

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family

4 October 2024



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

***'If the ladder is not leaning against the right wall,  
every step we take just gets us to the wrong place faster'  
(Stephen Covey)***

I am sure that at this time of year, schools are reviewing their strategic plans, reflecting on progress made and next steps. It is a critically important process that makes us all consider where we need to spend our time, energy and focus in the year ahead – in other words, where are the 'walls' on which we will strategically place our progress ladders? Incorporated into the business of the next 9 weeks, needs to be a time of reflection. American philosopher John Dewey provides some valuable advice when he said, '**We do not learn from experience...we learn from reflecting on experience.**' May this be a time dedicated to reflecting on the experiences of 2024 so that we all can continue to learn and improve the quality of Catholic Education being provided to students in 2025.

Dear Colleagues

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope the student vacation period provided time for some rest and relaxation.

Our Year 12 students have entered the final few weeks of classes before commencing their end of year examinations. I extend my very best wishes to our Seniors for a successful end to their studies to enable smooth access to their chosen future endeavours. Please remember these students in your prayers as they navigate these final weeks with Catholic Education.

A great highlight of Term 4 are the Awards evenings and ceremonies which will soon commence. These are important and uplifting occasions in the school calendar and I am very much looking forward to attending some of these events. I offer my sincere thanks to those involved in the preparation and staging of the Awards ceremonies, for making them such memorable and significant occasions for the community.

Last Sunday the Church observed World Day of Migrants and Refugees, a day dedicated to raising awareness of the struggles of those forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution or economic hardship. In his message, Pope Francis called on the faithful to recognise Christ in every migrant and refugee and to respond with compassion and support. As we witness escalating tensions in conflict zones, let us continue our prayers for peace in our world and for an end to the suffering of those displaced as a result.

God bless

*Michael*

**Where's Michael:** Monday 7 October, Public Holiday; Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 October, Office; Thursday 10 October, Farewell Bill Dixon, Executive Director Catholic Education, Cairns; Friday 11 October, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton, Academic Awards Evening.

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

**Patricia Thurecht**, mother of Donna Thurecht, Catholic Education Office, Rockhampton.

**Terence (Terry) O'Shea**, father of Kim O'Shea-Hard, Principal, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg.

**Alan Bramble**, father of Suzy Loram, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

**Brian Kehoe**, father of Ruth Coughlan, APC St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton.

**Jeffrey Murphy**, brother of Meg Halberstater and Susan Murphy, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

**Congratulations to:**

**Emma Donovan, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg** and husband Miles on the safe arrival of Hadley.

**Nikki Nichols, Marist College, Emerald** and husband Zak on the safe arrival of Lotte.

## Election Statement from the Queensland Catholic Bishops

The Queensland State Election has been called and will be held on Saturday, 26 October. The Queensland Bishops have released their Election Statement. A video featuring most of the Queensland Bishops can be viewed [Here](#) and you can also read the [Statement](#).

**SESSION 2 – Synod on Synodality**, Rome: Beginning on Monday, September 30 with a retreat for participants, the Synod commenced on the evening of October 1. There are 14 Australians and a number of Oceania representatives among the 368 bishops, priests, religious and lay participants and 90 non-voting members. We pray during this month that the Spirit will continue to guide all who gather at this important time. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website has a range of related resources here: [XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops \(catholic.au\)](#)



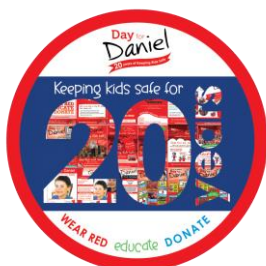
Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) is recruiting Queensland teachers (including practising, non-practising, supply and retired teachers) to **mark the 2025 NAPLAN writing tasks**. Becoming a marker gives you the opportunity to broaden your skills and expertise, while earning extra income outside of school hours. The 2025 marking operation is expected to commence from Saturday 22 March 2025. For more information, including the eligibility criteria and how to apply, visit the [QCAA website](#).



Teachers change lives every day and Australian Retirement Trust (ART) is proud to celebrate them this World Teachers' Day. This year, we are bringing teaching stories to light. Those moments where teachers have made a real difference to their students' learning. **We are encouraging teachers to enter our competition today and tell us about their most unforgettable teaching moment.** It could be when they witnessed a student's 'aha' moment after struggling to understand something. Or maybe it was a creative way they taught something. Teachers can nominate themselves or another teacher. Two teachers and their schools will **win a prize pack worth \$1,150 each**. Our competition can be accessed via the Catholic Education Queensland ART microsite <https://portal.australianretirementtrust.com.au/ceq> To enter, teachers should tell us in 50 words or less: **What's been their most unforgettable teaching moment?** Entries close 2:00pm Friday, 11 October 2024.

**Friday, 25 October**

20<sup>th</sup> Day for Daniel and Queensland World Teachers' Day.



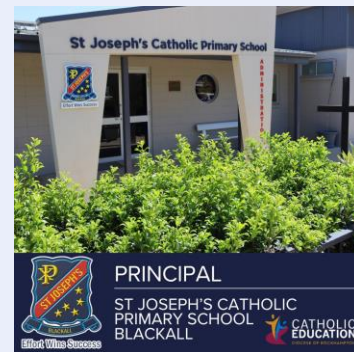
**World Teachers' Day QLD**

Friday 25th October 2024  
[worldteachersday.com.au](http://worldteachersday.com.au)

## Reflection from Pope Francis

When we embrace, share and freely give the Gospel, it leads us to joy because we discover that God is the Father of Mercy, who is moved to compassion for us, lifts us up when we fall and never withdraws love from us.

## Employment Opportunities:



Applications close  
Friday, 18 October 2024.

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

## Finishing Date 2024 for Year 10 and 11 Students.

As you are aware, Education Queensland has published that the finishing date for Year 10 and 11 students in 2024 will be Friday, 22 November. Whilst the finishing date for these year levels in Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton has been advertised in the 'Important Dates' as Friday, 29 November recent conversations with Principals has resulted in a review of this date in our Diocese.

After consultation a change to the finishing date to **Friday, 22 November 2024**, has been amended for CEDR Colleges.

Diocesan Catholic Education Office  
143 West Street | PO Box 524  
Rockhampton Queensland 4700  
1800 228 433  
[www.rok.catholic.edu.au](http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au)  
Twitter @RockyCathEd