

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis

Parents must contemplate God's way of acting. God loves young people, but He does not hide them from every risk, challenge, or suffering. God is not over protective. God trusts young people and calls each of them to live and fulfill their mission.



Mass of Thanksgiving for Leesa Jeffcoat, Diocesan Director Catholic Education.

Bishop Michael McCarthy extends an invitation to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving for Miss Leesa Jeffcoat who, after 23 years of faith-filled service, will shortly conclude her time as Diocesan Director of Catholic Education.

The Mass will be held in **St Joseph's Cathedral on Wednesday 12 June commencing at 10:30am.**

All are welcome at the Mass to thank God for the gift that Leesa has been to the Ministry of Catholic Education in this diocese and to pray that God will bless her in abundance into the future. No RSVP is required.

For those unable to attend in person, the Mass will also be live streamed via the following [link](#).

Friday 7 June 2024

Good morning everyone

This week, I attended my last meeting with Principals and I take this opportunity to thank our school leaders most sincerely for their unfailing support and professional collegiality as companions on the journey. I deeply appreciate the dedication and commitment you have for your communities and the spirit of collaboration and co-responsibility you bring to your roles as leaders in Catholic Education. Through the joyous times and the challenging times, I have been privileged to have served alongside you.

Congratulations to Alison Wales (Principal, Holy Spirit College, Mackay) on her appointment to the role of Acting Assistant Director: Schools – Northern Region for six months commencing July 2024. Alison brings her experience as a Secondary School Principal to the role and will be a wonderful support to our Catholic kindergartens, schools and colleges in the Northern Region during this period. My sincere thanks to Alison for her willingness to embrace the additional responsibilities associated with this senior Catholic Education Leadership role. I also thank and congratulate Camille Morris (currently Deputy Principal of Holy Spirit College) as she takes up the role of Acting Principal of Holy Spirit during this period.

I was delighted to spend time reminiscing and catching up with Northern Region Principals in Mackay during the week. I thank them for their warm hospitality and very enjoyable farewell dinner on Wednesday evening.

Sincere thanks to Kellie Jenkinson (Assistant Director: Mission) and her team for the very successful leadership formation program, CHRISTOS, that was held at The Haven, Emu Park this week. Participants included 22 staff from our schools and colleges who gathered to reflect on their personal journey, explore their spirituality and faith and take some time out to carefully discern a response to their call to leadership. Please pray for our school leaders and those contemplating stepping into a leadership role, that they will be guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit as they offer their gifts and talents to further the Mission of Catholic Education.

Around 35 Year 11 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from across the diocese gathered at the Capricorn Coast PCYC this week for a three-day Leadership Camp. The Camp provided an opportunity for students to come together to meet, learn, share and interact whilst reflecting on their identity, leadership potential and post school direction from a cultural perspective. Sincere thanks to Phillipa Johnson (Indigenous Education Coordinator) and team for providing this important personal development opportunity for students.

I also extend my best wishes to the Marist College community in Emerald today as they celebrate the feast of their patron saint, Marcellin Champagnat.

I am very grateful to Bishop Michael who next week will be celebrating a Mass to mark the conclusion of my time as Diocesan Director of Catholic Education. The Mass will be held in **St Joseph's Cathedral on Wednesday 12 June commencing at 10:30am.** I know many people will not be able to attend this Mass in person due to distance and work commitments but the Mass will also be live streamed via the [link](#).

Please know that your prayers, your kind and affirming words, your lifegiving farewells and your lovely expressions of friendship are making the last few weeks of my time as Director very special. I will take with me cherished memories that will live with me always. A heartfelt thank you to you all.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 10 June, Office; Tuesday 11 June, QCEC Commission Meeting, Brisbane; Wednesday 12 June, Diocesan Farewell Mass and Luncheon; Thursday 13 June, Rockhampton Show Holiday; Friday 14 June, Office.

Please note: Next week's Message Stick will be distributed on Friday 14 June.



Pictured left: Michael McCusker, Yoon Noy (APRE St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston) and Leesa.

Pictured below: Michael McCusker, Leesa, Wesley Rose (Principal) and students from St Mary's Catholic Primary School, South Mackay.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

New, exciting, family engagement resources for parents and school staff.

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) is excited to announce that a new suite of resources is now available on the *Gearing Up for Parent Engagement* website.

Australian Government funding assisted a dedicated CSPA project team to develop six Video-Workshops and Facilitator Guides - three for primary and three for secondary schools.

A major focus of these new resources is to build capacity in both families and school staff to work in partnership. This website invites you to access the information on-line or you might wish to download each of the resources. These new family engagement resources can be found at:

<https://cspa.schoolzineplus.com/parent-engagement-workshops>

Pictured below students from **Emmaus College, North Rockhampton** with Eamon Hannan, (College Principal), Leesa, Bishop Michael and His Excellency Archbishop Balvo during a visit to the college last week.



2024 VET Pathways Forum, 12 to 13 August 2024, Rockhampton. In a pioneering joint effort, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) and Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton have joined forces to deliver the VET in Schools Pathways Forum. This marks the first time the event has been hosted as a partnership and held in regional Queensland. For more information click [here](#).

Pictured below at the Civic Reception in Mackay last Friday Night. With Bishop Michael are students from **St Brendan's Catholic Primary School and MacKillop Catholic Primary School.**



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Springsure recently celebrated the feast day of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart with a Mass led by Father Truc. A cake was shared with the kindergarten kids and fun sport activities were held.



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

Kathy Jeffcoat, Finance Secretary, Catherine McAuley College, Mackay.

Congratulations to:

Alison Wales, Principal, Holy Spirit College, Mackay on her appointment as Acting Assistant Director: Schools – Northern Region for Semester Two, 2024.

Jason Egan, Shalom College on his appointment as Assistant Principal: Administration (APA) at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg commencing in Term 3.

A Farewell Mass for Sisters Carmel Boyle pbvm and Colleen Livermore rsm will be celebrated at Mary Immaculate Church Blackwater on Saturday 22 June at 6.00pm, followed by a shared supper. The sisters are retiring after two decades of pastoral ministry for the parishioners of the Parish of Blackwater.