church: in us and in mission, with two characteristics: power and gentleness.

Pope Francis interview with Norah O'Donnell 60 Minutes (USA). In a wide ranging conversation, Pope Francis speaks about countries at war, his vision for the Catholic Church, his legacy, his hope for children and more. To watch the interview and / or read the transcript click [here](#)

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

Monica White, Principal of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg.

Friday 24 May 2024

Good morning everyone

Next week is a very special week in the life of our Diocese as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of our Bishop Michael McCarthy. A Mass of Thanksgiving for the gift that Bishop Michael has been to our Diocese will be held in **St Joseph's Cathedral on Wednesday, 29 May at 5:30pm followed by a formal reception.** The people of the Diocese are warmly invited to these celebrations, and you will find the invitation (with RSVP details for the reception) elsewhere in this *Message Stick*. You will see on the invitation that the Mass will be live-streamed, and the link is contained within the invitation.

Catholic Education will be holding a Liturgy to celebrate Bishop Michael's 10th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination at **St Joseph's Cathedral at 10:00am on Wednesday, 29 May.** Information with regards to this Liturgy has been sent to schools in the Rockhampton Region. For schools in other regions please follow the [link](#) to the celebration to participate.

The celebrations for Bishop Michael will be especially blessed by the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Most Reverend Archbishop Charles Balvo. Archbishop Balvo will be going to Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton, and Mackay during his time in our Diocese, and will visit some of our schools. I know if you meet Archbishop Charles during his visit, you will warmly welcome him to our Diocese.

Celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation have commenced in parishes, and I am aware that many of our staff in Catholic schools are significantly involved in parish Sacramental Preparation Teams. I extend my thanks to those who have been instrumental in preparing candidates for this life-giving event. I ask you all to join with me to pray for all Sacramental candidates and their families at this very special time.

Participants in our first *Learning to be Retreat* held at The Haven on the Capricorn Coast were rewarded with glorious weather. My thanks to Derek Worden (Catholic Identity and Formation Coordinator) for leading staff in this faith formation opportunity.

I was delighted to join our OSHC staff and the Kindergarten Directors for their gatherings this week and I thank them most sincerely for their lovely well wishes and beautiful farewell prayer and blessing for me. All who work in Early Learning and Care (ELC) provide such nurturing and welcoming care of children in our Schools and Kindergartens. My thanks to Tracey Novak (ELC Manager), the ELC Team and all our OSHC staff and Kindergarten Directors and staff for the wonderful work they do.

I was humbled earlier this week to be invited to a whole of College Assembly at The Cathedral College for a very beautiful and moving farewell celebration as I prepare to conclude my time as Catholic Education Director. I offer my heartfelt thanks to Principal, Rob Alexander, the College Leadership Team, teachers, support staff and students for the lovely tributes paid to me at that celebration. It was a special day that I will never forget. Thank you TCC.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) commences on Monday (27 May) following National Sorry Day on Sunday (26 May). Under this year's theme, *Now More Than Ever*, NRW is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The NRW [website](#) features a wide range of great information, resources and activities which schools may find useful.

Today is the Feast Day of our country's Patron, *Mary, Help of Christians*. We offer to Mary, our mother, our prayerful petitions for our nation and our world, that she will intercede for us, protect, and guide us and lead us more fully to the heart of Jesus.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 27 May, Office; Tuesday 28 May, Opening and Blessing Chanel College, Gladstone; Wednesday 29 May, 10th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Michael; Thursday 30 May, Visit of Apostolic Nuncio to The Cathedral College, Emmaus College and St Joseph's Park Avenue; Friday 31 May, Office.





The people of the Diocese of Rockhampton
are invited to celebrate the
Tenth Anniversary of
Most Reverend Michael McCarthy DD
Bishop of Rockhampton

Wednesday, 29th May 2024
5:30pm Mass of Thanksgiving,
St Joseph's Cathedral
followed by a formal reception
(RSVP required for catering)



RSVP Options

Phone: 4887 3070

<https://forms.office.com/r/8u41nHR0A>

The Mass of Thanksgiving will be streamed live on the St Joseph's Cathedral YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton>

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Park Avenue, Maths team (pictured below) took out the Year 5 section of the Capricornia QAMT maths challenge this year. Congratulations to all involved.



Father Peter Doherty (pictured back row, far right) joined the Prep Owls class at **St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone** for their first prayer celebration - meeting the teachers, students and families. St John's were excited to welcome Father Peter to their school community.



Students in Year 3 to 6 at **Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach** were treated to a workshop by Opera Queensland this week.



St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten, Biloela recently won an award at the Callide Valley Show for their display. The display consisted of artworks and construction items created by the children.



Congratulations to Peter Thurecht (pictured below right) Principal Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach, who is the recipient of the *Daniel McDonough Early Career Principal Award* for our Diocese this year. The award acknowledges a Principal who shows strong commitment in the fields of Leadership and Education in Catholic Rural or Remote schools.



SEEKING GRADUATE AND EXPERIENCED TEACHERS FOR 2025

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 29 JULY 2024

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



Day for Daniel is reaching a very special milestone in 2024 - it will be the 20th year of Australia's largest child safety education and awareness day. That's 20 years of keeping kids safe. You can help to celebrate this amazing achievement by making it the Daniel Morcombe Foundation's biggest one yet. Register your school [here](#)

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 29 May:

10:00am St Joseph's Cathedral; Catholic School's Liturgy, 10th Anniversary of Bishop Michael's Episcopal Ordination.

5:30pm Mass of Thanksgiving, St Joseph's Cathedral, 10th Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Michael.

Wednesday 12 June:

10:30am St Joseph's Cathedral, Mass of Thanksgiving and Farewell for Leesa Jeffcoat AM.

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