



CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
OF ROCKHAMPTON

# Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton

## May 2022 Newsletter

### Bishop Michael's Letter



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I write this after just returning from a trip to the Central West – 2700 kilometres, \$600.00 worth of diesel and rain everywhere. It is lovely getting the reports of the rain from Julie Groves whose farm is located where the Thompson and the Barcoo Rivers come together at the beginning of Coopers Creek. There they received 60mls of rain. In Isisford it was 153mls of rain, Aramac 91mls and Northwest of Longreach, where Fr Matthew Moloney's family are 140mls, and Yaraka received 87mls on Anzac Day. There was water everywhere and the roads were cut but what was amazing was the beautiful, soaking rain that has soaked in and has made a very promising winter for our farming families that grow our food, but also care for the land for future generations.

The trip west was a fantastic opportunity to connect once again with all the small communities from Alpha to Jericho through to Aramac, Muttaborra, Ilfracombe, Jundah and Isisford. These small communities get Mass occasionally, from once a month, to once every couple of months, to once a year depending on circumstances. Yet, in each of these communities the faith is alive.

I celebrated Confirmation for five of our young people at Aramac and three young people at Isisford.

The first stop on the trip west was at Alpha where the community gathered on Easter Monday to celebrate the Resurrection stories of the Lord. This small community gathers once a month to celebrate the Eucharist and other Sundays Sharon and Trish make sure that the church is open and pray together with those who can gather. It is great to see Trish and Sharon and their families with all the other families that gather at Alpha. The Cook family two hours down the Portwine Road and the Hauff family from Blackall joined the Alpha community for their Easter Mass.

The next day was at Jericho celebrating Mass for two of the locals who had travelled in from their farms, one an hour away and the other twenty minutes. They travel vast distances to gather when Mass is celebrated in the Jericho church.

On Wednesday it was a sad occasion when we farewelled Daphne Tilse, the mother of Trish Mahon. Together with her brothers, sisters, and family as we celebrated the Requiem Mass in Alpha.

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Then it was onto Aramac and Muttaborra. With the guidance from Loretta, a few locals gathered at Muttaborra for morning tea and for the discussion of the future of the church in Muttaborra and their request for a regular Mass offered to them in this part of the Diocese. For me, it was retracing the steps of Grand Aunt Katie who taught here in the late 1890's.



*Emmet Railway Station.*

Muttaborra, with the beautiful rolling plains of Mitchell grass, about a 2-hour drive northeast of Longreach was the heart of sheep country. Many farmers have converted to beef because of the wild dogs. Many properties are now fenced with very strong fences to protect their livestock from being attacked.

The following day it was a drive to Aramac through the rolling plains for sheep and cattle country to celebrate Confirmation with five of our young people. These young people came from the various farms quite a few kilometers out of town. The celebration reinforces how much the people of the west appreciate the visits from their priests and their good work. Loretta is a local of Aramac and together with her mum, they ensure that the church grounds are mowed and the church is loved for the community to gather.

A little drive out of Aramac is the geological feature of Lake Dunn which is on the jump up where the land changes from beautiful cattle country into a new vista. Lake Dunn is a freshwater lake which attracts many of the local people and those from afar for water sports, a cool spot with camping especially around Easter time. The trip to Lake Dunn, apart from the sight of many kangaroos lapping up the fresh water on the road from the recent showers, one is drawn into the scene of sculptures that adorn the road. There are over fifty of them by Barcaldine local, Milynda Rogers. These beautiful sculptures are made from materials taken from scrap, wire to hubcaps to many other odds and ends from the sheds around Aramac. They depict the human and natural life of the area. Some sculptures include the blue crayfish that can be found in Lake Dunn, dancing broilgas, frilled neck lizard, a rodeo rider and those who follow the equine industry. They are beautifully done and are certainly worth a trip to this part of the diocese.

After Aramac it was onto Ilfracombe. There we gathered with a couple of people from Longreach but also a couple of the locals who had driven over ninety minutes to attend Mass. Ilfracombe is not far from Longreach but in its day it was also a hub of the sheep industry.

On the Saturday afternoon it was great to catch up with some of our new teachers as they settle into teaching life and experience their enthusiasm for teaching at Our Lady's Catholic Primary School in Longreach.

An early Sunday morning start for the drive to Jundah, about two and a half hours, for the 10 am Mass. The clouds looked very heavy on the way down but yet it was a nice trip and it is certainly very beautiful countryside. At Jundah I was greeted by Julie Groves who looks after the church, together with Anna. Julie lives on a property where the Barcoo and the Thompson Rivers meet at Coopers Creek. Just as we started Mass, it rained! The community gathered for Mass and shared their appreciation of the great work of our priest who visit there once every two months to provide Eucharist for the community, 220 kilometres from Longreach.

