



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF ROCKHAMPTON

Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton August 2024

Bishop Michael's Letter



The annual Law Service was held at Rockhampton Cathedral - more on this in next month's newsletter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

The August e-newsletter records another month in the life of the diocese. From Mackay, the 100-year foundation celebrations of St John's School at Walkerston and St Mary's, South Mackay gathered these communities to make incredible achievements. In 2025, St Anne's Sarina will also mark this milestone of Catholic Education in the Mackay region. This coming weekend, we turn our attention to the annual Social Justice Statement, A Call for Peace. At the end of August there will be the gathering of the Catholic Women's League members from across Queensland in Mackay for their annual meeting.

My thanks for all of those who have contributed to this newsletter.

During September I will be on my annual holidays and I look forward to catching up with you when I return.

Michael

Priest's Retreat and Celebration Clergy Retreat



At their annual retreat from the 29 July – 2 August, Bishop Michael and the priests from across the Diocese gathered to spend time in prayer and reflection and enjoying each other's company. They gathered at The Haven and were led in their prayer and reflections by Derek Warden, from the Catholic Education Office. He used *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis' encyclical on God's Creation as the basis of his talks.

170 William Street
PO Box 611
Rockhampton
Queensland 4700
Australia

General enquiries
T +61 7 4887 3070
E enquiries@rok.catholic.net.au
www.rok.catholic.net.au

Clergy Jubilee Mass

At the conclusion of their retreat, they celebrated, as they traditionally do, the Clergy Jubilee Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral. At this Mass we celebrated the significant anniversaries of the following Priests: Fr Matthias 10 years, Fr Samuel 10 years, Bishop Michael 10 years as Bishop, Fr Simeon 10 years, Fr Andrew Hogan 10 years, Fr Gasper 15 years, Fr Matthew 20 years.



The Jubilarians

We thank you all for your blessed work for God and His people. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide you in your priestly ministry.

We Remember Sr Brenda Moss rsm

1 June 1943 – 24 July 2024



Sisters of Mercy, family members, nursing colleagues and friends gathered with Bishop Michael McCarthy and Fr Alex Varghese in Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, The Range, on Friday 2 August 2024 to honour the faith-filled and courageous life of Sister Brenda Moss who died after a very short illness in the Fitzroy Community Hospice on 24 July 2024.

The eldest child of Harry and Ivy Moss, Brenda was born in Gateshead, a sea-side, industrial town in the

north of England. World War II was raging and her dad was in the British Navy. Poor conditions in post-war England prompted Mrs Moss to move to Australia. Sailing on the Oriana, she and Brenda arrived in Fremantle on 1 June 1946, Brenda's third birthday. They settled in Mackay; Mr Moss followed and later, two more children were born, Rhonda and John. Brenda loved each member of her small family. She keenly felt the death of her younger sister, Rhonda, in 1975, followed closely with the death of her mum that same year, then her dad's death in 1990. Brenda was always grateful for the love and support of her younger brother, John, and his wife, Lorraine, who became like a sister to Brenda. Brenda treasured her nephews Brad and Lyle, together with their partners, Mihaela and Belinda respectively.

While attending West Mackay State School as a very young pupil, Brenda took speech lessons, after school, from Sr M Marcella at the West Mackay Convent. By coincidence, Sr M Marcella was also born in Gateshead and so a very special connection developed between them. Encouraged to move to the nearby St Francis' Xavier Catholic School, Brenda was baptized into the Catholic faith in April 1952 and gradually all the family became Catholics. It was Sr M Marcella who fostered Brenda's desire to become a Catholic and later, a Sister of Mercy. Sr M Marcella was well-known for her polished, precise, and distinctive manner of speaking – she taught Brenda well! For many reasons, Brenda was always grateful for the gift of Sr M Marcella in her life.



