



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF ROCKHAMPTON



Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton

September 2021 Newsletter

Bishop Michael's Letter

Welcome to our many readers of the latest edition of the Bishop's e-letter for the diocese through which we keep in contact with the beating heart of our local church.

We were sad to hear of the passing of Ernie Trevaskis who with Barbara, his wife, were an integral part of the AICC of this diocese. Emeritus Bishop Brian and friends from our diocesan family joined the farewell service for Ernie.

The Bundaberg Catholic Community and Shalom College farewelled their beloved Br 'Rocky'. Br Rocky taught at Shalom of many years and in these past few years, he was a great presence in Bundaberg and in the College.

We extend our prayerful support to the families of two students of St Brendan's who were recently passed away. Our condolences also to Mr Rob Corboy and the community of the College.

Please enjoy this newsletter as it reports on the church in action across our diocese.

Regards,

Diocesan History Report

For the past four months I have been gathering oral and documented histories of the Rockhampton Diocese from the near extreme boundaries of this vast diocesan territory – from Mackay to Bundaberg and out to Longreach and Isisford.

Thank you to the wonderful people of Mackay, Bundaberg, Longreach and Isisford who made me very welcome and shared wonderful stories of their faith journey and those of their family. I have many more kilometres to go!

Statistically the size of this one diocese in geographical territory is quite overwhelming. The diocesan territory covers 920,000 square kilometres. In comparison Ireland is 84,421 square kilometres – the difference being of course in density of population in the two countries. There are 26 dioceses in Ireland for this one diocese in Central Queensland. Until 1930, the Rockhampton diocese extended much further north of the Tropic of Capricorn to Cape York.

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Anne Tanner of Isisford with Maree Ganley

The diversity in lifestyle and surroundings for the Rockhampton diocese is vast from the coast to inland. Mackay and Bundaberg are bustling region cities with emerging industries. I was reminded of the vast social and cultural differences from going through several sets of streetlights in Bundaberg to conducting interviews in the quiet street of Isisford. As I left the town, I climbed into the wrong vehicle similar to mine to drive out of town - no one locks cars in Isisford. I had also lowered myself into the life of Isisford and had not locked my car!

For the past near 140 years the people of the Catholic Church of this diocese have struggled with isolation, vast distances and at times unforgiving weather conditions. The history I have gathered from its earliest days contains similar stories that I think have a present-day relevance to the present age. Both priests, people and at times travelling bishops made quiet adaptations for the place of celebration for example, to gather people around the Eucharist table. Many a Eucharist was celebrated around the family table because there was no church nearby.

Cocky (Henry) Bignell is a descendent of the Bignell family pioneers from the late 1800s of the Isisford region. He and Bignell relatives I met such as beautiful Billie Edwards and Betty Ogden carry in their memories the great commitment of the their families to the Catholic faith traditions. No less than two grandmothers with hats and handbags and faithful determination, collected little Henry Bignell every Sunday morning for Mass and returned to collect him for Benediction and any extra Masses!



He produced an antique well-worn iron and he described how his gr, gr grandmother used it for the preparation of Mass in Isisford well before there was a resident priest there.

I would love to hear if anyone can guess its contribution to the celebration of the Eucharist. Please send your suggestion to my email address. I continue the search for more stories. Please send your memories and those of your families' being Catholic in case to my email address if I do not get to meet you personally. mganley31@hotmail.com

Maree Ganley

Rockhampton Business Lunch

On the last Friday in August, the Diocese successfully hosted its first major Charity Business Luncheon with former Brisbane Broncos CEO Paul White.

Great food, great company, and a great speaker together in one room to support great causes was the purpose repeated throughout the event.

Bishop Michael McCarthy had been looking for an opportunity to host a lunch with various business and community leaders throughout the Capricorn region. Nathan Harding, the Diocesan Community Engagement Manager, saw an opportunity to collaborate with Peter Lynch, the coordinator of the Regional Industry Networking Group, to put on a lunch that would raise money for, and the profile of, the great work of the Church's Diocesan Ministries, Woorabinda Ministry, Prison Ministry and Seafarers Centre in Mackay.

The invitation to the business community was to come join us in 'doing some good'.

The event featured various moments that showcased the great work the Church is doing right here in our region. Work that all of us, inside and outside the Church, can be proud of. The feature story of the day was [Sr Cecilia Prest's story](#) of her reconciliation work in Woorabinda. You could hear a pin drop as the story of her work left a significant impression on those hearing it.

