

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family

2 August 2024



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## Consider the Message!

*What are the 'messages' that wash over our students on a daily basis? Are they messages that say; 'I know you as an individual', 'You are welcome here', 'You belong in this place', 'I recognise your successes', 'I'm here to help'?*

*The 'messages' that surround our school's DNA – the way we do things around here – can be easily taken for granted. Over the past two weeks of visiting schools, I've personally witnessed so many important 'messages' that are highly valued in our Catholic schools and am proud that they are alive and well. So that we keep striving to improve as an authentic Catholic school, what is the 'message' in your school that may need resuscitation, or more airplay, over the coming weeks?*

## Reflection from Pope Francis

While there are many people in the world who suffer due to disasters and hunger, we continue to produce and sell weapons and burn resources fueling wars large and small. This is an outrage that the international community should not tolerate.

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

**Sr Brenda Moss, Sister of Mercy, Rockhampton.**

**Charlie Borg, father of Carmel Scriha, St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston.**

## Congratulations to:

**Greta Rose, St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gracemere and husband Michael Rose, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton on the safe arrival of Clancy James.**

**Pat Egan, Deputy Principal: Mission, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton and wife Jackie on the safe arrival of their twin daughters Charlie and Frankie.**

Dear Colleagues

I was delighted to attend a Mass of celebration on Friday at St Joseph's Cathedral with Bishop Michael presiding, for priests of the Diocese who are marking special Jubilees this year. Congratulations to Fr Matthew Moloney (20 years), Fr Gasper Peruvellil (15 years), Fr Matthias Ogwo (10 years), Fr James Ezeocha (10 years), Fr Simeon Uchendu (10 years) and Fr Andrew Hogan (10 years). Our priests provide essential spiritual guidance for our Catholic Education communities, and we are most grateful for their prayerful and practical support and gentle pastoral presence in our kindergartens, schools and colleges.

Next week I am looking forward to joining the school community at St Mary's Catholic Primary School in South Mackay, for their centenary celebrations. My thanks to Wes Rose (Principal) and the organising committee for their hard work planning exciting events and activities to mark this important milestone in the life of the school.

Also, next week, *The Brown Collective* return to Rockhampton to deliver the final three units of the Leading with Integrity for Excellence (LWIE) leadership program to our cohort of 20 senior leaders from across the diocese. Facilitated by Dr Stephen Brown and Phil Holmes, the three days of face-to-face professional learning will focus on Responsible Stewardship, Safety and Wellbeing and Developing a Culture of Performance in schools. Congratulations to all LWIE participants for undertaking the program, and I extend my thanks to Stephen Dale (Assistant Director: Schools – Southern Region) for his continued work in coordinating this valuable professional development.

I very much enjoyed visiting the wonderful school communities at Sacred Heart, Emmaus College and The Cathedral College this week, and I thank all students and staff for their warm and friendly welcome and generous hospitality.

Next Thursday (8 August), we celebrate the Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first saint who co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. The Josephites were committed to educating children in rural and remote areas leading to the foundation of a significant number of schools in our Diocese. On her feast day, we remember and honour her legacy and her extraordinary impact on Catholic education throughout Australia. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – pray for us.

God bless

*Michael*

**Where's Michael:** Monday 5 August, Mackay; Tuesday 6 August, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Mackay Centenary Mass; Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 August, Mackay.



Wednesday 31 July was **Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) Educators' Day**. We acknowledge all our dedicated OSHC Staff and sincerely thank them for all they do.

To find out more about our OSHC click [here](#)

Congratulations to **St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton** (pictured below) who are the 2024 Western 7s Champions defeating St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald in the final 10-5. St Anthony's are the 2024 Rockhampton Capras Gala Day winners and now move to the regional final on 17 August.



Congratulations to **Year 11 Emmaus College student Niah** who recently submitted artwork for the QATSIF (Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation) 2024 Creative Arts Competition and was given a High Commendation for the piece. The artwork was also chosen as the winner for the QFCC (Queensland Family and Child Commission) and was printed on the Youth Week shirts during their Youth Forum in the July holidays.



Pictured above the **St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald** Prayer Tree which was part of the school community's CEW focus. The school community was encouraged to add a prayer to the tree, a symbol of St Brigid of Kildare and her strength.

As part of CEW, Year 1 students from **St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg** did a letterbox drop to nearby neighbours, thanking them for their patience when the school creates noise such as athletics carnivals and fire drills.



**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 collaborated 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 State, Catholic and Independent education sectors. For more information, please contact Marie Martin (Secondary Curriculum Consultant CEDR) or register [here](#)



Applications are invited for the newly created position **Assistant Payroll Coordinator** Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton. Applications close Friday 16 August

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



**Catholic Kindergartens** are located in the following areas: North Rockhampton, West Mackay, Mount Pleasant Mackay, Northern Beaches Mackay, Bundaberg, Springsure, Emerald, Blackall and Biloela. To find out more, check out our recent Catholic Kindy Video [here](#)

We sat down with our 2024 Diocesan Spirit of Catholic Education Award Recipient, Jan Whelan, and asked her what receiving the award meant. To view the interview click [here](#)