After a cup of coffee at the roadhouse and a few sandwiches for the road it was then on to Isisford. On the road passing 'Retreat' and then via Yaraka and up to Isisford. It was a very wet trip and the road south of Jundah was slippery and muddy. But out here in the west people look after each other. Julie said "There is Bob Long the mail contractor down there at Yaraka. I will give him a ring just to make sure that you are safe for this trip." So before setting out, a quick phone call to Bob who said I will expect you in a couple of hours and off I went. Without any phone coverage, Julie and Bob were looking out for me as I drove towards Yaraka. Upon arriving in Yaraka, in a very welcoming voice, Bob said "You have arrived." That real sense of knowing that this is how country people look out for each other.

Before leaving Yaraka, there was a side trip to Mount Slowcombe which unveiled an incredible vista of the valley and surrounding hills of God's creation. Then the visit to the Anzac Shrine and a prayer. The shrine was prepared for the Anzac Dawn service.

Stopping at Emmet, which now has a historic railway siding and a couple of houses, there are hints of the busy days when the railway came through here on its way to Yaraka and provided the much needed transport for cattle and sheep going out and goods coming in.



*Anzac Shrine at Yaraka*

Arriving in Isisford in the rain was a great site. Checking in to the Golden West Hotel it was time to get ready for the next day. After a great pub meal at the hotel and sleep it was time to greet the next day. It rained all night; heavy rain and I knew that the Barcoo River was not far away from Isisford and in fact at the end of the street.

First there was a Mass for the community who gather in the church of St Joseph and Confirmation for some of our young people. Loretta had organized for five of our young people from two families to be confirmed, but one family could not make it because the road had been cut with water. The faith is still very much alive here down in this part of the Diocese with just a few people that gather once a month to celebrate the Eucharist with their priest. They appreciate the incredible mileages our priests travel in the west.

After Mass, we moved to the Shire Hall for Anzac Day. The Anzac Day Ritual of Remembrance was led by Councillor Dale Bignell. Sally-Ann Edwards of the Longreach Regional Council ensured that the day ran smoothly, Lest we Forget. Our young people from the school and their teachers marked the day with the laying of wreaths and the reading of the oaths. Lunch followed sponsored by the Longreach Regional Council and put on by the local state school P & F. It was a marvellous lunch and a gathering of about eighty on this very wet day in Isisford. One of the local farmers said very casually, 'Bishop, I think you might need to travel to Blackall this afternoon before the waters and the Barcoo come up and the roads are cut.'

So, after lunch, I set out on a very wet drive to Blackall and Barcaldine for an overnight stop.

It was marvelous to see this country in the rain and to watch the spirit of our people lift because they knew that the next season was assured. The soaking rain reaching deep into the earth to ensure that the grasses for our cattle and sheep are maintained. This is the first great general rain that this part of the west has had in my eight years as your Bishop. I arrived in May 2014 and was greeted by the drought, an incredible drought.

The blessing of rain and the blessing of the faith of our Catholic people in the west is an incredible gift to experience on pastoral visitation. I am sure you will join with me in thanking all our farmers for continuing to be our providers of food and great inspiration.

*Michael*

## Parish Administration In-service at the Haven



Parish secretaries and managers from around the Diocese came together at the The Haven, Emu Park from 3rd to 5th May for a Parish Administration Inservice. A range of topics were covered over the course of the Inservice, including sacramental preparation, catechesis, canon law matters, and clergy life & ministry.

Mr Dean Smith, Director of Diocesan Services, who organised the Inservice, said that it was a wonderful

opportunity for parish personnel to have some time away from the busyness of their offices to undergo professional development. "Parish personnel are often thrown in the deep end when they take up their roles. This kind of event aims to provide much-needed information, training and formation", Mr Smith said. But perhaps even more important is the networking that happens when people come together. "The connections made at the Inservice are an important avenue of support," he added.

A number of those who presented at the Inservice were themselves parish volunteers, employees or priests. Mr Smith said "We are fortunate to have some exceptionally passionate, knowledgeable and experienced people supporting our parishes."

Attendees enjoyed a dinner together on the first evening of the Inservice where Dr Maree Ganley, who is currently writing a book on the history of the Rockhampton Diocese, was the guest speaker. The following morning, Bishop Michael celebrated Mass with those present.