Brenda was extremely proud of her British heritage; she loved all things British – the Royal Family, the unfurled Union Jack, Land of Hope and Glory, a night at the Proms, the tennis from Wimbledon and cups of tea. In 2004, Brenda re-visited Gateshead; this was a 'homecoming' for Brenda which gave her an appreciation for the courageous and life-changing decision her mum made, to move to Australia. Brenda's admiration for her mother never dimmed. Often, Brenda told stories of her mum's kindness to those in need, a listening ear, using her sewing and cooking skills and giving from the little she had, even providing hot meals and cake tins



With parents Ivy & Harry Moss, Midwifery Graduation 1970

filled to the brim for the Sisters teaching at West Mackay. Some years ago, Brenda penned 'An ode to my mother' written in the style of the Book of Proverbs. It begins: 'A valiant, faithful woman, who can find her? I can, because she is my mother.' After extolling the virtues of her mum, Brenda concluded the ode with these words: 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all – because you were my mother, and you showed us the way.'

In early 1960, Brenda began her General Nursing training at the Mackay Mater Hospital then entered the Rockhampton Sisters of Mercy on 23 January 1963. Received on 3 November 1963, Brenda was professed on 6 November 1965 with Sisters Anne Slattery, Marie Riddel and Desma Clarke, choosing the motto: Lord thy will be done. In our hospitals (Rockhampton 1964, 1968-69, 1977-86, 1988-92, 1994; Bundaberg 1965-67, 1970-73) and Home Nursing Service (Mackay 1974-76), Brenda filled many roles with dedicated reliability and efficiency but her passion was Obstetrics and Neonatal Care, particularly at the Rockhampton Mater Hospital Maternity Unit. This special interest motivated Brenda to volunteer with the Australian Mercy Mission in Pakistan from 1995 to 1997 where she assisted with and ensured the survival of impoverished mothers and babies in very primitive conditions. Though challenging for Brenda, she truly felt she was doing Catherine McAuley's work, centred in the Heart of Mercy. When Brenda came to McAuley Place and The Range Village in the role of Pastoral Carer; as she cared for residents who had lived long and fulfilling lives, she reflected that she had worked full circle in her nursing career (2000-2016).



1Srs Brenda Moss, Anne Slattery, Desma Clarke & Marie Riddel Final Profession Day 6 November 1970

Brenda had an eye for quality and only the best would do! She took pride in her appearance, always dressing well with a sense of occasion. Her crochet and knitting skills were perfection and she would let us know if ours were below standard! She didn't need to speak words of disapproval on any matter, the look on Brenda's face was enough! Though small in stature and seemingly demure, Brenda was 'no pushover'! She had a steely determination and somehow or other, always managed to get what she wanted, when she wanted it – within reason, of course!

On the occasion of her Golden Jubilee in 2015, Brenda declared that she would not want to change anything in her life, stating 'All things happen for a reason, even though we may not understand at the time.' In recent months, Brenda's self-awareness deepened as she opened herself to that Divine gift which we often name as 'Grace'. 'Grace' is that unexplainable goodness which permeates our daily life; it is an intrinsic part of human experience which is wrapped in the everyday. It was Brenda's response to 'Grace' that enabled her to recognize and understand the ebb and flow of her own weakened humanity, particularly in recent weeks. It is our certain hope, that Brenda has completed her journey to that place of transformation, promised to her at Baptism, where she now sees her God, face to face. May Brenda, who nurtured new life, now rest in peace in the company of those she loved who have preceded her in death.

From the Diocesan Pastoral Council

Summary of Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) Meeting held on Tuesday 4 June 2024

On the evening of Tuesday 4 June 2024 at 5pm, the DPC held a meeting via ZOOM. It is hoped that the following summary will communicate to the diocese some of the issues discussed at the meeting.

- Representatives from the Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC) (Rockhampton, Emerald, Western, Bundaberg, Mackay, Gladstone) reported on activities occurring in their communities.

- The Headings under which these Reports were made and discussed included the following:
 1. About the Parishes and Worshipping Communities in their respective areas.
 2. What is going well in their communities.
 3. What struggles are their communities experiencing.
 4. How was the Diocesan Pastoral Plan (DPP) received in their respective communities and how the communities are engaging with the DPP.
 5. What can the DPC do to help and support Parish Pastoral Councils.

