



**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021**  
**Week Three Term Two**

Dear Families

Like all of you I am sure, I enjoyed the extra day to my weekend yesterday. Labour Day recognises the work of all who contribute to our economy. It was created to commemorate the granting of the eight-hour working day for Australians. Included with this decision was the recognition that workers needed to take time away from work to rest and care for themselves.

Pausing and enjoying 'quiet moments' in our day is something we still struggle to prioritise. Marcus Braybrooke tells of a poem published about Joan of Arc where a number of pages were left entirely blank. This was done apparently to give the reader 'time to think'. He says, "**We need blank pages in our lives....a pocket of stillness amid the rush....**a precious place in which we can be truly ourselves, where we can listen to our inner voice, focus on our inner light."

"Being still" is the first rule of prayer and it is more difficult than it sounds. Try sitting still for 5 minutes. How did you go? What were you thinking? Were you fidgeting? Could you really let go?

You can practise stillness anywhere – walking, queuing at the store, folding clothes, waiting for the kettle, or if you're lucky, sitting in your favourite quiet spot! Instead of being tired or impatient, put the time to good use – **put the phone away and breathe deeply and pray....or just focus on being quiet in the Lord's presence.**

Sometimes in relationships we can find silences awkward. We try to fill them with chatter. As our love for the person deepens... we can relax into silence. So too with our God. I wish you a week with at least one quiet spot....no matter where that may happen...just make sure it does!!! (Could be a great Mother's Day present 😊)

*Grant me the ability to be alone;  
may it be my custom to go outside each day  
among the trees and grasses,  
among all growing things,  
and there may I be alone,  
and enter into prayer  
to talk with the one  
that I belong to...*

Lao Tsu (b.604?BCE), Chinese sage

God bless you and Live Jesus in Your Hearts Forever!

Jennett Mullane  
Principal

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**WHERE THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU**

**Regional Indigenous Education Liaison Officer Gladstone Region**

Applications are invited for this term time (32 hpw) contract position

Visit our website and apply today!

[www.rok.catholic.edu.au](http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au)

Applications close 16 May 2021

Catholic Education is committed to best practice in student protection policies and procedures.



#bethedifference

**From our APRE**



This was a gift from a dear friend of mine and it is one of my treasured possessions. The second reading from Sunday reminded me of this commandment. If we can't remember the Ten Commandments we can live by this one and simply love each other. It would surely make the world a better place.

**From the first letter of St John -**

***His commandments are these:  
that we believe in the name of his Son  
Jesus Christ  
and that we love one another  
as he told us to.***

The Gospel reading from John – ‘*I am the vine, you are the branches.*’ reminds me of the importance to stay connected. If we disconnect from the vine we wither and die. Celebrate the goodness and God and remember to love those around you.

The focus virtue this week is Understanding. An understanding heart gives you empathy and compassion for others. Understanding is the power to think and learn and also to care.

**“Just because you don’t understand it doesn’t mean it isn’t so.” - Lemony Snicket**

You are practicing

# Understanding

when you...

- Concentrate and pay close attention
- Reflect on the meaning of things
- See the whole picture
- Resist distractions
- Put yourself in other people's shoes
- Forgive others and yourself when you make mistakes

**Affirmation**

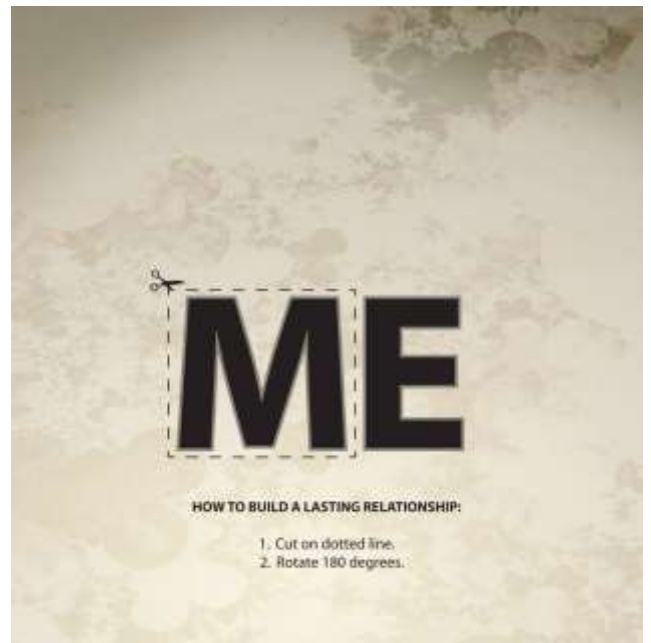
*I have an understanding mind. I see the truth about things. I have an understanding heart. I have empathy for other people's feelings.*



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**MJR Message**

So simple and yet so powerful. WE are all in this together and WE can do it.



**WEEKLY WONDERING**

**I wonder why Jesus is the vine and we are the branches?**

***Have a wonderful week and love those around you,***

***Kellie Richardson  
Assistant Principal: Religious Education***



## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

- We pray for our mothers who quietly bring such joy and love to our lives: May we never take them for granted and ensure our gratitude is shown.
- We pray for all of those suffering due to the COVID Pandemic, especially those experiencing its extreme effects such as in India: May they be given strength in their suffering and consolation in their grief, and may they receive the treatment and care they so desperately need.
- We pray for all of us during this Easter season: May we proclaim the message of our risen Christ with hope and joy and conviction.
- We pray for all men and women called to the Priesthood and Religious life: May they feel the love and support of their faith communities in the important ministries they share.
- We pray for all those who have died: May God grant them the peace and joy and hope of the resurrection.