The 180 Business and community leaders who converged on the Red Lion Hotel were also captivated during lunch by Mr White's inspirational story, and interesting facts about how he came to be the Brisbane Broncos' CEO.

Nathan Harding, who conducted the interview with Paul, started off by questioning the sanity of Paul's unusual daily habit, a cold shower. Paul, with his warm and good-humoured style, replied that 'Starting your day with a cold shower is all about doing the one thing you don't want to do first. If you do that first, everything else in the day is going to be easy!'. For the next thirty minutes, Paul's enthralling storytelling charted his journey from bush copper to CEO of the Broncos. Along the way, he offered leadership advice, business insight from his experience of growing the Broncos from \$26m to \$52m business and his strict unwritten rule of no phone/wearable devices allowed in business meetings, no exceptions, whether it's the premier or the delivery man.

Another highlight of the day was a silent auction that ran throughout the lunch and had people bidding against each other for an exclusive item that Paul White had generously arranged in order to raise money for the Diocesan Ministries on the day. The auction item offered an exclusive VIP experience to a pre-match dining experience, in 2022, with the Broncos Chairman and Board of Directors and reserved VIP seats outside of the corporate suite watching your match at the halfway line.

Bishop Michael said that the event was an incredible example of drawing people together from all different section of the city in a collaborative effort to bless those on the margins of our region. He mentioned that it had been a desire of his for awhile to host one of these.



Paul also shared his experience of battling cancer and how his faith had helped him through that period of his life. "I made a bit of a deal if He or She (God) keeps me down here a bit longer, I'll do some good," he said. This is what has driven much of his focus on giving back, whether it's supporting indigenous initiatives out at Woorabinda, Mt Isa or coaching his local catholic school footy team.

Paul was accompanied by his mum, Marie White, who is also well known around Rocky for her faithfulness and dedication amongst her Parish community.

The rest of the terrific afternoon was left for socialising and mingling between our community's most influential people. Feedback from guests was overwhelmingly positive, commenting on what a great initiative it was and that it was socially a success.

A huge thank you has to go to [Swanwick Murray Roche](#), who sponsored the collaborative event and helped us secure local Rocky boy, [Paul White](#), as the guest speaker.

Thank you to the Red Lion for going above and beyond in catering our event and hosting our guests. Thank you to Catholic Education Office Rockhampton, Capricornia Chamber of Commerce, Capricorn Enterprise and Advance Rockhampton for advertising our first event through their networks.

The event raised \$6,000, with 100% of the funds raised going towards the Diocesan Ministries.

I think it's fair to say it was well-received. We are already eager for the next one.

Parish News

News from Gladstone

Feast Day Celebrations for Our Lady Star of the Sea



Our Lady, Star of the Sea Feast Day celebrations, held Sunday 12th September were organised by Terri Pineaar and her team of parishioners. Together they put together a beautiful mass with a children's procession and inspiring words on Our Lady of the Sea.

As we left church, we were serenaded by the Ukulele group and offered some beautiful multicultural food and morning tea. With a side show of crafts, information stalls and activities for kids of all ages, a line up of entertainment kept us smiling till the afternoon. What a glorious day. To top it off a piano accompanied song by our very own Fr Ashwin.

Our Feast Day provided an opportunity to connect with families who have not yet done so and sign them up to the adventure of SOS Youth events!!

SOS Youth Events

We have completed a term of our Star of the Sea Catholic youth. With our leadership team adopting the ideas of group feedback, we implemented a social based term with prayer beginning and ending our experience.



Four new activities included Bonfire night, Laser tag, stand up paddleboarding and kayaking and finishing with Rock-climbing and mini golf. Our battle on the laser tag field began with prayer to be strong in our Lord as we face our daily battles.

Whilst we had our regulars attend, we attracted a new cohort of young people from the public and Catholic schools. We also saw more young men. Having established a link through the sacramental program it has helped us connect with the families as a whole and offer the varying ministries for the family group, youth group men and women's group. We also have 17 young people coming to Ignite conference with our Diocese group.

News from Clermont

On the 31st of August, after travelling two and half hours on the Charters Towers Road to get to 'Llanarth' to celebrate Eucharist with Terry and Ros Kenny and family, this is the view that greeted us when we arrived.



Once again Father Jomon was able to celebrate Mass at another property scattered around Clermont. When we travellers arrived, we were greeted with a cuppa and, after chatting and catching up, we all settled down in the dining room to celebrate Mass. After Mass, lunch was served on the verandah where more catching up took place.

Before we left for Clermont, Terry led us up the hill behind their house to where a cross has been erected. This is in thanksgiving for all the gifts the Kenny Family have received and in remembrance of their young son who died.