The meeting then received further reports as follows:

1. DPC Focus Areas Report – Work is being done to develop a planning document to assist Parishes to write their own Pastoral Plan
2. Pastoral Care of Visa/Seasonal Workers Report – Br Ted Magee (action on this outreach project is ongoing)
3. Pastoral Care of Mine Workers Report – Rob Alexander (action on this outreach project is ongoing)
4. DPC Executive Officer Report – Joy Philippi – Work being done by Joy with the various Parish communities was shared in this Report. It was noted that Gladstone has a new PPC.

Positive feedback was received regarding the Summary of the March meeting of the DPC that was distributed to the various PPCs. There was discussion as to whether the Summary of the meeting today and the Summary of future meetings should also be placed in Parish newsletters for the information of parishioners.

A lengthy discussion then took place with respect to revising the DPC Statutes. Suggestions made by DPC members for amendments to these Statutes were noted.

If you would like further information about the work of the DPC, please feel free to speak with any of the DPC members who you may see at your Parish Masses. At the date of preparing this Summary, the DPC Members appointed by Bishop Michael are as follows:

Rob Alexander (Chair) Fr Truc Phan, Fr Ashwin Acharya, Fr Simeon Uchendu, Br Ted Magee, Nadene Pettett, Bernadine Frawley, Bernadette Ariens, Vicki Hegge, Loretta McKeering, April Roth, Joy Philippi (Executive Officer), Leesa Jeffcoat (ex-officio), Robert Sims (ex-officio) and Dean Smith (ex-officio).

The next meeting of the DPC will be held via ZOOM on Tuesday 20 August at 5pm.

Rob Alexander

Chair, Diocesan Pastoral Council

News from the Parishes

News from Bundaberg

The past month has been a busy time as we renewed our commitment as a Stewardship Parish. Homilies were followed by input from our Stewardship Core Group who explained the process:

- Discovering my Gifts for Ministry
- Identifying our Call to Ministry

- Commitment of my Time and Talents to one or more of the ninety-three ministries and prayer groups in our Parish

Over the next few weeks all who committed will be contacted and welcomed. Training will follow as needed and all will be commissioned in mid-September.

Catholic Education Week Mass



Children's Mass

Each fourth Sunday of the month, a Children's Mass is celebrated at St Patrick's Church at 9.00am. The attendance has been good, and the Mass is growing in popularity with families and the community. A Morning tea follows, and this enables all to meet in a social setting and get to know others in our Parish.



"To Sing is to Pray Twice"

Our Musicians and Singers gather each first Saturday of the month to prepare the music and singing for the month ahead. Their dedication and their commitment are rewarded by the well-deserved affirmation they receive from Mass attendees.



New Parishioners Welcome

Fr Don, the Parish Stewardship Council, the Parish Office Team, along with our New Parishioners' Welcome Coordinator hosted this event for approximately twenty parishioners who had arrived in our Parish since January 2023.

After some drinks, canapes and conversation, parishioners were asked to share a brief biography. The night was enjoyed by all, and our new parishioners were grateful to be warmly welcomed into their new community.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

St Joseph's School, founded by St Mary MacKillop, led our Parish in the celebration of her Feast Day on August 8. Students from the school were enthusiastic in their involvement and brought their joy to parishioners who attended.



News from the Central West

Bell Tower Structure witnesses to Catholic Presence

Although the former St Joseph's Catholic Church in Muttaborra was decommissioned on 29th January 2023, and the building sold earlier this year, a permanent physical sign of the Catholic presence in the district remains. Thanks to the hard work of local parishioner Jenni Gray and her family, the Church Bell and tower, external wall cross, and one of the entry gates have been incorporated into a bell tower sculpture that is located along the town's growing sculpture walkway. Fr Bang travelled to Muttaborra for their Sculpture Festival and officially unveiled and blessed the sculpture on Saturday 27th July 2024.

