



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

Kevin Lynam, long serving grounds man at Marian, St Stanislaus Colleges and Emmaus Rockhampton.



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

Peter Bartlett, teacher at St Brendan's College Yeppoon.

Sienna McGarry Year 5 student at St Mary's Bundaberg.

Mia McEldowney Year 3 student at St John's Walkerston.

Oliver Burndred, Year 2 student at St Brendan's Mackay.

Pope Francis Reflection



We must put an end to the culture of waste, we pray to the Lord to give us our daily bread. Food waste contributes to hunger and to climate change. [Read further.](#)

Friday 15 November 2019

Good morning everyone

Our nation has been ravaged by fires this past week as hot, dry and windy conditions persist. Some within our communities are dealing with devastating losses or supporting those who have been directly affected. Thank you to Principals Tim Collins (St Benedict's Catholic Primary School) and Max Martin (Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School) for their generous support of the Yeppoon wider community as events unfolded early this week. The heroic and unfailing response of emergency services personnel as they repeatedly put themselves in harm's way was truly inspirational. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been impacted in this latest fire event both locally and interstate and we ask that God comfort and strengthen them in this very difficult time. I invite you again to participate in the Australian Bishops' 'Prayer Campaign for Rain' to hasten the end of this devastating drought, restore life to our parched lands and provide much needed relief from the terrible bushfire threat.

Today marks the final day of formal schooling for our almost 800 graduating Year 12 students. It is a milestone of tremendous significance for these young people, for their families and for our College communities who have nurtured, supported and encouraged them through their educational journey. Congratulations to all who have contributed countless hours to the successful organizing and staging of Graduation Masses, Formal Celebrations and Final Assemblies to ensure these were meaningful and memorable events for our departing students. I am certain the 2019 Senior Class deeply appreciate all the efforts that have gone into making these days so special.

In bidding our Seniors farewell, I offer to each of them my sincere congratulations on all they have achieved during their time with Catholic Education. I would also like to thank them for their valuable contribution to the life of their school communities, for their leadership and for their service and outreach to others particularly to the sick, the aged and the vulnerable in their local communities. As these fine young people embark on this new chapter in their lives, I hope they take with them fond and lasting memories of their time with Catholic Education and an enduring sense of belonging. I pray that God will bless them abundantly and that the future will be all that they would wish it to be.

As we move towards the end of another school year I take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated teachers. You do an outstanding job imparting to the students entrusted to our care knowledge, wisdom and a life time love of learning. You also nurture in your students a love of God, a love of neighbour and a love of the world around us. I thank all the support staff in our schools and here at the Catholic Education Office who assist our teachers in this great work. My sincere thanks also go to our Principals and all who serve in leadership roles in our schools and throughout the Ministry of Catholic Education. In all of this tremendous faith and values-based work, we are supported so strongly and so actively by Bishop Michael, the Priests of the Diocese and the Religious whose sacrifice over many years helped build the solid foundation upon which Catholic Education stands today.

Thank you one and all and every blessing to each of you in the coming weeks.

God bless

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 18 November, Office; Tuesday 19 November, QCEC Commission Meeting; Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 November, Leadership Induction Days Rockhampton; Friday 22 November, Office.



Shalom College Bundaberg Senior Cricket Team (pictured left) finished second in the State T20 Cricket Challenge. The College's Intermediate (years 7-9) also finished top 6 in Queensland. It is the third year in a row the Open team has finished top 4 in the Southern Conference and fourth year in a row the Intermediate side has achieved the feat.

Schools across the Diocese commemorated **Remembrance Day** last Monday – pictured below students from **Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School Gladstone**.



Wednesday was World Kindness Day, with students from **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Blackall** (below) promoting the day with their *Be the I in kind* campaign.



The Catholic Church in Australia is dedicating the month of November as a time to pray for those affected by crippling drought conditions and to pray for the gift of rain. Source: *ACBC Media Blog*. Parishes, schools, families and other Catholic communities across the country are being encouraged to participate in the National Prayer Campaign for Drought, which also invites people to provide assistance to those most in need. The Bureau of Meteorology says that, on some measures, the drought is the worst in 100 years or more, with most parts of Australia's eastern states declared to be in drought. Details pertaining to resources and further information for the National Prayer Campaign can be found [here](#)

Congratulations to:

Kay Harling on her appointment as Kindergarten Teacher Director, St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten opening in Bundaberg in 2020.

Employment:

For details regarding positions available please visit [Careers](#)

Important dates:

20 – 21 November Leadership Induction Days.

24 November Marist Priests Farewell Gladstone.

26 November Mercy College Mackay Speech Night.

27 November Mercy College Mackay Year 10 Formal.

29 November Year 10 and 11 students finish.

4 December Last Day for Western Schools.

6 December Last Day Term Four.

8 to 10 December Australian Catholic Youth Festival Perth.

A Prayer for the Queensland Bushfires

We pray to you O God, for our sisters and brothers in Central Queensland suffering from the many bush fire threats and disasters.

We pray for those who have lost property, those who have been evacuated from their homes and towns, those conducting the evacuations and those on standby to evacuate if needed.

We pray to you O God, for the local fire fighters, battling the from the air and ground. We pray for all the local SES workers, police and community members helping. We pray for the interstate firefighters and nay personnel joining their efforts.

We pray to you O God for rain and for the heatwave to subside and winds to decrease. O Go hear our prayers for our sisters and brothers and for our land. Amen.

(Adapted from the Prayer by Fr Gerry Hefferan, Archdiocese of Brisbane).

Congratulations to Year 5 students at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Bundaberg who won the National Nude Food Day competition with each student creating a unique upcycled product.



Congratulations to Cohen and Oscar from **St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School Mackay** who raised \$520 for Orange Sky Laundry. Pictured below with Daniel from Orange Sky Mackay.



Congratulations to all the graduating seniors for 2019!

God Bless from all in Catholic Education