We said our goodbyes and headed back to Clermont.

Sister Helen Archer rsj

News from Blackall



Western Queensland is a long way from India, but that doesn't stop us celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Velankanni each year on 8 September. Four years ago the Pindo family donated a statue of Our Lady of Velankanni to St Patrick's Church, Blackall. Despite having moved away from the district, members of the family continue to gather with local parishioners each year on the anniversary of the unveiling to give thanks and pray for good health. This year family and friends travelled from the Gold Coast, Brisbane and St George to join parishioners and school students for Mass, followed by morning tea.

Pope John XXIII referred to the Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health, located in the coastal town of Velankanni in southern India, as the 'Our Lady of the East'. Each year nearly 3 million pilgrims flock to the site where oral tradition states that Mary appeared twice in the 16th century. The Shrine is one of the most frequently visited religious sites in India, drawing Muslims, Hindus and Christians together to pray and worship in harmony.

News from North Rockhampton

SVDP recognises the Outstanding Service of Barbara Bickhoff



Kurtis Andrews, Barb Cavanagh, Barbara Bickhoff, Fr Marcel Kujur and Del Leitgeb

Barb Bickhoff, a member of the Holy Family Conference since 1991, is a wonderful Vincentian with a 30-year involvement with the Holy Family Conference. For many years, she has been a member of the Executive, performing the role of Secretary, which she still does today. Barb actively started with the Holy Family Conference providing home deliveries of food, etc and visiting the poor and marginalised. Being part of the local 'Homeless Connect' event every year, Barb has always been in attendance helping 'at the coalface' when Christmas Hampers are needing volunteers, including the control of COVID instructions, being responsible for the counting of items and determining what groceries are needed to order from the supermarket and the packing of hampers. In addition to being a member of the Holy Family Conference she is also a member and active volunteer for the St Camillus Conference - a Special Works Conference running Rockhampton's Support Centre; she is the Vice-President.

As a volunteer for Lifeline for over forty years (finishing 2020), Barb assisted 'on the phone' as well as being available for Emergency Relief when a disaster struck somewhere in Queensland. She would then be packing her bags, leave home in under 24 hours and sometimes be away for weeks.

Barb really espouses her Christian values in all aspects of her life, seeing the face of God in all she meets. She is a wonderful example of someone who follows the Society's motto of "A hand up, not a handout" and is completely dedicated to helping the poor and others in need.

Celebrating the Sacraments Covid-19 Style

Due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, none of the Sacraments for primary school-aged children was celebrated. This resulted in the North Rockhampton Catholic Community having approximately 150 candidates this year.



The children who attended Catholic schools celebrated their First Reconciliation in school time while the Second Rite was celebrated with the non-Catholic school children after school. Parents were invited to be with their children. We were able to have three separate nights when the candidates were confirmed.

When the time for First Holy Communion arrived, the children were able to nominate a parish Mass in July or August and celebrate with the parish family. Because of the smaller groups, the children were invited to join Father Marcel (or the visiting priest) in the Sanctuary for the Consecration. Many parishioners mentioned that the children were especially blessed to receive their First Holy Communion in the Sanctuary.

Capricorn Coast News



Kevin Hogan

The Mary Immaculate Church family of Emu Park came together to celebrate with Helen and Ross McIntyre their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 11th September. Fr Noel Milner gave the happy couple a blessing during Mass on Saturday morning followed by a cake and parish fellowship after Mass.

Helen and Ross were joined by their grandson Cash Carolan who joined with parishioners to help celebrate this wonderful family event.

Ross and Helen McIntyre, their grandson Cash Carolan with Fr Noel Milnar.

News from Mackay

Mackay Mens Dinner

The Mens dinner was held on Monday 30th August, the guest speaker was Fr Ashwin Acharya. There was a good rollup of members including a couple new people. Chairman Kevin welcome everyone and we then followed with our Mary MacKillop prayer. Fr Ashwin said grace. For the reflection Des Crowe spoke about 'Divine Mercy.'

Fr Ashwin, our Guest Speaker, asked the questions: What are we and why are we here? How do we achieve life's purpose, since it's so difficult and vague? How can I draw nearer to Christ who is forever drawing nearer to me? And then what? What's to become of all this nearness?

The questioning technique had everyone thinking and sharing their opinions and experiences, including the experiences Ashwin had with his own family. We explored the inner-workings of the human heart, looking at the "*passions*" and reading an excerpt from Saint Augustine's *Confessions*. Fr Ashwin proposed that, drawing nearer to Jesus, we can endure our inner passions redemptively in the same way that Christ endured his passion for the sake of the world. In this way, by being nearer to us in our human frailty, Jesus literally becomes the *com-passion* of the Father, healing and restoring our relationship with ourselves, each other and God.