Accompanying the sculpture is a plaque incorporating elements of Catholic history in Muttaborra, but more importantly the structure serves as reminder that the Catholic faith

continues in the community, despite the absence of a Church building. This is not the first time this has happened in Muttaborra's history! While the first recorded Catholic marriage was in 1882, and the first Bishop's visit in 1887, the first Catholic Church in Muttaborra wasn't opened until 1894. In January 1943 this church was destroyed in a storm, forcing Mass to be held in the town's hall until construction of the current building was completed in September 1948. The sacraments in Muttaborra will again be held in the hall and other gathering places around the district.



Fr Bang ringing the bell.



A small crowd of current and former parishioners gathered for the official unveiling

News from the Capricorn Coast



Nine Baptisms at Sacred Heart, Lammermoor

What a wonderful time of gatherings and sacramental preparation this month has been!

We started with Safeguarding Training at Mary Immaculate Church on 20th July, straight after 5.15pm Mass and at Sacred Heart Church on 21st July, straight after 9am Mass. The Diocesan Safeguarding Manager Judy Pidcock, provided us with an in-service and update, on how to keep our parish safe. This was a great refresher and update for all our parishioners and we must thank our Parish Safe Representatives – Jan Mussig, Lorna Duggan and Barbara Kirwan for their ongoing support. We would also like to wish Judy a very Happy Retirement and thank her for her passion and enthusiasm for safeguarding, which she passes onto others.



Next on the calendar was Catholic Education Week, which was held from 21st to 27th July. A marvellous celebration of Catholic Education Week was held on Tuesday 23rd July, with Bishop Michael, Fr Matthew, and all our school communities: St Brendan's College, St Ursula's College, Sacred Heart School and St Benedict's School. Mr Michael McCusker, Director of Catholic Education also celebrated with us for the first time.

On July 24th, a beautiful celebration was held for our children celebrating their First Reconciliation. Five priests helped on this occasion – Fr Ashwin, Fr Samuel, Fr Matthew, Fr Stephen and Fr Jomon. We thank each one of them for making this a special occasion for our children.

July 28th brought us 9 children celebrating Baptism and Jo Pickett and David Stephenson celebrating their Marriage. Congratulations and God's richest blessings to you all on these joyous occasions.



On the first weekend of the month we gather after Mass for a shared meal at Mary Immaculate Church and morning tea at Sacred Heart Church. This is always a great time to gather together for a catch up and see how each other is travelling.



Tuesday August 6th had us gathering at two different times, to hear Shane Pianta provide us with an informative, entertaining and insightful presentation as he shared the experiences of his past year in Valladolid, Spain. He spent this time discerning his faith journey and travelling to some other countries as well. Shane also presented the Parish with a special candle from Fatima, Portugal. Thank you Shane and many blessings for your ongoing discernment journey.

The Sacramental Journey – a time of prayer and adoration continues for our children as they look forward to celebrating with Bishop Michael, as they receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion this coming weekend. We pray that you will continue to walk more closely each day, with our loving God.

The Mary Immaculate Church's celebration of 120 years will be held on December 7th. More information to follow in next newsletter.

News from Emerald

During Catholic Education Week St Patrick's Parish, Emerald was the recipient of the generosity of students from Marist College and St Brigid's Primary School.



The Manual Arts students from Marist College volunteered their time and talents to repair the damaged brick fence in front of the parish office and church. A big thank you to these students, Principal Mark Green and teachers Greg Pullen and Gerard Brennan. The fence looks fantastic and we very much appreciate your skills and effort.

Students from St Brigid's school held a jelly and cupcakes sale on "Mission Monday" and had a green and gold free dress day for the start of the Olympics on "Fun Friday" raising funds for St Patrick's Church. The sale of jelly cups and cupcakes raised \$602.75. Thank you, students, Principal Tegan Green and APRE, Meaghan Tucker.



News from Gladstone

Confirmation program at Star of the Sea



The candidates for Confirmation at Star of the Sea being blessed and given the 'The Lord's Prayer.' These young members of the parish, are on their faith journey to complete the necessary preparation classes.