## Sisters of Mercy Celebrate Jubilees.



*Sisters Kerry-Ann Sullivan (25 years), Marlene Fitzgibbons, Marise Casey and Grace Bartolo (60 years) cut their Jubilee cakes, made and iced by Sr Bernadette Mary Reece.*

## Diamond and Silver Jubilee Celebrations

Family, friends and Sisters of Mercy gathered on Saturday 30 April 2022 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of three members, namely Sisters Marlene Fitzgibbons (Rockhampton), Mary Marise Casey (North Mackay) and Grace Bartolo (Emu Park) and the Silver Jubilee of Sr Kerry-Ann Sullivan (North Mackay). Sr Anne Keim (Community Leader – North – Qld) formally welcomed guests to the luncheon at the Rockhampton Leagues.

During the celebrations, the four Jubilarians were honoured with a fitting tribute. Later that day, the Sisters and their guests gathered with Bishop Michael McCarthy and the parish community in St Joseph's Cathedral for the celebration of Eucharist at which the Jubilarians renewed their vows together with the other Sisters of Mercy who were present.

On 9 December 1961, their First Profession Day, Sisters Marlene, Marise and Grace publicly declared their intent to follow Jesus and to live as vowed women religious in the example of our founder, Catherine McAuley. With the same intention, Sr Kerry-Ann made her First Profession on 9 June 1996. As Sisters of Mercy, these women have been involved in a variety of ministries including teaching, nursing, pastoral care, spiritual direction, parish and youth ministry and community outreach to those in need. Though each Sister has lived her call to discipleship in her own unique way, on the occasion of their Jubilee, they shared a depth of gratitude to God for countless blessings received over the years.

We offer a sincere and heartfelt 'Congratulations' to Marlene, Marise, Grace and Kerry-Ann whose gifts have enriched the lives of many people in our Diocese and beyond, in the places where they have witnessed to Gospel values and a Mercy way of life.

## Brendan's College Walk against Domestic Violence



It was an impressive sight seeing the 1000 students and staff, mostly dressed in their purple *Not Now, Not Ever* t-shirts, walk from St Brendan's College through Yeppoon to the beach. Police stopped and directed traffic to ease their way through the town. A clear statement was being made.

This was the 5th Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence and one of the largest collectives of men in Central Queensland. As sons, brothers and future husbands and fathers, the students united under the 'Not Now Not Ever' message in the hope of bringing awareness to this insidious issue plaguing communities across the nation. The event occurred on the College's Edmund Rice Feast Day and aimed to ensure the anti-violence message and the importance of service and justice is taken from the school yard and into the community. Principal Rob Corboy said of this 'protest': We define a protest as, a body of people coming together to stand against something that is unfair. We see domestic violence as a scourge that has to be addressed. It is the right of every person to feel safe and respected. As a College Community we choose to stand up in a display of solidarity against this issue that is not ok, 'Not Now, Not Ever.'

It began with the Edmund Rice Feast Day Mass. Then the students, staff and members of the SBC family walked to Main Beach, where they were addressed by Old Boy Jason Bongers, who is now the School Officer for the Edmund Rice Foundation Australia. He gave a strong anti-violence statement. After enjoying a lunch of Red Rooster, they enjoyed the break from school routine spending time at the beach.

## News from the Parishes

### News from the Cathedral Parish



*Theresa Harvey, was presented with a Papal blessing for her 100th birthday at Mass on Saturday evening by Fr Matthias.*

### Theresa Agnes Harvey - 100 Years Young

Born in Rockhampton in 1922, Theresa was the sixth eldest child of nine in an Irish Catholic family. Times were hard. Her eldest brother died at 14 months with the Spanish Flu and her father lost his work during the

Depression, but family and faith were all important. Leaving school at 13, Theresa began employment to help the family finances.

Although always attending Mass, Theresa believes her Catholic faith really came alive with Vatican Two, when the language at Mass changed from Latin to English. She discovered a richness she hadn't appreciated before. Joining St Louise Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society in 1973 and discussing scripture (which had not been encouraged pre-Vatican Two) opened up a rich treasure for her. Previously reading scripture was considered only the domain of clergy or religious and not for laity. She enjoyed her work with St Vincent de Paul as it allowed her to witness to her faith in very concrete terms. Although currently not able to attend Mass as often as she would like, Theresa still prays the daily Mass Scripture Readings at home.

She knew the heartache of being separated from her husband from August 1942 until January 1946 while he was serving with the Australian Army in New Guinea, Borneo, and Balikpapan, but she also knew the blessing of sharing 62 years of married life with her beloved Arthur, until his death in 2005.