The presentation finished with the hymn 'Nearer, My God, To Thee'. We were blessed to have Fr Ashwin as our Guest Speaker.

The next dinner will be on Monday 27th September. Guest Speaker will be Ian Rowan Chief Executive Officer CQ Rescue Helicopter." Visitors welcome.

News from Bundaberg



Relay for Life was held in Bundaberg on Saturday, 14th August, at the Bundaberg Precinct. For many years now our parish has registered a team, sometimes two or more teams, in the Relay. We had one small but energetic team this year raising money for the Queensland Cancer Council. This year Mrs Margaret Lloyd-Jones, a long-time relay walker, was awarded the Spirit of Relay Award for her continued support of Relay for Life. Well done Margaret!

Ministry Training and Formation

Ministry Training and Formation Sessions were held recently for all Ministers of Communion, Ministers of the Word, Sacristans, and Mass Assistants. Fr Peter, together with Anne Sheehan, Liturgy Co-ordinator, led the attendees through further formation on each ministry using lectures given by Bishop Robert Barron, Word on Fire Institute. Our regular training gatherings were cancelled last year as a result of Covid, but it was good to be able to gather again for reminders and brush-ups on the practicalities of each ministry and affirm the good work of service all do in ministry.

Alpha

Alpha in the Catholic context. We are looking at introducing the Alpha program to our parish. The Queensland leader of Alpha Catholic, Mrs Donna Brennen, was due to speak to parishioners interested in finding out more about Alpha on Saturday, 21st August. Unfortunately, she was in isolation in Brisbane so could not come in person, but thankfully, was able to join us on Zoom.

Alpha is “a series of interactive sessions that create a safe and honest space, online or in person, where people can explore life, faith and meaning.” It is an evangelisation tool for a parish where people are invited to “come and see” life in a Catholic Christian context. From our “Come and See” session with Donna we now have 12 people who are willing to pilot Alpha in the parish, starting Wednesday 15th September. It will run for 10 weeks, and each session involves food, video and discussion. If you would like to know more about Alpha in your parish go to: <https://www.alpha.org/catholic-context/> We'll keep you posted.

Adult Faith and Formation

Adult Faith Formation If you haven't heard of Bishop Robert Barron I encourage you to discover him through the Word of Life Institute, USA. We have been offering Bishop Barron's courses, weekly, for two months now and have been amazed at the wonder of God unfolding through his lectures. Judith Renshaw, coordinator of Adult Faith Formation, has led the groups through courses on Scripture, Sacraments, Our Story/Your Story, and Saints to name a few.

“Let heaven rejoice and earth be glad! Let all creation sing!”

In this Season of Creation, give thanks.

Anne Sheehan

In Loving Memory of Ernie Trevaskis



Barbara and Ernie Trevaskis being farewelled by Dean Smith and Bishop Emeritus Brian Heenan

We farewelled Ernie Trevaskis on the 17th August 2021, from St Peter's Catholic Church, Biggenden. He had died on August 13th. Ernie was a Waka Waka man, and expressed a wish to be farewelled from his own territory and to be buried there. He was seventy-two years of age.

Ernie and his wife Barbara have been the Coordinators of the Catholic Aboriginal and Islander Ministry in the Diocese of Rockhampton for ten years, finishing in 2009. Based in Rockhampton, they had travelled throughout the diocese, meeting and supporting indigenous families, working with the Aboriginal and Islander ministers in the Catholic Education Office, being part of the annual Teacher Inservice Days and often presenting workshops. One notable such gathering was in Barcaldine when we gathered at the beginning of the day to hear the Prime Minister Keven Rudd off the Apology to the Aboriginal and Islander peoples for the atrocities and injuries, they had be subject to from the first European Settlement in 1788. This was in February 2008.

An Aspect of Barbara and Ernie's ministry was to gather for Eucharist and a shared meal at Murriwodja each month. This was an Anglican ministry centre, often shared with nonindigenous parishioners of all faiths, who supported the Aboriginal and Islander Outreach. Bishop Godfrey Fryar, the Anglican bishop, was a good friend of Barbara and Ernie and to many from the Anglican and Catholic faiths.

In addition to their ministry to the indigenous people, Barbara and Ernie were committed to the life of the diocese. Their ministry came under the umbrella of Pastoral Services where they were greatly supported by Marcia Mansfield who coordinated many ministries in the diocese.

