

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



The one who prays is never alone. In fact Jesus welcomes us in His prayer so that we might pray in Him and through him. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Gospels invite us to pray to the Father in Jesus's name.

Advent commences next Sunday 29 November



Friday 20 November 2020

Good morning everyone

I am very pleased to share with you some exciting plans for our secondary colleges in South Mackay. As you know, development of our new school, Catherine McAuley College, is well underway and on track to open in 2022 commencing with Year 7 students. In addition, St Patrick's College (currently catering for Years 11 and 12) and Mercy College (Years 7 - 10), have committed to consolidating their current partnership to deliver a more seamless secondary education across the two colleges.

Over the next few years, in consultation with both school communities a Steering Committee will be formed to provide guidance and leadership with the intention that St Patrick's College and Mercy College will become one school. There will be one staff and one enrolment experience for families whilst retaining the unique advantage of operating two campuses specifically catering to middle school and senior school age students.

This change will provide enhanced education opportunities for both students and staff as we continue to focus on meeting the needs of families in our communities. My thanks to Janelle Agius (Principal St Patrick's College), Jim Ford (Principal Mercy College) and Michael McCusker (AD Schools: Northern Region) for their extensive work and collaboration in setting the framework for this exciting new development. I look forward to sharing updates with you as we progress through this new phase of Catholic secondary education in South Mackay.

The Senior Class of 2020 officially complete their final year of formal schooling this week. We wish each of them God's many blessings as they leave our schools and begin the next chapter of their life's journey. I offer my sincere thanks to all in our College communities who have supported and encouraged these students through this challenging year and for ensuring that, despite the imposed COVID restrictions, this milestone year was recognised and marked with meaningful and memorable celebrations. In farewelling our seniors, I offer them my sincere congratulations on their achievements, and I thank them for their contribution to our College communities. I hope they will look back on their time with Catholic Education fondly and I trust their education has equipped them well for their future endeavours. I pray they will live happy and fulfilling lives.

It was wonderful to be able to attend the Ordination to the Diaconate of Ashwin Acharya on Wednesday of this week. This was a great time of joyous celebration for Ashwin's family and all in our Diocese.

Late last week, we received the sad news that much-loved Sister of Mercy Sr Dolores Donnelly rsm had passed away. Sr Dolores was very well known in the local community and she served as a teacher and Principal in many Catholic schools throughout the Diocese. For many years Sr Dolores has been closely associated with the St Mary's North Rockhampton Parish and School community and she was a familiar presence at many school and parish events. Sr Dolores was also very involved in the Diocesan Prison Ministry faithfully visiting the Capricorn Correctional Centre where she provided wonderful care and compassion for the prisoners and their families. Sr Dolores was the merciful face of Jesus to people in great need and she was much loved by many of the prisoners whom she regularly visited.

Sr Dolores's tremendous dedication and service to Ministry in our Diocese over many years was recognised last year with a Papal Blessing bestowed by Bishop Michael within her beloved St Mary's community. Sr Dolores had a wonderful way of making each person she met feel very special. Our prayers are with Sr Dolores's family and her fellow Sisters of Mercy at this sad time but we know they will find much comfort in the sure knowledge that Sr Dolores is now resting peacefully with the God she loved and whom she served so faithfully.

God bless,

Leesa

Our Indigenous Education Team, Brad, Shelley and Phillippa were presented with their 2020 Spirit of Catholic Education, Aunty Joan Hendriks Reconciliation Award. The presentation was made by Bishop Michael McCarthy and Leesa Jeffcoat. Congratulations again to Brad, Shelley and Phillippa.



St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Rockhampton recently welcomed Cr Drew Wickerson and Cr Donna Kirkland (pictured below from left) from Rockhampton Regional Council following the presentation of Sustainability Awards to the school. St Peter's aim is to significantly reduce the amount of general waste wheelie bins used at our school.



Great News from Emerald Parish with six staff from our Catholic schools in Emerald participating in the RCIA Program and being recently received into the Church by Fr Truc Phan SVD, with special permission from Bishop Michael McCarthy.



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

Sr Dolores Donnelly rsm, Rockhampton.

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

John Hinton, former Principal, and CEO Leadership Team member.