As a mother to four children, ten grandchildren and currently, 14 great-grandchildren, Theresa has always tried to pass on the faith she holds dear. Receiving the honour of a Papal Blessing on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday has capped off a life well lived. May God continue to bless you, Theresa as you enter joyfully into the next adventurous chapter of your life.

## News from Bundaberg

### Easter Celebrations



Once a year we pull out all the stops to celebrate the Paschal mystery in a big way. Beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding with Resurrection Sunday the mystery of our faith was highlighted thanks to the efforts of our priests, the Liturgy Team, and the many people who participated in each of the liturgies of Holy Week.

Holy Thursday with the Reception of the Holy Oils, the Washing of Feet, the remembrance of the institution of the Eucharist and the transfer of the Blessed Sacrament is always a favourite and was again this year. Good Friday's simple liturgy of memorial was well attended, but it was the Easter Vigil that revealed the strengths of ritual and symbol to celebrate our faith.

Bonfire, incense, darkness, emerging light, the Exsultet and readings proclaimed, baptisms, confirmation, songs that are sung once-a-year, candles, and the large Easter baptismal font surrounded by peace lilies helped us witness to our faith.

We were privileged to witness the initiation of eleven people at the Easter Vigil and receive one adult into full communion of the Church. Fr Peter did a wonderful job of pouring the water excessively over the baptism candidates. They emerged with smiles, although quite wet and a bit cold. The baptisms continued Easter Sunday morning with two babies being welcomed into the family.

### Welcome Billy Hill



The Rite of Reception into Full Communion of the Catholic church was celebrated on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, for Billy Hill. Billy had been preparing for this occasion for a short while, regularly joining us on Sundays, having his feet washed on Holy Thursday night, witnessing the Easter Vigil celebrations before finally making his profession of faith on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Eucharist. He was overjoyed to be confirmed and receive holy communion for the first time.

## News from the Central West



*Confirmation at Aramac*

April was a busy month in the West. Fr Shaiju was finally able to return home to India to visit and friends. We were blessed in his absence by the presence of Fr Terry Loth. Fr Terry has previously spent many years based in Longreach as an Assistant Priest, Parish Priest and in the Western Pastoral Ministry role. Many older parishioners, as well as fellow pilots, enjoyed catching up with Fr Terry again. Parishioners of all ages also benefited from Fr Terry's catechesis and ability to easily share his vast knowledge of church history and liturgical practice.

After Easter Bishop Michael came for a whirlwind tour of some of our smaller communities. The first full Church of his visit was for the funeral of treasured Alpha woman, Daphne Tilse. Her Requiem Mass was a beautiful blend of thanksgiving and prayer, with many personal and fitting touches woven through the liturgy.

The next 'full house' was when St John's Church in Aramac came alive for the Confirmation of five of its young people. The heavy clouds in the sky did nothing to dampen the excitement as they embraced a Church full of people, lively music and the sounds of young children once again playing on the lawn. Afterwards many people stayed to enjoy a BBQ dinner and decedent cake all arranged by the children's mothers.

The heavy clouds followed Bishop Michael, causing a few detours as he ventured south of Longreach. In Isisford, Confirmation plans were altered as one family were unable to get to town due to the heavy rain. Three sisters from another family did make it to town, so Confirmation for these girls went ahead despite the constant downpour. Bishop Michael was then able to be a part of the local ANZAC Day commemorations before the town became isolated by flood waters.

Loretta McKeering

### World Day of Prayer at Blackall

It certainly was a memorable night as we thoroughly enjoyed being together in this special space in solidarity for England, Northern Ireland and Wales and their hopes and dreams. I felt the deep sense of gratitude that we could gather as one and pray for the intentions of these countries and the world's current horrific state of conflict especially in Ukraine.



Just a few photos that may represent this beautiful evening of prayer which we enjoyed with fellow Christians at St. Patrick's recently for the World Day of Prayer.

We deeply regret that we were unable to participate in our usual meal afterwards but look forward to better times ahead next year.

Moira Kent

*Janine Lawrence, Teliah Walker, Rachel Walker, Richelle Walker from The Blackall Community Church*

## News from the Capricorn Coast

Here we are again and another month has past. We hope you all had a joyful Easter and recognised the Risen Lord in the Scriptures as we cried Alleluia! Alleluia!

