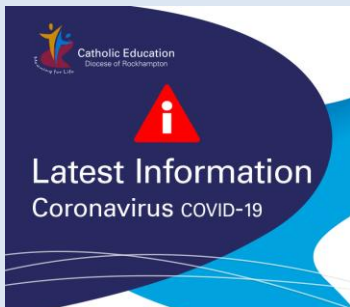


Information is available on the Staff Portal under the following graphic



Please continue to reference updated [COVID-19](#) information on the [Queensland Health](#) website or [Australian Government](#) website.

Also available via the Staff Portal are **Counselling Resources**

Download the COVIDSafe App with information via the following [link](#)

Reflection from Pope Francis



Kindness frees us from the cruelty that at times infects human relationships.

Date Claimer:

Ashwin Acharya will be ordained Deacon for the Diocese of Rockhampton on 18 November 2020.

The ordination will be live streamed, and information will be provided closer to the date. We continue to keep Ashwin in our prayers.

Friday 30 October 2020

Good morning everyone

Together with Bishop Michael, I was delighted to officiate at the Blessing and Opening of St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten in Bundaberg on Wednesday. St Joseph's Kindy is the first Catholic kindergarten to open in Bundaberg and, significantly, adjoins the city's first Catholic primary school, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, which opened 140 years ago. My sincere thanks to Kay Harling (Kindergarten Director) and Kaye Beston (Principal) and their respective staff members for delivering such a meaningful and joyous occasion for the St Joseph's community as we welcome in this new and exciting chapter of Catholic Education in Bundaberg. Thanks also to Tracey Novak and the Early Learning and Care Team for their efforts behind the scenes.

I was also delighted to join members of the St Joseph's and St Mary's Catholic Primary School communities in Bundaberg on Tuesday evening to farewell two of our longest serving and most dedicated principals, Mrs Kaye Beston (Principal, St Joseph's) and Mrs Madonna Davitt (Principal, St Mary's). Both Kaye and Madonna have served as outstanding leaders in their respective school communities and have faithfully witnessed to the mission of Catholic Education, being the face of Christ to hundreds of students and their families. As committed and compassionate educationalists, Kaye and Madonna have sought to nurture students' holistic development through ensuring the highest standards of teaching and learning.

I am most grateful to Kaye and Madonna for their exemplary service and, on a personal note, for their professional support and collegiality over many years. I have valued very highly their deep understanding of the needs of their communities and the wisdom and clear vision they each brought to their roles as leaders. I offer my deepest thanks and appreciation for all they have done for their school communities. I wish both Kaye and Madonna all the very best in retirement and I pray they are blessed with many years of continued good health and much happiness.

This week our Year 12 ATAR students completed the first week of their external examinations, marking a new era in Senior Assessment in Queensland. I offer my congratulations to this group of 2020 Seniors on their efforts so far and on behalf of Catholic Education, wish them every success in their remaining exams.

Today we celebrate World Teachers' Day and say thank you to all our wonderful teachers for their professionalism, dedication, compassion and commitment to their vocation. This year more than ever before, the steadying presence of our teachers played an important role in maintaining continuity and stability, not only for school communities, but for the wider community as well. Thank you to all of our teachers for what they do each and every day to ensure the students entrusted to our care receive the best possible opportunities to grow in knowledge and faith in a safe and caring environment.

Congratulations and good luck to Chloe Coombe, Year 11 student from The Cathedral College, Rockhampton, as she competes in the Bicentennial Games Quiz as part of the *Faith in the Future Symposium* today. The Symposium is an initiative of the National Catholic Education Commission celebrating World Teachers' Day and is a precursor to next year's 200th anniversary of Catholic Education in Australia. Chloe is one of only two students in Australia who will join two principals and two parliamentary Ministers to contest the quiz. Well done, Chloe.

Sunday is All Saints Day when Catholics remember and venerate saints from around the world from throughout history, known and unknown. These are the holy men and women whose lives serve as inspiration and example and show us the way to live our lives according to Christ's message of love and mercy. Monday is All Souls Day when we remember and pray for all those who have died, that they too may be granted eternal rest in the peaceful and loving arms of our Heavenly Father.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

God bless,

Leesa

Bruce and Denise Morcombe called into CEO last week for a catch up and to discuss some future direction for the program. Pictured below from left are Bruce and Denise Morcombe, Leesa and Brett Halter.



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Springsure participated in their NSIT last week culminating in their reviewers, Tony McGruther (fourth from right) and Carmel Kriz (third from right), joining the staff in their Book Week parade group.



To all of our teachers, school officers and all staff in our Kindergartens, OSHCs, Schools and Colleges, we sincerely thank you for all that you do and especially in this year of COVID-19.

A prayer for staff:

God our creator and teacher, bless all staff across our Diocese with your gifts of wisdom and generosity of spirit. Grant them the knowledge that they are valued and appreciated. Guide them in their ministry so that they may enrich the lives of all with whom they work. Amen.



Congratulations to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg Science Engineering Optiminds team pictured below with Pauline Merefield (top left) who have been awarded state champions for 2020.



In a normal year the Year 6 leaders at **St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald** volunteer at Café 126 Avalon on one Sunday afternoon a month. Unfortunately, this year they have not been able to do this and therefore, for National Grandparents Day, the students made gifts for the residents and delivered them in person.



Blessing and Opening St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten, Bundaberg. Pictured below from left: Kaye Beston (Principal St Joseph's Catholic Primary School), Kay Harling (Director St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten), Bishop Michael, Fr Peter Tonti (Parish Priest Bundaberg Catholic Parishes), Tracey Novak (Early Learning and Care Consultant CEO) and Leesa Jeffcoat.



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

Deb Campbell, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon and wife of John CEO.

Del Rowan, mother of Di-Anne Rowan, CEO.

Rosemary Weilharter, Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone.

Nadene Hottes, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton.

William Piacentini, former student of St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gracemere.

Employment:

For further information and to apply click [here](#)

Teaching vacancies in various subject areas and Middle Leader Head of HASS, Marist College, Emerald commencing 2021. Applications close 2 November 2020.

Counsellor, St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Gladstone. Applications close 2 November 2020.

Teaching vacancies and Middle Leadership positions, Holy Spirit College, Mackay commencing in 2021. Applications close 2 November 2020.

Network Administrator, Catholic Education Office Rockhampton. Applications close 6 November 2020.

Get red, red, READY!
Day for Daniel

WEAR RED • EDUCATE • DONATE