Wash and Pray Café - Star of the Sea Youth Car Wash Fundraiser

The Wash and Pray Café is an initiative by the Star of the Sea Youth, where energetic young people come together to raise funds through a car wash fundraiser. This event not only serves as a way to generate funds but also instills good work ethics among the youth involved. The café adds a unique twist, combining service with community spirit and teamwork.



News from Mackay

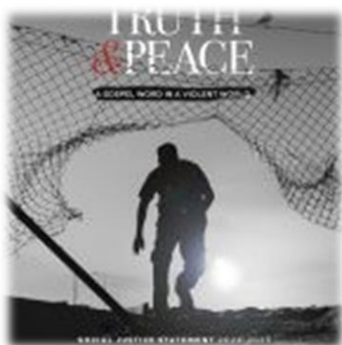
Recognition of Kevin Casey at the Seafarers' Centre, Mackay



Tricia Casey and Bishop Michael

On the 11th August, Bishop Michael blessed and unveiled a plaque dedicated to Kevin Casey. His wife, Tricia Casey, Fr Matthias, Fr Anthony and committee members were present to acknowledge this friend and committee member who recently lost his battle with cancer this year. He is sadly missed by many around Mackay.

A Call for Peace: Embracing Truth and Peace in a Violent World



In 1963, Pope St. John XXIII issued the profound Encyclical Letter *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth), appealing to the global community for an end to war and the elimination of nuclear weapons. This call was rooted in the belief that peace must be founded on the inviolable dignity of every human being. Today, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference continues this mission with the 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement, *Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World*. The document reminds us that peace-making is not an optional part of our faith but a Gospel duty.

The Urgency of Peace

Pope Francis emphasises the urgent need for a global ceasefire, warning that we are on the brink of an abyss. The statement reflects on the devastating impact of totalitarian ideologies of the 20th century, which were rooted in falsehoods about God and humanity. These atheistic ideologies, like the serpent's lie in Genesis, promised ultimate freedom but resulted in death and suffering as trust and peace were replaced with violence and war. "The last century was the most violent in human history, with the piles of corpses of Auschwitz and Hiroshima its demonic emblem. At the dawn of the new century and the third millennium there were hopes for a time of peace. But that was not to be." In 2022, there were 55 state-based conflicts and 82 non-state conflicts worldwide, affecting two billion people. This statement calls attention to both well-known and overlooked conflicts, including those close to Australia.

Erosion of Truth in Modern Times

Pope Francis urges the youth to envision a new world of peace, despite the current challenges. The erosion of truth in our post-truth culture, fuelled by social media and misinformation, is a significant barrier to this vision. The post-truth world imposes "life in a bubble or an ideological echo-chamber" which can cause us to close in on ourselves and cling to our own positions and convictions. The rapid spread of fake news and conspiracy theories, coupled with the decline of trusted authorities and traditional journalism, has fragmented public discourse and undermined democratic processes.

The Way Forward: The Architecture of Peace

The statement calls for a return to truth and trust in the power of Christ, the Prince of Peace. By fostering a culture of encounter and dialogue, both at individual and societal levels, we can work towards a world that aligns with human aspirations and divine intentions. “A commitment to dialogue helps to break down the tendency for one person or group to amass power for themselves and instead to promote a commitment to the common good where there is true justice and respect for the dignity of all people.” The Australian bishops call on us to “welcome opportunities to listen to others and understand what they think and why.”

Educating for Peace

Peace is not something that happens by chance; it is a skill that can be taught and learned. Pope Francis emphasises the importance of education in promoting peace. Our schools play a vital role in this mission by teaching students the “architecture of peace” and fostering a culture of dialogue and encounter. In our parish, we can support these efforts by encouraging our educational leaders to prioritise peace education and by actively engaging with school initiatives that promote peace-making.

Action for Everyone

The statement asserts that “Peace is the work of everyone, and we can all do something to be peace-makers”. It provides some suggestions of simple, concrete ways that we, as individuals, can make a real difference as peace-makers.