Ernie, for a number of years, was a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. He was a quiet man, even shy man, but when he contributed, all listened because he was speaking from deep wisdom, having reflected well on the issues being considered.

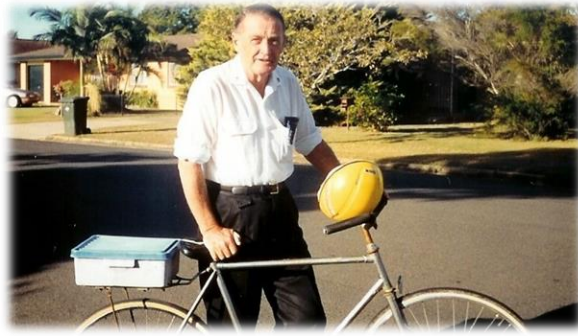
Ernie Trevaskis was a true gentleman, often smiling yet there was a gravitas in his approach to living. Ernie has seen active service in the navy. He and Barbara married when they were young and were devoted to their children, Danielle, Ronald, Jamie and Raymond, and their children, the much-loved grandchildren.

Ernie was a committed family man, an honourable citizen of whatever community he belonged to, a proud Waka Waka mand who brough honour and respect to all those with whom he shared his life.

He surely rests in the arms of his loving God, to whom he gave love and faithfulness.

Bishop Emeritus Brian Heenan

In Loving Memory of Br GP 'Rocky' Rochford



After completing two Principalships at St Kieran's Mt Isa and Marina and St Stans' in Rockhampton, Br 'Rocky' Rochford did a couple of short stints in Brisbane and Dalby and PNG before arriving in Bundaberg in 1988.

Rocky found his home in Bundaberg. His journey here was not always easy. Initially, Rocky was on the teaching staff at Shalom but ill health and a changing world made it clear that his days in the classroom were drawing to a close. Before the days when Campus Ministers became popular in Catholic Education, Br Rocky made that role his own at Shalom.

Brother loved routine and structure. He was very much a 'creature of habit'. For many years at Shalom, he ran his famous 'Snowy Trips' by bus to the snowfields and Sydney. I am told that the organisation and minute by minute schedule rivalled the precision of the D Day invasion.

Rocky loved Shalom and its students and staff. He loved the local community and the members of this parish where he worshipped faithfully and daily. It is hard to overstate the impact he had on the Shalom community. For probably thousands of young women and men his was *the wrinkled but smiling face of God*. It was easy to recognise in him and perhaps probably more so even in his later years, a genuine authenticity and goodness – maybe even saintliness.

He was a companion to young people but in a low-key type of way. He greeted hundreds every morning as they arrived at school with 'Shalom, my friend' and the response of 'Shalom, Brother' was just part of the fabric of life at Shalom for dozens of years.

His mornings were busy. His day always started with prayer and generally Mass. A simple breakfast followed and, for most of his years, before beginning a dangerous period when he drove to school, a ride on an antique bike to Shalom which enabled him to ready, early, for the day.

His journeying with the young women and men of Shalom started at the front gate. On the famous small whiteboard which settled around his neck were written the names of students whose birthdays fell on the day.

He sought out and tracked down all of those he did not find before school and made sure that they received his congratulations on the anniversary of their birth and one of his famous Book Marks. Birthdays were a big thing for his and he left no stone unturned to ensure that he did not miss one. Remembering birthdays is not a remarkable thing or, really, of great significance. But it was the little things that mattered to Rocky and I know that so many students at Shalom cherished being remembered by Brother on their day. It was a low-key action that had high impact.

Shalom students had their lives chronicled by Brother. He took about 3 million photos and almost as many videos. He videoed them on their Orientation Day, their first day of Yr 8 or 7. Then he followed their lives by attending almost every sport event, dance, Shalom Day, Carnival or competition. Always with his video camera or instamatic. At appropriate times, Brother could be relied upon to share another episode of the 'Rochford Files' that were compilations of photos for Retreats or Graduations or other noteworthy event. Rocky took the concept of a 'family slide night' to a whole new level!



When his death was announced, I read through a lot of the hundreds of comments on our FaceBook page. It was clear that Brother's time at Shalom spanned generations.

I wonder if our current students had any clue as to what earlier past students meant when they referred to Rocky as 'Br Fuji'. If the younger set present today still have no clue, ask someone with a few grey hairs.

