



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

Leo Harris Perth brother of Sr Kym Harris, Yeppoon.



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



In a world where millions of children and families live in inhumane conditions, the money that is squandered and the fortunes made through the manufacture, maintenance and sale of ever more destructive weapons are an affront crying out to heaven.

Friday 29 November 2019

Good morning everyone

Last weekend, I was delighted to be present at celebrations in Gladstone to honour and farewell the Marist priests after 118 years of service to the Parish of Gladstone and the Diocese of Rockhampton. Representatives from the communities of Gladstone, Tannum Sands, Calliope, Ubobo, Mount Larcom, Miriam Vale and Agnes Waters attended the farewell events. I offer my heartfelt thanks to Fr Kevin Redmond sm, as the last of the Marist priests to administer the Parish of Gladstone, for his wonderful pastoral ministry and his tremendous support of Catholic schools in the Gladstone Parish. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to work closely with Fr Kevin over the past few years and, on behalf of all in Catholic Education, I extend to Fr Kevin our sincere thanks and I wish him all of God's many blessings for the future.

As they conclude another year of study, I extend my congratulations to our Year 10 students on their achievements this year. I offer my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff who have nurtured these students on their educational journey and prepared them well for the all-important senior years of schooling just over the horizon. We pray for our students as they navigate this next phase of college life that they will experience peace of mind and a sense of fulfilment and clarity as they chart a future course with the support of family and their college communities.

It's the season for Parish Fairs – ham wheels, raffles, bottle stores and countless other attractions at these iconic community events. Steeped in history and tradition, these Fairs not only provide much needed funds for the parishes but even more importantly, they help build a positive and vibrant community spirit. I thank the many staff and associated school communities who provide tremendous support to these parish events, contributing time, labour and resources to ensure their success. I am certain our parishes are very appreciative of your wonderful support.

In closing I would like to draw your attention once more to the National Prayer Campaign for Rain. As we head towards Christmas let us remember in our thoughts and prayers those many families within our diocese who are enduring considerable hardship as they wait for their parched land to be blessed with life-giving rain. We pray to our generous and ever-loving God for an end to this crippling and heartbreaking drought.

I trust you have an enjoyable and rewarding final week of the 2019 school year and, as you look forward to a well-deserved break, I hope you have time to reflect on all that has been achieved in your school community over the past twelve months.

God bless

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 2, Tuesday 3 December, Office; Wednesday 4 December QCAA Scaling Anomalies Committee Thursday 5 and Friday 6 December, Office.

Congratulations Sr Dolores rsm. At the St Mary's North Rockhampton parish mass last Sunday, Sr Dolores was presented with a Papal Blessing as a sign of gratitude for all Sr Dolores has done and continues to do in the parish and school communities. Sr Dolores has been a significant presence in the school over many years and she ensures that there is a continuous strong link to the Sisters of Mercy.



Farewell Marist Fathers Gladstone



Pictured below Marist Sisters and Brothers with Leesa far right



Thank you to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Wandal and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Yeppoon
for assisting us with some Christmas photos this year



The Prep Students at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Biloela have been learning how to write letters and recently wrote to some special people in their lives. They set off to the Biloela Post Office to buy stamps and post the letters hoping to hear back from the people they wrote to.



Congratulations to:

Louise Sisley on her appointment as Acting APRE at Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone for the first four weeks of Term 1, 2020.

The Catholic Education Footy Tipping Winners 2020:

Overall winner: Mitchell Casey, St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald.

2nd place Deb Groszman St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg.

3rd place Julie Field St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton.

Feeling Safe Student Protection Poster Design Winners: Primary:

Tess Radke Year 6 St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandal

Sarah Marlin Year 6 St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Park Avenue

Finn Stone Year 4 Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon

Secondary: Tristan Hyde Year 9 Holy Spirit College, Mackay

Employment:

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

Important dates:

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.

20 December Catholic Education Office closes

25 December Christmas Day

2 January Catholic Education Office reopens

Please note:

The final Message Stick for 2019 will be issued next Wednesday 4 December.