1. Start with yourself. Invite God to nurture peace in your heart. Examining the things that happened over the course of your day when you pray before bedtime is a good practice. Ask yourself how you responded to conflicts. Did you reach out in friendship and love to others, show kindness or offer or receive forgiveness? Ask God for the grace to make peace in your life.
2. Prayer is essential to peace-making. At each Mass we pray for the gift of peace, and parishes might gather to pray for peace outside Mass, eg. by praying the Rosary.
3. Take action on an issue that matches your passion and skills.
4. Set up a group to read, discuss and pray about one of the Church documents referred to here, such as Pope Francis’ *Fratelli Tutti*, chapters 6 and 7.
5. Make your views and concerns known to your local Member of Parliament.
6. Give priority to encounter rather than taking action on a computer.
7. Reach out to a local reconciliation group if you want to support First Nations Peoples, or a refugee support group or service if you want to work with refugees seeking justice.
8. If you are interested in trying to address conflict in another part of the world, there may be ethnic community organisations from the conflict zone in your local community. You could reach out to them to learn more and to give them support. You could also offer to help Caritas Australia with its work in war-torn countries.
9. Focus on listening more and talking less in your conversations.
10. Learn about the culture and history of the people you are accompanying and supporting.
11. Serve them by helping them do what they decide is a priority rather than coming to them with a plan.

12. Ask the friends you make in these situations if they would like to share some of their experiences with your parish or school.
13. Seek advice from them on what issues they are making a priority in their advocacy with governments.
14. Come together regularly with others working in the same area to reflect prayerfully on the work you are doing for peace.
15. Approach your local school to find out how it educates students to be peace-makers.
16. Join an ecumenical or interfaith group which seeks to foster dialogue and peace-making.

The challenge of the statement is this: how do we as individuals and as a community work to better create a world of truth telling and peace making? Maybe we start with one action from above and work with others to spread the good news the Prince of Peace gave us. By committing to truth and dialogue, we can contribute to a more peaceful and just world. For further contemplation and action the full statement, *Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World*, will be available on the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website following the launch of the statement on 20th August: <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2024/07/25/social-justice-statement-2024-25/>

Centenary Celebrations at St Mary's Mackay



Enjoying the cake cutting ceremony during Centenary celebration at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Mackay, are Bishop Michael (centre), St Mary's Principal Wes Rose (far right) and Leadership Team members (from left) Belinda Battaia and Terri Leotta, together with Fr Matthias Ogwo and St Mary's students.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Mackay also marked its centenary recently, with a series of memorable celebrations that brought together past and present members of the school community.

The festivities began with a whole-school Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael McCarthy on Tuesday 6 August. The large number of past students and parents commented on the lovely student behaviour and obvious sense of school spirit and pride on display.

A Centenary Dinner was held at the Mackay Showgrounds on Friday 9 August and was a highlight of the week-long celebrations, with over 180 guests gathering to observe the school's milestone. Special guests included Bishop Michael, Mr Michael McCusker (Catholic Education Diocesan Director), Mayor Greg Williamson and Mrs Julie Anne Gilbert (State Member for Mackay). MC for the evening was the Chair of the St Mary's School Board, Mrs Vicki Smith, who undertook her task with grace, good humour and style.

St Mary's Principal, Wes Rose, said the evening was a wonderful occasion which was made even more special by the presence of multi-award-winning songwriter and musician Graeme Connors, a proud past-student of St Mary's. "Graeme delighted the audience with stories and songs from his childhood in South Mackay and had everyone singing along to some of his well-known songs, 'St Mary's Fair', 'Mango shade' and 'A Child of this Land', " Mr Rose said.

The celebrations concluded with a community open day on Sunday 11 August attended by past and current students, staff and parents, to explore a memorabilia display showcasing the school's history. Attendees also enjoyed student performances and participated in a scavenger hunt around the school grounds.

"The week's events were a fitting tribute to the legacy of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, South Mackay, celebrating a century of education and community spirit," Mr Rose said.