Brother's gift to Shalom was one of presence. He was just there. Quietly supporting and encouraging. He never took a central role or demanded attention. Like his hero, Edmund Rice, he believed in the transforming power of education and of the importance of walking beside those who need help the most.

Like Edmund, he had a particular soft spot for the battlers. When Edmund Rice Camps came to Queensland, they rivalled the Manly Warringah Club for his affection. Those Camps, where young people in high school and the couple of years beyond, give their time to ensure that a bunch of young people from really disadvantaged families, could have a great time for a few days, were his passion.

Because of his passion for Edmund Rice Camps, Shalom students have provided the backbone of the Eddie Rice Campers. For years, he encouraged, nagged and cajoled Shalom Yr 11 & 12 students to travel with him to St Brendan's Yeppoon to support the Camps there every Christmas. And they did so in droves and willingly gave up their school holiday vacation time to be involved.

About ten years ago, he came to me with a cunning plan to continue to support the St Brendan's Camp but also to run our own at our Outdoor Ed Campsite – Chaverim. This has been a very significant initiative for Shalom and one he loved and supported. He never missed one – ever. Through these Camps, he taught young people about Service Learning and about their responsibility to do something positive for those less fortunate.

Br GP 'Rocky' Rochford was an icon of Shalom and all for which it stood. He was an unparalleled gift for this community and one for we will be forever grateful. He was wonderful for Shalom and Shalom was wonderful for him. Br Rochford belonged at Shalom and he welcomed and wanted others to embrace our community.

He loved the Catholic community of Bundaberg and he wanted our Church to be welcoming and inclusive. He loved Pope Francis and embraced the change the current Pope wants to see in the Church.

A story was shared with me from Deb Bolam, long time Shalom staff member and friend of Rocky. On an earlier occasion when Brother had returned to Bundaberg after a serious battle with Cancer, Deb asked him if he was afraid of dying. He responded, 'No because I've seen what heaven is like. It's like being at Shalom.'

On Monday morning last, at about 11.30am, he would have heard those words from his best friend, 'Well done good and faithful servant. Come and inherit the Kingdom prepared for you.'

Shalom Brother.

Dan McMahon,
Principal of Shalom College

St Brendan's College mourns the passing of two students.

St Brendan's College is continuing to support students and staff after the loss of two young members of its community.



Mitchell Norris passed away in hospital after an accident on a private property north of Yeppoon on Friday the 27th of August. Mitchell will be remembered as the smiling, cheeky larrikin, full of life, whose zest for life and fun-loving personality touched the lives of everyone who knew him.



Eli Kent passed away on Sunday the 29th of August after a long battle with cancer. Eli will be remembered as a resilient, strong, funny, and good-natured young man who touched the lives of all those he met.

Both boys were laid to rest last week, with students honouring their much-loved brothers/mates with a guard of honour, following the celebrations of Mitch & Eli's lives at the Sacred Heart Church, Yeppoon.

The College wishes to continue to send their love and support to both the Norris and Kent families at this difficult time. Please keep both families in your prayers.

Feast of Our Lady of Victories, Mackay



The Feast of Our Lady of Victories was celebrated last Friday night at St Francis Xavier Church. About 200 people, led by Fr Don White, attended the celebration.

The homily, Fr Don gave, follows:

Our thanks to the organizing committee for bringing this celebration in honor of Our Lady of Victories. It has been a feature of the life of our local church here in Mackay for generations, and now, after cancelling the event last year due to the pandemic, we are able to gather once again to honor our Blessed Mother. As we know regular travel out of Australia is not possible yet, but hopefully will be in the coming months. Individuals and families who have come from many countries around the world have not seen their loved ones living overseas, including Malta. As we have seen Malta has suffered during the pandemic like so many other places.

There are good reasons to gather tonight and to pray. We recall how on 7th October 1571, the Battle of Lepanto was fought between a coalition of [Catholic states](#), comprising Spain and most of Italy, arranged by [Pope Pius V](#), inflicted a major defeat on the Ottoman navy in waters near Greece. The Ottoman forces were

sailing westward from their naval base at [Lepanto](#) in Turkey, with nations such as Malta in their invasion path. The Christian forces defeated the Ottoman navy, with the victory being attributed to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. So, October 7th was named the feast of Our Lady of Victories, later to be changed to the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Those events of 1571 hold a message for us today, that in times of acute danger and hardship, we can turn to our Blessed Mother, Mary. Today, the battles might be different but they still matter to us as God's people. In 2021, the victory we need is success over the COVID pandemic. Now with vaccination rates rising all over the world on the rise, and with the goodwill of people in looking after one another, God is answering our prayers again, just like God for the people of Malta back in 1571.