Long Serving Staff who are leaving Catholic Education this Year



Michelle Johnson – *St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone*

Michelle joined Catholic Education in 2003 and has been a valued staff member at Star of the Sea and St John the Baptist in Gladstone. Michelle proved to be an exceptionally capable upper primary teacher and has shaped and nurtured students in her care leaving a positive influence on many young lives. Thank you, Michelle, for your dedication.



Amanda Pincham – *St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone*

Amanda commenced at St John's in 2002 as a Teacher Assistant before taking on the challenge of one of the first IT assistants in 2007. She has a wealth of knowledge and a passion for educating teachers and students in ICT skills. She has worked tirelessly to support learning at St John's and will be greatly missed.



Therese Olsen – *St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton*

For the past 25 years, Therese has been a friendly, dedicated, tireless employee of St Peter's ancillary staff. Therese worked to build relationships with parents, students, teaching staff, and support agencies and has always acted in a professional manner

taking great pride in her work. As a passionate supporter of the Catholic ethos, we are deeply appreciative of the great contribution Therese has made to St Peter's and Catholic Education.



Heather Bust – *St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton*

Heather joined Catholic Education in 1997 and has taught at St Joseph's Clermont, St Joseph's PA, St Francis Tannum Sands and for the last 13 years at St Anthony's North Rockhampton. Past students are always eager for a chat with Heather. She is known

for her great passion for teaching Art and Art Theory, and for promoting swimming and water safety. We thank Heather for her wonderful dedication and wish her every future blessing.



Cheryl Hope – *St Francis Catholic Primary School, Tannum Sands*

Cheryl joined staff at St Joseph's, Biloela in 1996 working as Finance Secretary and Teacher Assistant before joining staff at St Francis Tannum Sands in 2004 as Admin Secretary where she has been the friendly, welcoming face of the school. Cheryl has

worked with dedication, passion, professionalism and love and her kindness and generosity will be greatly missed.



Barbara Cameron – *St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone*

Over the past 28 years Barb has worked as a fulltime teacher at St Joseph's Clermont, St Anthony's North Rockhampton, St Joseph's Wandal and St John's Gladstone. Barb has been very passionate about her teaching vocation and is known for her kindness and generosity and her particular care of young teachers on staff. We are very grateful for Barb's faithfulness and compassion and we wish her well in the future.



Cath Matheson – *St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton*

Cath has been an invaluable employee at St Anthony's as the welcoming face of the school for the past 25 years. Cath is always prepared to do anything to help others and has cared for hundreds of students each year in sick bay with unfailing compassion.

Cath has always made a point of knowing every child at the school (over 500) and their families. We thank Cath for her inspirational commitment.



Mellaney Corfield – *St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon*

Mel commenced as a fulltime teacher at St John's Walkerston in 1996, served as APRE for a year before continuing at St Francis Mackay for 10 years, then on to St Benedict's Yeppoon since 2010. Mel has been integral in contributing to the strong

ethos and culture of St Benedict's and always displayed a strong commitment to the children and parents in her care. Thank you, Mel, for your service to Catholic Education and we wish you every future success.



Wendy Hudson – *St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon*

For the past 21 years Wendy has worked as Library Assistant firstly at Sacred Heart Yeppoon then moving to St Benedict's Yeppoon in 2009 as a Foundation staff member, where she has also filled the role of Teacher Assistant. Wendy played a

significant role in coordinating the wonderful resources at St Benedict's. She has worked with dedication and commitment assisting students and staff with care and compassion. We wish Wendy every happiness in retirement.



Cynthia Drane – *The Cathedral College, Rockhampton*

Cynthia joined The Cathedral College staff in 1995 as Admin Secretary moving to TCC Girls' Boarding in 2003. Cynthia has an incredible knowledge of College history and family connections within the TCC faith community. Her strong sense of fairness and

pastoral concern has been a great blessing. She is fondly remembered by generations of boarders and has filled her role with professionalism and compassion.