### Our Loss is Bucasia's Gain



At this month's morning tea after Sunday Mass, we farewelled a well-loved member of our parish. After 31 years here, Bernadette Byrne, with her husband Peter, the well-known TV weather reporter, are moving to Mackay, and the local Bucasia community. Bernadette has been one of those amazing people who has done so much within our parish, quietly, gently and with a great sense of humour. So many of us have been touched by her compassion. She has been involved in RI, Care and Concern, Communion to the Aged and so much more.

At the morning tea, she was presented with a pair of glasses, with the parish churches engraved on them. So, when she and Peter are sitting on the deck of the proposed new home having an evening drink, she will be reminded of us. We will miss her, but hope she come to visit occasionally.

### Easter Triduum

We came together on Holy Thursday to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper, which marks the beginning of the Easter Triduum. We begin our journey with Jesus from death to life. In the beginning of this celebration, the Holy Oils which will be used for the coming year are processed in and placed on display. Fr Andrew washed some of our parishioner's feet just as Jesus washed the disciples' feet. At the end of the evening, the Blessed Eucharist was carried to the Altar of Repose where we were given the opportunity to "Remain here and keep watch with Me".

Good Friday commenced with us gathering for the Stations of the Cross led by Fr Andrew. Immediately after we joined with our Anglican and Uniting Church friends on a Walk of Reflection up to the singing ship. We stopped along the way to recite scripture and sung as we walked. This is always a wonderful ecumenical gathering for all who attend.

Three o'clock in the afternoon brought us together for the Passion of the Lord. As we listened to the reading of the Lord's passion and venerated the Cross, we couldn't help be moved by Jesus' great sacrifice and unconditional love for each and every one of us. As we grieve and keep vigil, we know that in three days Jesus will burst from the grave and conquer death forever.



Easter Sunday morning Mass included a baptism for one of our parishioner's grandchildren – Florence Buckley – daughter of James and Emma. As I was absent on the day, a few parishioners have told me what a beautiful celebration the day held. Fr Andrew even explained to the children present, how a hollow Easter egg signifies the empty tomb of Christ, which had all the children listening in awe. He is Risen!



## News from Mackay



Frank Doolan, Sister Pauline, and Des Crowe.

At our last dinner in April, Kevin our Chairman was on holidays so Des Crowe stepped up and welcomed everyone. He then led the Patrons prayer before giving a *Reflection on our World*. How our world is now different from even a year ago, definitely to 3 years ago! Yet all that is happening with China and Russia was prophesied in the early 1900s at Fatima that Poland, Ukraine, and Russia all needed to repent and turn to God or there would be a world war – there was. Then a second and if we did not repent, a third world war. The world is not repentant nor getting better but worse. Fr Rod told us about Brazil's tiny rural churches having thousands of Parishioners while Germany's glorious cathedrals were empty. Today, Mackay has one mass per day to empty churches. Doctors report that 75% of GP visits are for depression and none turn to the church for God's help! The trend is not good and not what was intended. Pray more.

Des recommended we google and watch 'Ukraine, Russia, Fatima – What is Heaven telling us?'

Graham Featherstone said Grace, and included the crisis in Ukraine and the homeless in the prayer.

Our guest speaker was Sister Pauline of the St Francis of Assisi Home. Des introduced her by saying that caring for the aged was a mystery to him but God is so loving. He forgets our sins when we come to him. Sister Pauline has been a Mackay icon for over 30 years.

She told us of *My Aged Care* a digital internet service that has many resources and tips on respite, handy jobs, etc. Please use the service was her advice. You can also phone in for an interview to get information on packages for aged health care. In Mackay, Ozcare, Centacare and Bluecare service the available packages. Right now the services are full but booking in is viable and involves an assessment that allows choice as to when a service is put into action. The best move is to get assessed now and activate it when ready. Respite care is a neat 'try-before-you-buy' option. Sister Pauline spoke of loneliness being a big killer of the elderly. Certainly, humans make mistakes but our nursing homes are very good for the elderly. The paperwork since the Royal Commission is overpowering as is the reality of Covid infections where just this week 6 staff all tested positive, scrabbling the roster. With God's help though, the Home benefits greatly from having Sisters in the convent attached to the Home. "We are a big family," said Sister Pauline. She then encouraged questions.

Other Mackay Nursing Homes are part of a team network where they work together and support each other in providing care. Covid testing is a burden but the Mackay homes have fared well. Government supplies of P.P.E., goggles and gowns have been generous.

Options for choosing a Home are available through the Mater while at the Base Hospital patients are allocated to the next vacant placement. This can be outside of Mackay. Transfers back into a Home of Choice are possible. An advantage at St Francis of Assisi is the spiritual support. Priests also visit.