Centenary Celebrations at St John's Walkerston



Pictured from left are: Indee (school captain), Georgia (youngest enrolled student), Nathaniel Rice (Principal), Mrs Pauline Stevens (nee Doolan – oldest past student, aged 100!) and Harry (school captain). Photo courtesy of Mackay and Whitsunday Life

St. John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston celebrated a significant occasion last month, marking 100 years since the school opened.

Celebrations commenced with a Centenary Mass on Friday (19 July) followed by the cutting of a ceremonial cake by the youngest current Prep student, Georgia, and the oldest former student, Mrs Pauline Stevens, together with Principal Nathaniel Rice. At 100 years old herself, Mrs Stevens fondly remembered her time at St John's recalling the kindness of the Sisters of Mercy and teachers who left a lasting impression on her.

A Centenary Dinner was also held with nearly 200 attending the night to celebrate and reminisce on days past.

On Sunday (21 July), a Centenary Community Celebration Day was open to all families and the wider community to visit the school and view the extensive memorabilia display which included past school photos from across the decades, uniforms and historical artefacts.

St John's was established in 1924 by the Sisters of Mercy with around 60 students. Such was the demand that enrolments almost doubled within six months. Now, in 2024, the school accommodates 347 students across 14 classes with a focus on growing and expanding for the students of tomorrow.

Mr Rice reflected on the school's evolution, emphasising the importance of adapting to changing times while maintaining the school's core values and traditions. "Schools are an ever changing and evolving system, so keeping up with the times is really important for us," he said. Those who joined in the celebrations had commented on how wonderful it was to spend time at the school and share their memories.

Blessing and Opening of Presentation Place



Srs Patsy and Patrice with Faith in Action Captain, Cassidy, and Bishop Michael.

On Thursday 25 July, Bishop Michael McCarthy officially blessed and opened St Ursula's new I Block building, Presentation Place, and its adjoining courtyard, Cove Lane. Special Guests included Presentation Sisters, Patsy Grundy and Patrice Cuthbert, who travelled from Brisbane to attend the event. College Principal, Mrs Deborah Ryan, told those gathered at the blessing ceremony that, "The Presentation heritage and the charism of Nano Nagle is evident in daily College life, and we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us as we continue to empower and educate young women."



College Board Chair, Ann Marie Pawsey, College Principal, Deborah Ryan, and Bishop Michael

Presentation Place was designed to enhance the learning environment at the College for generations to come. JM Handley Builders constructed the new building, comprising six teaching spaces and two flexible learning spaces, amenities block and covered seating area. This project was the final piece of the College's previous Masterplan, with construction remaining a focal point during 2023. "We appreciate the professionalism and guidance provided by JM Handley Builders and Bold Architecture + Interior Design in bringing this project to fruition," Mrs Ryan said.



Bold Architecture + Interior Design Director, Stewart Bagley, Interior Designer, Suellen Bagley, College Business Manager, Peta Tomkins, and College Principal, Deborah Ryan.

In Loving Memory



We remember in prayer our loved ones who have died.

Bundaberg

Paul Lastavec, Vinko Silic, Josipa Dakic, Gweneth Murphy, Graham Wallace, Jennifer Barnes

Capricorn Coast

Sr Andrea McGrath pbvm, Mary McEniery, Alan Hayes, Patricia(Pat) Kinbacher, and Jim McCormack

Emerald

Michael Donnelly

Gladstone

Florencio Vivas, Felisa Borbon, Juan Borbon, Maximo Borbon Sr, Edwin Diola, Noela Gunston, Vinh Nguyen

Rockhampton

Joan Tierney, Betty Griffin, Sr France Paine OP, Alan Liddell, Joan Busby, Sr Brenda Moss, Pat Tummon, Veronica Saunders, Janette Lacey

This is an edited version of the Diocesan Newsletter. The full edition can be seen at <https://rok.catholic.net.au/news-events/bishops-newsletter/?edition=august-2024>