



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

Mia McEldowney, student St John's Walkerston.

Frank Ewings, father of Grant Ewings TCC, Rockhampton.



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

Kristina Kujur, India, mother of Fr Marcel Kujur, parish priest and administrator North Rockhampton Parishes.

Peta Campbell mother of Evelyn Campbell, St Brigid's Emerald.



Loving God, you know it has been a tough summer for our nation. As we have been inspired by the extraordinary actions of many, may we learn how to show their goodness and bravery in our lives. We ask this in Jesus' name, confident that you will hear us.

Sr Kym Harris osb

Friday 7 February 2020

Good morning everyone

It was with great sadness we learnt this week that Mia McEldowney (aged 8 yrs, student St John's Walkerston) passed away after succumbing to a rare form of cancer. We offer our deepest sympathies and heartfelt prayers to Mia's family, her friends and to the whole St John's community at this most difficult time. Rest in Peace Mia.

As you know a collection was held at each of the Opening School Year Masses to go to the St Vincent De Paul Bushfire and Drought Appeal. I am very pleased to report that the collection has raised almost \$4000 to date. Thank you for your generosity and please, within your communities, continue to assist those who suffered so much as a result of the bushfires.

The good news is that rain has fallen in many areas of our diocese bringing much needed relief to our rural communities. Though far from drought-breaking, the greening of the countryside and the rising dam levels has certainly lifted spirits across many regions. We thank God for the blessing of this life-giving rain and we continue our prayers for further good falls to refresh our parched land.

By now most staff would have commenced compulsory training modules through the new iRok system. This online system has distinct advantages rationalising resources and providing a 'one-stop' shop to record and access all staff training which is instantly updated as staff complete courses. The mandatory training ensures compliance and seeks to effectively deliver valuable and pertinent information for all staff working in Catholic Education. My thanks to all involved with the iRok project.

Our 2020 Bishop's Inservice Days commence next week in Barcaldine on Tuesday 11 February, then to Emerald on Wednesday 12 February and Mackay on Friday 14 February. I am very much looking forward to catching up with everyone during these most valuable days. I am grateful, as we all are, to Bishop Michael for the gift of these days where we have the opportunity to be with each other and to have the time and space to reflect on our Catholic Education ministry. Sincere thanks to Di-Anne Rowan (Assistant Director: Mission) and the Faith Identity and Religious Education (FIARE) Team for the extensive and detailed planning that goes into organising these events in each centre. Safe travels to our presenters and organisers over the next two weeks.

I hope that each of you have had a great start to the 2020 school year, particularly those who are new to our diocese. May God continue to bless you, your families and your school communities in the year ahead.

God bless

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 10 February, Blessing and Opening St Joseph's Blackall; Tuesday 11 February BID Barcaldine; Wednesday 12 February BID Emerald; Thursday 13 February, Holy Spirit College Opening School Mass; Friday 14 February, BID Mackay.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Park Avenue is currently undertaking a capital redevelopment. All stage 1 buildings have been demolished and building is a week ahead of schedule.



Our Northern Region Counsellors had the opportunity to attend the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) at St Patrick's College Mackay recently. ASIST helps people apply suicide first-aid in many situations including; formal work settings, with family, friends, co-workers and teammates. ASIST teaches participants to recognise when someone may be at risk of suicide and how to work with them and create a plan that will support their immediate safety.

Photo from left to right: Susan McKay, Edie Weiss, Ninette Nell, Karen Morley, Dee Trannore, Lynn Wirtz, Allahna Heywood, Kristy Flor, Frank Gilbert, Collette Simpson and Amanda Roll. Absent from photo is Danika Hurley.



Pope Francis has designated **8 February 2020**, the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, (pictured right) as the **World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking**. Additional information can be found via the following [link](#)



Pictured new Staff at CEO from left; Tim Collins, Acting ADS: Western Region; Blair McWhinney, FIARE Team; Therese Fitzgerald, Information Literacy Consultant; Kerry Jupe, Early Learning and Care Accountant; Justin Bellew, Building Services Coordinator; Brenten Robson, Maintenance Services Officer; Derek Worden, FIARE Team; Lauren Roach, Project Officer: Teaching and Learning.

Nominate for the 2020 Queensland Reconciliation Awards: All schools are encouraged to nominate for the [Queensland Reconciliation Awards](#), which recognise initiatives undertaken by educational institutions, businesses, community organisations and government departments that foster reconciliation. Winners will share in \$25,000 of prize money. [Nominations](#) close 5:00pm, Monday 24 February with the award recipients announced during National Reconciliation Week, 27 May – 3 June.

HALT Information Sessions: During this term, QCEC is holding information session in all dioceses for teachers interested in applying for Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher certification. The registration link is as follows: [HALT](#)

Employment:

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



Important dates:

10 February, Blessing and Opening St Joseph's Blackall
 11 February, Bishop's Inservice Day Barcaldine
 11 February, Safe Internet Day
 12 February, Bishop's Inservice Day Emerald
 13 February, National Apology Day
 14 February, Bishop's Inservice Day Mackay
 18 February, Bishop's Inservice Day Bundaberg
 19 February, Bishop's Inservice Day Gladstone
 21 February, Bishop's Inservice Day Rockhampton
 26 February, Ash Wednesday
 28 February, Indigenous Students Year 12 Commencement Mass

Pope Francis Reflection



Loneliness is not overcome by closing in on ourselves, but by crying out to the Lord, for the Lord hears the cry of those who find themselves alone.



Safer Internet Day 2020 | Tuesday 11 February

Together for a better internet

[Safer](#) internet day information