



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

Frederick (Fred) Hicks, father of Lesleigh Hicks RCIC Northern Region.



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



How beautiful it would be if the poor could occupy in our hearts the place they have in the heart of God.

Friday 22 November 2019

Good morning everyone

Each year a number of people who have given truly amazing service to Catholic Education and to our Diocese retire from the roles they have held with distinction often for many years.

Once again, this year there are a number of people who certainly fall into that category and to each one of them I offer my heartfelt thanks for the significant contribution they have made to Catholic Education in our Diocese and for their support of me in my role as Director of Catholic Education. Some people that immediately come to mind are John Lyons (retiring Principal Holy Spirit College, Mackay), Helen Dean (retiring Principal St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton), Gail Davis, Vicki Heggie, Mark Mitchell (Catholic Education Office) and Joy Philippi (Emmaus College, Rockhampton).

I know there are many others deserving of special mention and I pray they know they have my sincere appreciation for the magnificent service they have given to the Ministry of Catholic Education. I am sure that all these wonderful people will not mind me paying special tribute in the *Message Stick* this week to a person who has been at the heart of so many Catholic Education and Diocesan celebrations over a long number of years and who also retires and departs our Diocese at the end of this year. I refer of course to Bernadette Mitchell.

What an amazing gift Bernadette's fantastic musical talent has been to so many people in our community, both in joyous times and in sad times. I could not hope to count the number of events for Catholic Education and our Church where Bernadette has provided the beautiful musical accompaniment that has enriched the particular celebration and made it such a special and memorable event for all concerned.

Bernadette always gave generously of her precious time and wonderful musical talent and she will be deeply missed by many people, including myself, who have sincerely appreciated and highly valued her significant contribution to the life of our Diocese in so many ways. As Bernadette and her husband Mark prepare to conclude their time with Catholic Education and to depart our Diocese, I pray that they and their family will always receive God's many blessings in abundance. Congratulations, thank you and farewell Bernadette and Mark.

In the aftermath of the recent bushfire event, I continue to hear inspiring stories of outreach by principals and school staff to colleagues and families impacted by the bushfires. Thank you for your tremendous community outreach and for the support being provided. As many are seeking ways to offer further assistance, I commend to you and your school communities the [St Vincent de Paul Society's Bushfire Appeal](#) and [Drought Relief Appeal](#) as worthy of your support. Donating to these appeals will expedite the provision of assistance to those in greatest need at this extremely busy time of year. Sincere thanks to all for giving so generously.

On Wednesday and Thursday this past week we held our Leadership Induction Gathering for recently appointed School Leaders for 2020. Our emerging leaders took the opportunity to come together and reflect on what it means to hold a leadership position within Catholic Education. Sincere thanks to all who assisted in the organisation of these days and I hope those who attended found these days to be positive and rewarding as they prepare to embark on their leadership journey.

God bless

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 25 November to Friday 29 November, Office.

Pictured below new Leadership staff for schools in 2020 with CEO Leadership Team Members at this week's Leadership Induction Gathering.



Long Serving Staff who are leaving Catholic Education this year:



Debbie Harding – St Patrick's College, Mackay

Debbie retires after 17 years of service to the college in various roles in administration. Known as a wizard in this area for her knowledge, attention to detail, organisation and flare for style, her professionalism and dedication will be greatly missed. We thank Debbie for her gentle and caring nature and wish her every happiness as she commences retirement.



Kerry Bond – St Patrick's College, Mackay

Kerry is a past St Pat's student and has taught Biology, Study of Religion and Religion and Ethics at the College in casual and full-time roles since 2003. Kerry was a driving force behind many programs and committees and introduced Flexible Learning furniture into classrooms. Kerry, for your long serving and vital contribution to Catholic Education, we thank you and wish you all the best.



Brian Smith – St Patrick's College, Mackay

After 11 years teaching in New Zealand, Brian came to St Pat's in 1998 and has since taught Chemistry, Maths and Religion and Ethics, also holding the position of Head of Science. Brian's generous contribution to the College included volunteering as soccer and badminton coach and guiding students through ANCO Chemistry and Titration competitions. A deeply committed and dedicated teacher, we thank Brian for his service to Catholic Education and wish him well for the future.



Louanne Benecke – St Patrick's College, Mackay

Louanne commenced working at St Pat's as a Scientific Assistant in 2002. She has made an outstanding contribution to the smooth functioning of the Science department for over 16 years. We are tremendously grateful for Louanne's contribution to the College faith community and music ministry, and her assistance with many facets of College sporting and cultural endeavours. Her kind and giving heart has been a real gift to staff and students.



Kerry Braby – St Patrick's College, Mackay

Kerry is retiring from full-time teaching after various roles at St Pat's since 2007, including Home Ec teacher, Head of Department, Year Coordinator and as District Review Panel Chair since 2012. Her passion for teaching was recognised in 2018 when she received an Excellence in Teaching Award from the Home Ec Institute of Australia. We thank Kerry for her dedicated contribution to Catholic Education and wish her every blessing in the future.



Dolores La Spina – Mercy College, Mackay

After a short stint as a casual relief teacher and full-time teacher at MacKillop Catholic Primary School in 2003, Dolores joined staff at Mercy College as a full-time teacher in 2004, taking on the role of Head of Arts Department in 2009. With a passion for Creative Arts, Dolores has been a wonderful advocate and champion of Mercy College for over a decade.