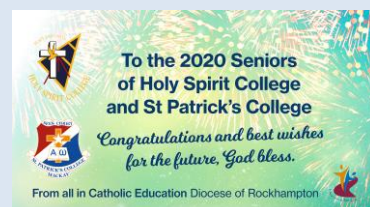
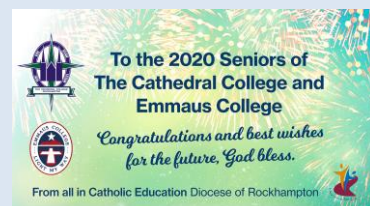
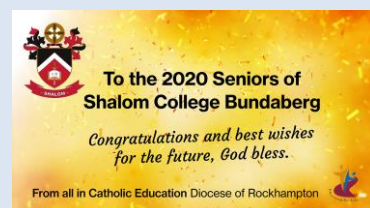
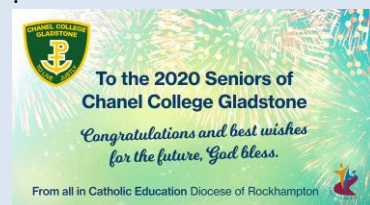
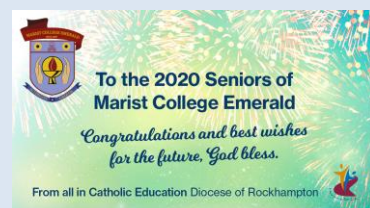
Rosemary Weilharter, Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone

Congratulations to:

Damian Coles, Mercy College, Mackay on his appointment as AP: Mission commencing at Marist College, Emerald in 2021.

Mark Shields, St John's Catholic Primary School, Roma on his appointment as AP: Students commencing at Marist College, Emerald in 2021.

Congratulations to:



Thank you, farewell and best wishes to long serving staff who are leaving Catholic Education this year

Southern Region.



Alison White – Shalom College, Bundaberg

Alison has been part of the Shalom College Community since 1996, working in various roles throughout her time at the college. Thank you, Alison, for your dedicated service and very best wishes for the future.

Northern Region.



Kath Burke – Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay

Kath commenced with Catholic Education at St Patrick's Christian Brothers College Mackay in 1980 and has worked across numerous schools in the Mackay Region during her 41 years with Catholic Education. We sincerely thank Kath for her many years of dedicated service and very best wishes for her retirement.



Brian Grundy – St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Mackay

Brian commenced with Catholic Education in our Diocese in 1985, having previously worked for Brisbane Catholic Education. Brian has been a significant part of St Joseph's community during the past 36 years and we wish him all the best for his retirement.



Daphne Baisden – Mercy College, Mackay

Daphne has worked at both Emmanuel Catholic Primary School and Mercy College during her 35 years with Catholic Education. Thank you, Daphne, for your dedicated service with us and we wish you every best wish for retirement.



Terri (Therese) Grundy – St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Mackay

Terrie has worked in various Mackay Catholic schools over the past 31 years and at St Joseph's since 2008. We thank her for her time with us and wish her every happiness for retirement.



Graham Fossey – Holy Spirit College, Mackay

Graham commenced his career with Catholic Education at Emmanuel College, Mackay in 1994 and has remained on campus with what is now Holy Spirit College since that time. We sincerely thank Graham for his 27 years with us and wish him all the best for his retirement.



Denise Fossey – Holy Spirit College, Mackay

Denise has been with Catholic Education for 20 years working at Holy Spirit College for that time. We thank Denise for her commitment to Catholic Education during this time and wish her all the best for retirement.



Jasmin Pace – Mercy College, Mackay

Jasmin commenced at Mercy College in 2002 and has served the college in teaching positions throughout this time. We wish Jasmin all the best for the future.



Helen Barnard – St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Sarina

Helen commenced with Catholic Education in 2006 at Emmanuel Catholic Primary School and will retire from the position of Secretary at St Anne's this year. We wish Helen all the best for her retirement.



Diane Wallwork – Holy Spirit College, Mackay

Diane commenced at Holy Spirit College in 2008 and currently holds the position of Deputy Principal. We sincerely thank her for her commitment to Holy Spirit College over this time and wish her all the best for retirement.

Rockhampton Region.



Cathryn Caird – St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton

Cath commenced with Catholic Education in 1983 and for the past 23 of her 36 years with us has been a staff member of St Anthony's. We sincerely thank her for her dedicated service and wish her good health and happiness for her retirement.



Barry Cassidy – Emmaus College, North Rockhampton

Barry has been at Emmaus College since 1986 (formerly Marian St Stanislaus Colleges) and apart from a brief 8 months with Brisbane Catholic Education, has been a member of the Emmaus College Staff since that time. We sincerely wish Barry all the best for his retirement and the years ahead.



Karen Ferguson – Emmaus College, North Rockhampton

Karen commenced at Emmaus in 1999 and has been an integral part of the College Community during this time. We wish her every success for the future and thank her for her service.

More farewells in next week's Message Stick