Tonight, is also a moment to remember the contribution of the Maltese community to our community of Mackay. As people came from Malta, they brought their faith and it enriched our local church. We recognize the decades long work of the Franciscan sisters, and Sr. Pauline, especially at this point in the sisters' history here in Mackay. We know you are facing a big challenge with the Bill before the Queensland Parliament to legalize euthanasia. Not only is this Bill a challenge to our Catholic values to respect and uphold the dignity of human life, but also, the lack of conscientious objection for our Catholic entities is of great concern. So, Sr. Pauline, we very much stand with you at this time of great worry.

The 2020 statement from the Vatican about Euthanasia, *the Good Samaritan*, reminds us that the first principle of Catholic healthcare is summed up in the Latin phrase: ***primum non nocere***, meaning "do no harm." Practically it means that we do all we can to heal, and if healing is not possible, then we care until our frail or ill loved one's earthly life gives way to the horizon of eternal life. It is a principle that comes from Christ himself in the parable of the Good Samaritan found in the Gospel of St. Luke. The Good Samaritan cared for the wounds of the injured man, and then made provision for him to be cared for in the best possible way. This principle gives shapes to how our Catholic hospitals and aged care homes operate.

It is unthinkable that our Catholic entities would be forced to allow euthanasia in their facilities, yet as it stands that is what the Bill is proposing. We pray that the Bill will be defeated, but if it is passed, then, may good sense prevail and allow our Catholic healthcare entities to carry out their work as they have always done, doing no harm and caring for our loves ones until they are called to the fullness of life.

Euthanasia bills over the world have started out with good intentions, but over time extreme situations have developed. What a paradox we have here in Queensland where our state government which has gone to great lengths to defend life during the pandemic, now wants to make it possible to end life. May Mary whose prayers brought a victory all those centuries ago, pray for us and keep us strong in defending life, and our values in this present age.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us.

Fr. Don White P.P

St Brendan's Rodeo a raging success.



Saturday the 4th of September saw the St Brendan's College Composite Pools Rodeo make an epic come back in the school arena. The event attracted crowds of more than 4500 people with a host of entertainment and more than 300 competitors.

There was something for the whole family including amusement rides and a number of food vendors. The School boys event started at 9am where SBC Boys took out places including a 1st for Kayde Johnson, 2nd for Matt Ahern and 3rd for Jesse Remfrey in the Junior Steer ride, followed by a 1st for Jimmy McClelland, 2nd for Brad Ratcliffe and a 3rd for Toby Daley in the

Senior Steer ride and finally a 1st for Ben Moran, 2nd for Jimmy McClelland and a 3rd for Jacob Carige in the Junior Bull Ride. The interschool event was followed by the slack rodeo commencing at 1.30pm. The crowd was really drawn to the professional APRA rodeo which kicked off at 5.45pm. The Results of the Professional Rodeo are yet to go up on the APRA site, but keep an eye out at <https://www.prorodeo.com.au/index.cfm?display=rodeo...>.

The College would like to thank all the staff and volunteers who put in countless hours to make this event a success and a huge thankyou to sponsors who made this event a possibility with their generous donations.

News from St Ursula's College

Women of Faith



As part of our Term 3 Religious Education Assessment, we had the amazing opportunity to interview wonderful and inspiring women from our local parish, while enjoying a beautiful Afternoon Tea. It was a great experience to meet so many extraordinary women who have led truly memorable lives. Alongside the Year 9 cohort, I was lucky enough to listen to the women's uplifting stories. They gave great insight to the distinct presence of faith in their lives and how it was able to provide hope, stability, security, and strength within themselves, during the most difficult times. I am incredibly fortunate to have had such an eye-opening and inspiring opportunity to converse with these women.

Samridhi Lamichhane
Year 9, St Ursula's College, Yeppoon
(Photo Samridhi with Karen Page)

Catholic Education Farewells Mission Leader

Assistant Director: Mission for Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton, Di-Anne Rowan will retire from the role at the end of the 2021 school year. Di-Anne has been a much respected, admired and loved member of the Catholic Education Leadership Team for the past twenty years.

Director of Catholic Education, Leesa Jeffcoat said it was difficult to find the words to adequately express the depth of gratitude that Catholic Education owes to Di-Anne for her faith-filled, caring and visionary leadership of the Faith Education and Formation team over these many years.

New Mission Leader for Catholic Education in 2022

After two decades as a teacher and leader in Catholic primary schools, including the past seven years as Principal of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandal, Kellie Jenkinson commences a new appointment in 2022 as Assistant Director: Mission for Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR).

