

### Sharing the Journey through Catholic Education Week

More than 300 Catholic schools across Queensland will be finding new ways of sharing their journey of living and learning during Catholic Education Week next week.

Queensland Catholic Education Commission Executive Director Dr Lee-Anne Perry said the week of celebration was a time to focus on the achievements of Catholic schools from the Torres Strait in the north to Currumbin in the south and west to Mt Isa and Quilpie.

“This year our theme for Catholic Education Week is Sharing the Journey and we want communities right across the state to share in the experiences of their local Catholic schools,” Dr Perry said.

“Catholic Education Week is all about celebrating the distinctive ethos of Catholic schools and celebrating the many journeys our students and staff are making in teaching and learning, in faith, and in family and community life.

Dr Perry said there would also be a strong sense of journey when the official launch of Catholic Education Week is held in Cairns on Wednesday 26 July.

“It’s the first time we have held the launch event outside Brisbane and it’s exciting that so many guests plan to travel to Cairns for the launch which will be hosted at St Andrew’s Catholic College, Redlynch Valley,” she said.

“The launch will be a wonderful celebration of Catholic education in a vibrant, growing region with representatives from all over the state joining the St Andrew’s community.”

The event will include a Mass attended by around 800 students and celebrated by Archbishop of Brisbane, the Most Reverend Mark Coleridge and Bishop of Cairns, the Most Reverend James Foley, as well as the presentation of the Spirit of Catholic Education Awards. (See attached list of recipients)

Education Minister Kate Jones will be on hand to present the awards to recipients from throughout Queensland.

Dr Perry said across the week there would be a wide range of celebrations around the state from liturgies to parent days, community visits, student leadership pilgrimages and school assemblies.

“All of our 147,000 students are in a vitally important stage of their journey as they attend school and Catholic schools are focused on preparing them for the road ahead.

“The students are supported by the work of more than 19,000 staff in Queensland Catholic schools who play a guiding role in the lives of students and their families.”

Dr Perry said Catholic Education Week was also a time to acknowledge the partnerships between schools and families.

“Families play a vital role in all Catholic schools,” Dr Perry said.

“Parents and carers support school staff and work with them to make the most of the many opportunities available to enrich each student’s individual journey.

“They are also the volunteers reading in classrooms, serving meals at tuckshops, tirelessly raising funds to provide students with extra opportunities, sharing their professional expertise and contributing financially through school fees,” she said.

More information about Catholic Education Week, details of the Spirit of Catholic Education Award recipients and a list of events can be found at <http://www.catholiceducationweek.com.au/>. For photos of the recipients please contact QCEC.

## Spirit of Catholic Education Award Recipients 2017

**Dr Peter Webb**

Teacher

Chisholm Catholic College, Cornubia (Archdiocese of Brisbane)

**Mr Ben Smith**

Teacher

Mount St Bernard College, Herberton (Diocese of Cairns)

**Sr Lyn Freestone**

Teacher

St Joseph's Catholic School, Cloncurry (Diocese of Townsville)

**Sr Mary Stallard**

Former Principal and Teacher

Catholic Parish of Bundaberg (Diocese of Rockhampton)

**Fr Ray Crowley**

College Chaplain

St Saviour's College, St Mary's College, St Joseph's College, Toowoomba  
(Diocese of Toowoomba)

**Mr Anthony Young**

Head of Classroom Music and Choral Activities

St Laurence's College, South Brisbane (RI/PJP/Other)

**Mrs Coral Way**

(Aunty Joan Hendriks Reconciliation Award)

Indigenous Education Coordinator

Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton

**ENDS**

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