



## *Media Release*

26 July 2023

### **Celebrating Catholic Education this week!**

Townsville Catholic Education is proud to announce the commencement of Catholic Education Week 2023, themed “Communities of Faith, Hope and Love”.

This state-wide event is celebrated annually in week 3 of term 3 and is an opportunity for all 309 Catholic schools in Queensland to promote their distinctive mission and ethos.

Catholic education seeks to make a difference in the lives of those in our schools and in the wider community by challenging young people to live out the message of Jesus and to reach their full potential.

This year, the Townsville Diocese is the official host of Catholic Education Week, and not only are we excited for celebrate Catholic Education Week, we are also celebrating 150 years of Catholic education in the Townsville Diocese, which makes this milestone extra special year.

The celebrations commenced on Monday night with the special Deus Caritas Est and Spirit of Catholic Education award Liturgy. The Catholic Education Deus Caritas Est Award is our most prestigious student award. Each of our secondary schools nominated one representative who demonstrated a commitment to Christian living in how they interact and treat others.

The Spirit of Catholic Education Awards (SOCE) nominees were also recognised at this special liturgy. Nominees, including teams, are recognised across a number of categories for excellence in their work, leadership, service, initiative and creating positive change for indigenous students.

On Tuesday, we started the day with a special pilgrimage from St Joseph's Catholic School, The Strand to the Sacred Heart Cathedral. St Joseph's Catholic School, The Strand is the oldest school in the Townsville Diocese celebrating 150 years of education this year.

Once students arrived at the Cathedral, we welcomed schools and special guests to the CEW Mass which commenced with a special smoking ceremony welcoming us to country.

Most Reverend Archbishop Mark Coleridge who travelled to Townsville from Brisbane and Most Reverend Bishop Tim Harris were the celebrants of the Mass who ensured that the Townsville community were blessed with a beautiful celebration focussed on this year’s theme of Communities of Faith, Hope and Love.

After Mass, special guests were invited to the State Spirit of Catholic Education Awards where a SOCE recipients from each Diocese was celebrated, along with the Aunty Joan Hendriks Reconciliation Award winner. This award was won by Townsville Catholic Education's own, Gail Laffin who is the Indigenous Education Teacher a Ryan Catholic College.

For those interested in exploring employment opportunities in the Catholic Education system, a Townsville Catholic Education Expo will be held on Thursday at the Ville. Whether you're interested in a teacher position, school officer, or roles within the head office of the organisation, there is something to suit everyone.

We encourage the public to come by and see what opportunities are available at Townsville Catholic Education, whether it is in Townsville itself, or in the West in Mount Isa, south in Proserpine or north up to Ingham. The expo will commence at 5.30pm at the Ville Resort-Casino, Townsville.

Catholic education strives to create an independent faith-filled community of students, staff, and families in which every person helps to foster the spiritual, academic, and ethical development of others, which we've been honoured to witness this week.

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