Director of Catholic Education Leesa Jeffcoat said Mrs Jenkinson had demonstrated great care and compassion as a leader in Catholic schools and was dedicated to ensuring that the person of Jesus remained at the heart of the school. "Kellie's professional experience and her passionate commitment to our schools maintaining their distinctly Catholic identity make her eminently suited to the role of Assistant Director: Mission," Miss Jeffcoat said.

News from Centacare

Stepping out with Mackay's new Friends Group

CentacareCQ clients now have an added reason to get friendly, with the newly established Mackay Friends groups quickly growing in popularity. Coordinator Marjanca Soke has only been running the Mackay Friends Group since June, but says that the weekly social outings have already made a huge impact on the clients who attend.

“When we started our first social group here in Mackay, I got together with some of our clients to see what kinds of things we could do,” Marjanca said. “We talked about what their interests were, and they expressed ‘oh we want to do this, we love doing that...’, so I just wrote everything down, took what they said on board, and now I try to make the most of it for them. I was so excited because I could see how much our clients needed that, how much they needed the ability to socialise again, and to get out and enjoy company with other people.”

Marjanca said that so far, the Mackay Friends Group has had a picnic at the beach, visited the local art space, ventured out to Queens park, and most recently, enjoyed a fish and chip lunch at the beautiful Mackay Harbour.

While social isolation has always been a growing concern for many members of the elderly and disabled community, the current COVID-19 pandemic has increased the problem even more so. Marjanca says that this is what makes the Mackay Friends Group even more important now.

For CentacareCQ clients who have thought about joining the Mackay Friends Group but aren't sure if the activities are really for them, Marjanca says that we need to remember to step outside of our

CentacareCQ offers Social Group Activities in Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Mackay with a range of exciting adventures and activities on offer each month.

To find out more or to get involved in a Social Group Activity in your region, please call our friendly team on 1300 523 985.council

Press Release for the Plenary Council

Despite large parts of the country being in lockdown, those planning the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia say all is in readiness to deliver the first assembly in October wholly online.

Bishop Shane Mackinlay, the Plenary Council's vice-president, said the Council journey has adapted to changing circumstances because of COVID-19 – and it is adapting again. “With most of the country's population currently in lockdown or having experienced lockdowns in recent weeks, we have plans in place to ensure the first assembly opens on October 3,” he said. “Just as there was disappointment in needing first to postpone the assembly and then to move to regional hubs, the likelihood that most members will now join the assembly from their home is not what we had planned and hoped for. We know, though, that the Holy Spirit can and will work through this assembly, just as the Spirit has led us over the past three-and-a-half years.”

Bishop Mackinlay said the approximately 280 members of the Council gathered online in four groups in recent weeks to continue their formation, including from a technology perspective. “While there has been greater exposure to videoconferencing in the past 18 months, the Microsoft Teams environment was new to some,” he said. What we encountered over the two days each group met was a stable platform, and one on which we can participate in meaningful dialogue with one another. We were able to trial the practice of spiritual conversations that will be used during the assemblies and there were moments of prayerful encounter, even if via a screen.”

It is expected that, in some areas not affected by lockdowns, members will gather in small numbers for prayer, fellowship and socialising, as the experience of provincial hubs would have provided.

Plans for the public livestreaming of some parts of each day remain in place, and some liturgies will also be celebrated online.

“This is a Council for the Church in Australia, and we look forward to a wide range of people following the assembly, hearing how conversations are unfolding and praying with the members,” Ms Turvey-Collins said.

In Loving Memory



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

Central Western Parish

Beryl Moody, Morrie O'Dell

North Rockhampton Parishes

Leslie Muller, Shirley Ziebibki, Therese Huggett, Brian Milner, Ernie Trevaskis, Terrence Molloy, Kaylene Busk, Joan New, Lorna Palfreyman, Monica Fogarty, Joan Davis, Patricia O'Connor, John Camilleri, Gladys Barnes.

Capricorn Coast Parish

Irene Beard, Robert 'Bob' Maguire, Connie Corfield, Eli Kent, Mitchell Norris, Brenda Feddersen, Fay Bishton, Paul Vider, Rhodora Medel, Romy Aninon, Norma Fernandez-Teves, Brian Milner (Fr Noel's brother), Christopher Walsh

Emerald Parish

John Braitling

This is an edited version of the diocesan Newsletter for September 2021

For the fuller version, please visit the web edition:

<https://rok.catholic.net.au/news-events/bishops-newsletter/?edition=september-2021>