

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family

26 July 2024



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Consider the Why

This week I was given an article to read entitled, **'When the Why is Different'** by Christian educator, Dr Brian Harris. Essentially, the article was suggesting that, at times, in the quest for enrolments, advertising can precede mission. It was a thought provoking read that made me ask the questions, "What are the ways that we keep our mission in Catholic Education at the centre of our work? Who discerns our decisions to ensure they are true to our 'Why'?" Catholic Education Week is an ideal time for each of us to ensure there is alignment to the 'Why' of our existence, to celebrate this alignment and, if needed, adjust our practices to where we know they need to be as an authentic Catholic School.

## Reflection from Pope Francis

Beware of the dictatorship of 'doing'! Let us learn to take a break during the day: let us take a moment to be with ourselves and with the Lord. Let us find some kind of 'inner desert' amidst the noise and activities of each day.

Dear Colleagues

I hope you have enjoyed Catholic Education Week as much as I have. Once again, it has been a joyous time celebrating all that is wonderful about our Catholic kindergartens, schools and colleges. Hearing of the many life-giving, meaningful celebrations and activities held in our communities across the diocese has been truly inspiring. The creative and engaging ways our schools approach this special event each year contributes so positively to the life of each community and to Catholic education within the broader community. Thank you to all involved for your great efforts in making this time memorable for our students, staff, families and communities.

Our Diocesan Catholic Education Week Mass held at St Joseph's Cathedral in Rockhampton on Wednesday was such an uplifting and enriching celebration which certainly reflected the CEW theme – *Communities of Faith, Hope and Love*. Thank you to Bishop Michael for presiding and to assisting Priests for their presence. Attending the Mass were staff and student representatives from Rockhampton Region schools, as well as from St Joseph's, Biloela, St Therese's, Monto, Shalom College, Bundaberg and Chanel College, Gladstone, together with Religious Sisters, Catholic Education Office Staff, invited guests and members of our parish communities. Many of you joined via livestream and I hope you were able to enjoy the wonderful celebration praising and thanking our God for the gift of Catholic Education. There is a great deal of preparation and coordination that goes into these events and I sincerely thank all those who contributed.

I take this opportunity to pay special tribute to our Diocesan Spirit of Catholic Education Award Recipient for 2024, Jan Whelan (North Mackay), who was presented with her award following Mass. Sincere thanks and congratulations to Jan and to all our Award nominees for your dedication and outstanding contribution to your communities. Please see [CEDR Awards](#) for a full list of our nominees. Photos from CEW are on Page 2 of *Message Stick*.

Emmaus College, North Rockhampton staged their 40<sup>th</sup> school musical production – *Mary Poppins*, at the Pilbeam Theatre last weekend. I very much enjoyed being part of an enthusiastic and appreciative audience on Thursday as the talented cast and crew entertained us. The impressive foyer display showcased four decades of Emmaus productions highlighting the College's excellent reputation for performance. Congratulations to all on another successful production.

My thanks to the Rockhampton school communities of St Anthony's, St Mary's, St Peter's, St Joseph's Wandal and St Paul's Gracemere for their hospitality and warm welcome during my very first round of school visits over the past fortnight. It was a joy to spend time with staff and students in these vibrant, faith-filled places where great teaching and learning happens every day. I look forward to continuing my visits in coming weeks.

Thanks for the week and all that you do for the students and families in our schools.

God bless

*Michael*

**Where's Michael:** Monday 29 July, Office; Tuesday 30 July, School visits, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon and Emmaus College, North Rockhampton; Wednesday 31 July, School visit The Cathedral College, Rockhampton; Thursday 1 August, Office; Friday 2 August, Priests' Jubilee Mass, St Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton.



Pictured below at the **CEW Spirit of Catholic Education Awards Dinner** in Cairns from left are: Michael Healey, MP Minister for Tourism and Sport and Local Member for Cairns, Michael McCusker, Archbishop Mark Coleridge.



Pictured below from left: Michelle Fletchett Director of **St Anthony's Catholic Kindergarten, North Rockhampton** and Tracey Novak, Early Learning and Care Manager CEDR, congratulating Michelle on her 2024 Spirit of Catholic Education Award nomination.



**St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, West Mackay** were one of many schools to celebrate CEW 2024 with a Prayer celebration.



Pictured below from left: Michael McCusker, Jan Whelan OAM, **Diocesan Recipient of the Spirit of Catholic Education Award 2024** and Bishop Michael.



**Chanel College, Gladstone**



Year 2 students from **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Biloela** surprised shoppers in Woolworths with messages of Faith, Hope & Love. The students placed messages on various food items throughout the store to brighten up the day while shopping.



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**HR Officer**, based at the **Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton**. Applications close Monday, 29 July. Apply [today](#)

**Congratulations to:**

**Erika Milne**, St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton and husband Ben on the safe arrival of Allira.

**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg** celebrated CEW 2024 by having students tell us about their school, check it out [here](#)

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Springsure** shared this video for CEW 2024 [OLSH](#)

*Sincere thanks* to all our Kindergartens, Primary Schools and Colleges for their incredible celebrations of *Faith, Hope and Love* during Catholic Education Week 2024.

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## 2024 VET Pathways Forum

Monday 12 August - Tuesday 13 August 2024

Hosted by Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton and the Queensland Catholic Education Commission

Rockhampton

The **2024 VET Pathways Forum, 12 - 13 August** is being held in Rockhampton and in a pioneering joint effort the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) and Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) have joined to deliver this forum. This marks the first time the event has been hosted as a partnership and held in regional Queensland. The program includes a wide range of experienced speakers with important insights on students' possible tertiary and vocational pathways. The forum is open to staff from Education Queensland, Catholic Education and the Independent Education sectors. For more information, please contact Marie Martin (Secondary Curriculum Consultant CEDR) or register [here](#)