On the question of money, the best position is to be poor and let 85% of the pension pay your way. After that, there are layers of complications, deposits, payments, contributions, income tests, and Centrelink. There are no self-contained units at St Francis, but there is accommodation for 'Couples'.

Family Doctors are welcome and different doctors go to different homes. Two pharmacies are linked to each Home and Covid has greatly reduced activities and visitors. Non-vaccinated are not allowed in.

Frank Doolan rose to give a vote of thanks to Sister Pauline for her information on nursing homes in Mackay. He considers himself a foundation member as he helped build the Home. He has known Sister Pauline for 29 years and considers her to be living out the prayer of his grandmother; wonderful compassion and fantastic service. He presented her with a donation from the Dinner Club.

Our next dinner is on Monday 30th May. 6.30 pm for 7 pm start at the City Bowls Club, Shakespeare Street.

*Graham Featherstone*

## News from Emerald



The Parish Staff together with Parishioners gathered recently at the Maraboon Tavern to celebrate Francie's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It was a delightful evening with such a treasured member of our parish. Francie Hartley is the Parish Secretary who has lovingly served the Emerald community for many years.

## News from Gladstone

### Our Vision

In union with Christ, we strive to live out the Church's mission in a Parish Community which is welcoming, hospitable, inclusive and outwardly focused. With this in mind:

The Gladstone Catholic Parish Women's Group, *Women of Worth*, welcomes Catholic women to monthly events organized by a steering committee of local, faith-filled ladies. These events create opportunities to establish friendships and support networks, to participate in prayer and faith formation, and to share our lives, talents, and faith journeys. Events are advertised in the Parish Bulletin and Facebook page, as well as via email.



## Sacrament of Confirmation

Sixty-five candidates will be making the Sacrament of Confirmation, and last weekend we began our first formation session. The candidates were also presented at Mass where they were blessed and given The Apostle's Creed.

## Alpha

Our new Parish Council made up of old and new council members are now embarking on a journey to deepen our relationship with Christ through the Alpha program. We are all excited about planning, implementing and integrating the learning into our lives and ... serving as a conduit to transform our community.

## Catholic Identity Gathering



*Attending the 2022 Catholic Education Catholic Identity Gathering in Rockhampton recently were (L-R) Catholic Education Assistant Director: Mission Kellie Jenkinson, Australian Catholic University academics Dr Teresa Brown and Assoc Prof Robyn Horner, and Catholic Education Diocesan Director Leesa Jeffcoat.*

In one of Catholic Education's first face to face gatherings since the start of the pandemic, invited staff from Catholic schools and colleges throughout the diocese came together for the 2022 Catholic Identity Gathering held in Rockhampton last week.

Those attending commenced the three-day program with a very moving welcome and Acknowledgement of Country at the Emmaus College Yarning Circle at dusk, complete with a fire ceremony and dances performed by Emmaus Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, followed by a visit to the College labyrinth.

The program included keynote sessions from Australian Catholic University academics, Associate Professor Robyn Horner and Dr Teresa Brown as well as workshops, breakout groups and excursions to local school and parish sites. Sessions focussed on experiences of Encounter and Dialogue, practicing Dialogue, and discovering Prayer in Catholic Schools which generated lively and engaged discussions according to Catholic Education Assistant Director: Mission, Kellie Jenkinson.

"The perspectives explored by Assoc Prof Horner and Dr Brown certainly created conversation and authentic engagement as participants examined various scenarios and activities through a revitalised Catholic Identity lens," Mrs Jenkinson said. "Participants were very keenly looking at specific teaching approaches and ways to integrate their learnings in the classroom and with their communities."

Catholic Education Director Leesa Jeffcoat said the gathering aimed to assist in the delivery of one of the key strategic priorities for Catholic Education informed by the Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) project.

"Since 2015, Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton has participated in the ECSI research project led by Professor Dr Didier Pollefyt from KU Leuven (Catholic University Leuven), in Belgium" Miss Jeffcoat said. "The research identifies that Catholic schools are called to encourage their students to explore the links

between the richness of the Catholic faith tradition and their personal experiences and cultural contexts. The gathering addressed a key strategic priority for Catholic Education in response to the research project, that is, to *'promote authentic contemporary expressions of Catholic identity'*, or, to enhance the Catholic identity of all our schools, to ensure that we remain true to our Mission."

Participants also took part in a Taizé Prayer led by Sr Annette Arnold rsj, a guided tour of St Joseph's Cathedral led by The Cathedral College Deputy Principal: Mission Claire Stitt, and various workshops over the three-day program.