Selina Rasmussen – Holy Spirit College, North Mackay

Selina commenced with Catholic Education in 2000 working in full-time and casual relief positions at Mercy College and Holy Spirit College and more recently working as a fulltime teacher at HSC teaching SOSE and Senior English. Selina was instrumental in facilitating the introduction of Year 7's to high school. We wish Selina every blessing and extend sincere thanks for her dedication and commitment.



Judy Hain – Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, North Mackay

Judy commenced employment at Emmanuel as a Prep Teacher Assistant in 2008. Demonstrating a deep commitment and dedication to students in her care, Judy's strong work ethic and high expectations made her a valued staff member. She is highly respected by parents, staff and students alike. Judy's professionalism and friendship will be greatly missed by all with whom she has worked over the last 11 years.

Employment:

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

Important dates:

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.

Congratulations to: the following teachers who have successfully graduated from the CQUni Graduate Certificate in Religious Education Course. Well done everyone.

- Margaret Sihlberg
St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald
- Joanne Stark
St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, Mackay
- Michele Jensen
Emmanuel Catholic Primary School Mackay
- Sharon Upton
St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald
- Linda Messersmith
St Mary's Catholic Primary School. North Rockhampton
- Elizabeth Hopkinson
St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald
- Janine Mullenbach
St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary Mackay
- Karen Fox
The Cathedral College, Rockhampton

Some of our New School Leaders for 2020



	<p>Cathy Roberts – St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, Mackay</p> <p>Cathy commenced full-time teaching at St Francis in 1987. Over the many years she has been part of the school she has embraced staff and students and been at the forefront of bringing all together as family. Cathy is an extremely active member of the St Francis Parish. Her four children completed their primary schooling at St Francis and now her grandchildren are currently enrolled. We extend heartfelt thanks to Cathy for all she has contributed to Catholic Education.</p>		<p>Patricia Byrne – St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Mackay</p> <p>Trish has been a full-time teacher at St Mary's for a remarkable 43 years. Her incredible service has touched many in the Mackay region and her dedication, professionalism and commitment to her vocation has been inspirational. Trish has given generously of her time and talents to generations of students, we thank her dearly and wish her every blessing for the future.</p>
	<p>Terry Moloney – Mercy College, Mackay</p> <p>Terry commenced teaching at St Patrick's College in 1983 moving to Mercy in 1987. With over 25 years of dedicated service he is a highly respected and well-loved teacher to many. We extend sincere thanks to Terry for his commitment and professional contribution to Catholic Education and wish him every blessing in the future.</p>		<p>Denys Legge - Marist College, Emerald</p> <p>Denys has been a teacher of Physical Education and Religious Education at Marist College Emerald since 2010. Most notably, as Head of Chanel House he has created a strong House spirit and a supportive environment for young people. Denys has a wonderful sense of humour and has been active in the local community. Sincere thanks to Denys for his contribution to Catholic Education.</p>
	<p>Dean Johnston – Marist College, Emerald</p> <p>Dean has taught Technology at Marist for the last 10 years and is a much-loved and vital part of the fabric of the College. Dean also managed the Confraternity Rugby League Team and was a highly conscientious and dedicated WHS Officer over a long period. Dean will be greatly missed as he returns closer to his home town and, most importantly, within an easier distance to attend Cowboys games.</p>		<p>Wendy Gaskin – St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald</p> <p>Wendy joined Catholic Education in 2009 working as a Teacher Assistant at St Joseph's Clermont then moving to St Brigid's as a TA in 2015, later taking on the challenge of IT. Wendy is known for her thoughtful and caring ways and for always taking on any task or challenge. Wendy will be dearly missed, and we thank her for her great contribution to Catholic Education.</p>
	<p>Shelley Baker – St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald</p> <p>Shelley filled several roles at St Patrick's over the past 15 years including Finance Secretary, Teacher Assistant, Librarian and IT specialist. Known for her love of literature and her passion for promoting a love for reading, Shelley created exciting library spaces, advocated Readers Cup Challenge and assisted in coordinating robotics teams and Kid's Connect experiences. Shelley is a supportive and generous staff member who we extend sincere thanks for her dedicated service.</p>		<p>Petrina Klupfel – St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clermont</p> <p>Petrina commenced work with Catholic Education at St Joseph's in 2008 and has held the role of Teacher Assistant for the past 11 years. Petrina is exemplary in her love of family, her gentle and caring ways and great love of animals. Working in Learning Support Petrina built up a great rapport with many students and was always a friendly, kind-hearted member of staff. Sincere thanks to Petrina for her long and dedicated service to Catholic Education.</p>
	<p>Donna Bonus – St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg</p> <p>Donna joined Catholic Education as a Casual Teacher Assistant at St Mary's Bundaberg in 2004 before moving to St Patrick's Bundaberg in 2005 where she has remained for the past 15 years as a highly valued member of staff. Donna has supported many vulnerable students to flourish and progress through her care, commitment and professionalism. Donna will be greatly missed, and we wish her and her family every blessing in the future.</p>		<p>Ron Luthe – Shalom College, Bundaberg</p> <p>After 32 years of dedicated service at Shalom, Ron has decided to join his wife Judy in retirement. As well as teaching Science, Ron's wisdom and good counsel were frequently sought on a range of issues. Before the era of IT Technicians and AV experts, Ron willingly volunteered his time and talents to expertly fill this role. Sincere thanks to Ron for his generosity to the Shalom community and to the many young people he has helped nurture.</p>

More farewells will be featured in next week's Message Stick