## Heritage Award for St Anne's School, Sarina



Mackay Deputy Mayor Karen Mays presents St Annes' Catholic Primary School Principal, John Ballinger-Oches and Regional Indigenous Education Liaison Officer, Karlie Tatchell with the Heritage Champion Gold Award for the school's effort to deepen understandings and strengthen relationships with Yuwi Custodians.

St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Sarina has earned a coveted Gold Award at the Mackay Regional Council Heritage Awards held recently. The Award recognised the work undertaken to develop a deeper, respectful understanding of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and to strengthen relationships with Yuwi Custodians.

St Anne's Principal John Ballinger-Oches said the whole school community was delighted to have been named this year's Cultural Heritage Champion Gold Award Recipient. He said the school had recently installed a series of giant, coloured pencils featuring welcome and farewell messages in traditional Yuwi language and English translation lining the pathway at the front entrance to the school. "This body of work reflects our commitment to acknowledging the Yuwi Custodians and their history."

Mr Ballinger Oches praised the efforts of Regional Indigenous Education Liaison Officer, Karlie Tatchell for her commitment and dedication to advancing better understanding and deeper respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage. "Karlie has helped to create ongoing connections with our Yuwi Custodians facilitating regular visits and helping build connections with classes and as well as individual students. Our whole community benefits through greater knowledge of the deep spiritual connections and rich traditions that are part of the Yuwi culture enabling us, as a school community, to continue to make positive contributions to our own story."

Mr Ballinger-Oches said funds received as part of the Heritage Award would be put towards the construction of a Yarning Circle currently being developed.

## St Ursula's College celebrates Nano Nagle



On Tuesday 26 April, St Ursula's College, Yeppoon, acknowledged the 238th anniversary of the death of Nano Nagle, Foundress of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (PBVM) Order.

Staff and students gathered in the College's Ballygriffin Cultural Centre and focussed on Nano as a woman of faith, justice, and compassion. Known as 'the lady of the lantern' due to her efforts to seek out those in need even late at night, Nano's legacy and charisma was celebrated through reflection and prayer. Encouraged to 'take up their lanterns' and be like Nano, students and staff made paper lanterns during First Break, which are proudly displayed in the College Library

## Amoris Laetitia Chapter 7 Towards a Better Education of Children

*Proverbs 1:8-9*

*"Hear, my child, your father's instruction,  
and do not reject your mother's teaching;  
for they are a fair garland for your head,  
and pendants for your neck."*

'Amanat', an Urdu word, is something very precious given to a faithful person to keep safe. Such is the blessing, privilege, and holy responsibility in receiving the gift of a child from God!



Angela Acharya

I write as a mother, of a philosopher and a priest and as a teacher of twenty-seven years' experience. I did not choose teaching. My father steered me in this direction. Nearly forty years later, I am honoured to affect the lives of many children AND effectively assist the mission of the Church and Catholic Education, essentially in instructing the young about our one true, ever-loving God.

Pope Francis alerts us to the complete education of children: an ethical formation, learning of discipline, sex education and nurturing of an enduring faith. He emphasises that "the family is the first school of human values" (AL 274) and advises small steps "that can be understood, accepted and appreciated". The Holy Father calls on parents to instil "trust and loving respect" (AL 263), foster "good habits and a natural inclination to goodness" (AL 264-266) and develop true freedom in their children (AL 267). Parents must maximise those crucial initial years and continue raising children to their true potential in partnership with educational institutions, so that, as Pope Francis reiterates, young people can "take on the world and offer the best of themselves to the building of something better." (CV)

### Where are our children and who are they with?

Pope Francis cautions parents about the pitfalls of obsessive control. Among other responsibilities, duty of care requires setting clear social boundaries. Family expectations founded on reciprocal respectful consideration for one another are less likely to be perceived as authoritarian. When parental concern is met with gestures of compliance, the whole matter is simplified. Thankfully, in the spirit of openness, my teenage sons naturally chose to eliminate their old lady's concern about where they were, who they were with and when they would be home!

### What are our children being exposed to?

Easy internet access and personal devices, compels us to empower children with the right will and an informed, discerning ability to choose well even when curiosity gets the better of them. Without making too light of this issue, the tabooed Simpsons come to mind. I was not going to ban it and prompt rebellious viewing in hiding.

So, via my disinterested mind but vigilant ears, I learnt Simpsons quotes and the boys wisely turned the TV off when the episodes were unsavoury!

Sex education is vital and should be age and maturity appropriate. We must assist the young to recognise and seek out positive influences and shun things that cripple their capacity for love. Urgent action is needed for “a new and more appropriate language in introducing children and adolescents to the topic of sexuality”. (GE 302) Pope Francis warns against “sex education [that] deals primarily with “protection” through the practice of “safe sex”. “The important thing is to teach them sensitivity to different expressions of love, mutual concern and care, loving respect, and deeply meaningful communication. All of these prepare them for an integral and generous gift of self.” Union in Holy Matrimony “will thus appear as a sign of an all-inclusive commitment, enriched by everything that has preceded it.” (AL 283)

## Positive parental relationships

I had a very strict ‘army’ upbringing. My mother often told my father we were not soldiers! But it was prompted by love, and we did well for it. Being accountable for our actions and responsible for choices are imperative life lessons. So long as expectations and consequences are fair and consistent, they will be well received. What is most important is the ability lovingly to help children grow in freedom, maturity, overall discipline, and real autonomy. (AL261)

Undeniably, it is challenging to build and sustain a positive parental relationship. Let it be founded on love and trust. Let God be our guide. We must speak of the most important things with simplicity and concern. Children must understand that everything asked of them is in their interest.

Time, a listening ear, and love are priceless gifts one can give a child. Lines of communication for dialogue, open and always on standby, are built on trust. I recall memorable times with my sons, endless hours of chatting about anything and everything – sharing in their interests, nurturing their talents, attentively listening to their dreams and ambitions, cautioning them in their choices and always being just close enough to hear them say, “Hey mum, ....”

One of my favourite Scripture quotes is from St Paul: “*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.*” I dare say it inspired this piece of advice I gave my children in their early years. I told them to stay on the ‘Highway’ and not be distracted with or unduly curious about all those deviating side roads. They were to set their gaze on where they were headed so that they would get there undeterred. An apt analogy which my sons adhered to, and they remember it with a smile. The fact is, we win some and we lose some. Parents and children, made in God’s image, are not perfect but love conquers all.

## The power of family prayer

My mother was a Catholic and she nurtured our faith. She taught me to dedicate “my heart and my day” to Jesus every morning and place myself in the care of “Jesus, the tender shepherd” each night. Attending Mass and saying the rosary was a family ritual. I was a nightmare of a student, and mum would kneel me down to say desperate novenas to St Jude and other saints. Together we achieved the impossible! My dad gave me this profound image of implicit trust in God – he said I must leave the thread of the tapestry of my life in God’s hands and let Him work His wonders! I have diligently passed on my parent’s legacy of prayer and trust in God, which I see evident in my grandchildren too.

Let us pray:

*Loving God,*

*You are the giver of all we possess,  
the source of all our blessings.*

*Thank you for the gift of our children.*

*May they come to know you, the one true God,  
and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.*

*May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love,  
So that they may know peace, truth, and goodness.*

*Amen.*

Angela Acharya, Yeppoon

## Beatification of Pauline Jaricot in Lyon, France on 22 May 2022



Pauline was the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 1822, the first of the pontifical mission societies. 2022 also marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which in Australia is known as Catholic Mission. Still today a worldwide network of lay missionaries and church leaders are working together with communities most in need.

Mr Greg Clair, Diocesan Director of Catholic Mission, encourages everyone to visit the Catholic Mission website

[www.catholicmission.org.au](http://www.catholicmission.org.au) to discover more about the wonderful life of Pauline Jaricot.

## CentacareCQ will soon have a new name.

The team at CentacareCQ are excited to announce that we will soon have a brand new name and fresh new look. From June 1, CentacareCQ will become **CatholicCare Central Queensland**.

While we will have a new name and look, we want to assure you that we are still the same organisation of local people, with our embedded values of compassion, outreach and kindness remaining unchanged.

We will always be passionate about delivering essential services to clients and members of our community from all walks of life, regardless of age, race, religion, orientation, or social background.

We look forward to bringing you on this journey to CatholicCare with us.

## In Loving Memory



We ask you to remember in your prayers those who have died in the last month. May they enter into the fullness of God's life and love.

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### Bundaberg

Norma Brosnan, Kerry Jones

### Capricorn Coast

Noel Murray, John Baker, Petronila Jensen, Joseph Grasso, Josephine Quinn, Betty Pettit,

### Central West

Anne Ahern, Daphne Tilse

This is an edited copy of the online Diocesan Newsletter.

For the full edition, please see:

<https://rok.catholic.net.au/news-events/bishops-newsletter/?edition=may-2022>