**DATE CLAIMER  
THIS THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup>  
MAY**



***Every student will have the chance to buy a mother's day present. Don't forget to bring along some money!***

***Presents vary from \$1 to \$5 and raffle tickets @ 50c each. Raffle tickets are always popular.***

***Please send a bag with your child that they can place their presents in.***

***We are also in need of parent helpers who can donate an hour or two to assist us that day. Please contact the school office if you can help.***

## CURRICULUM NEWS

Our Reading project is in full swing and last week was a great example of all we are doing to promote reading growth across the school.

We welcomed back our Reading Star's volunteers and Gracie, our Reading Dog (and her wonderful owner, Bonnie). These men and women play an important role in building reading success in our students and we are grateful for their time and the time Mrs Blake puts into organizing them.

You may also hear of your children reading more regularly to other teachers and teacher assistants. Reading volume has been shown to be an essential part of building engagement and skill in our readers so we are looking to provide as many opportunities to read TO and WITH as possible.

If your child gets the opportunity to read in one of these ways, **please celebrate this with them**. There are many different reasons that children are selected to read to these adults and they may not necessarily do this all year.

They may be selected because they are making steady growth and we want to give them a push to speed up their progress. It may be that they need some targeted support or just that we are trying to build engagement and / or confidence.

We are meeting regularly with teachers to talk about the readers in their classrooms and plan for the best teaching and learning experiences to assist reading growth. We are monitoring our reading data very closely and look forward to sharing with you some of the success stories along the way.

Don't forget that one of the most important people who can help your child's reading growth is you. Wherever you can, please take the time to show an interest in words and books.

- Notice interesting words and talk about them – BECOME WORD EXPLORERS.
- Let them see you reading your own books for fun.
- Take time to read books together for fun as often as you can.
- Don't just limit it to books. Show them how they can get information from posters, magazines etc.

- In the younger grades please try to listen to them read as close to daily as you can. Maybe you need to read it first and then together before they slowly start to gain the confidence to read independently.

- Writing is also a great way of learning to read as it helps build up knowledge of letters and sounds. Encourage them to write shopping list etc. Younger grades can even write labels for items around the home and then they can read them whenever they walk past.



Have a great week everyone!

**Anthony King**  
**Assistant Principal: Curriculum**

## ***Scholastic Book Club***

Last term there was a handwritten, unnamed Book Club order which was given to the school office. The Teachers have checked with their classes; however, the order has not been claimed.

If this order might belong to your family, please contact Mrs Genelle Little, Year 1A or the school office on 4972 1305.

### **\*\* TERM 2 SCHOOL FEES \*\***

Good Afternoon parents ☺

Fees were sent out last week via email. If you haven't yet received your fees, please contact the office. (Please also check your junk email in case the fees were directed there. They are sent from the [sosg\\_finance@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sosg_finance@rok.catholic.edu.au) email address).

#### **FEES FOR T2 ARE DUE THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MAY**

Did you know?

- You can obtain copies of your fee statement by logging onto the Parent Lounge.
- If you make regular payments on your fees, you can also view these and obtain a current balance at any time.
- You can make payments through Parent Lounge. Once you've logged in to Parent Lounge, click on "Accounts & Payments" and select "School Fees Account". From there you can follow the links to Make a Payment.

If you currently hold a Centrelink Health Care or Concession Card, you may be eligible for a discount on your school fees. If you have such a card and not currently receiving the discount on your fees, please contact the office to confirm if your card is eligible.

If you have not received your fees, or feel that you will not be able to pay your fees by the due date, please contact the office on 49721305 or [sosg\\_finance@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sosg_finance@rok.catholic.edu.au).

Thank you ☺

Kaddie Dawe – Finance Officer

## **Friendship Corner**

**10.30 – 12pm**

**1a Manning Street Gladstone**

Friendship Corner has been established by the volunteers of Intergreat Queensland, created to support new residents of Gladstone to find new friends and build supportive connections, the program offers information about the services and facilities available within the Gladstone Region.

All local and new residents are welcome to attend. Coffee and tea provided.

\*\*\*\*RSVP is essential

For more information and to register,  
please contact 07 4903 1931 or email [admin@integreatqld.org.au](mailto:admin@integreatqld.org.au)



## Every day counts...

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rockhampton are great places for *belonging* (feeling valued and respecting others), *connecting* (to our faith tradition and by making lifelong friends) and *learning* (about ourselves and our world). By attending and engaging in school every day, our students increase the likelihood of:

- succeeding in and enjoying their learning
- thriving as they collaborate
- embracing the challenge of new skills
- growing in understanding

### Did you know that...

<b>If your child misses...</b>	<b>2 DAYS</b> per term	<b>4 DAYS</b> per term	<b>6 DAYS</b> per term	<b>8 DAYS</b> per term
<b>That equals...</b>	<b>8 DAYS</b> per year	<b>16 DAYS</b> per year	<b>24 DAYS</b> per year	<b>32 DAYS</b> per year
<b>Over 13 years of schooling that's...</b>	<b>104 DAYS</b>	<b>208 DAYS</b>	<b>312 DAYS</b>	<b>416 DAYS</b>
<b>Which is...</b>	nearly <b>21 WEEKS</b>	nearly <b>42 WEEKS</b>	over <b>62 WEEKS</b>	over <b>83 WEEKS</b>

Every day counts and as a high priority, we want our students to be at school, every day (unless they are unwell). Our schools are welcoming, safe, inclusive centres of learning, designed to promote student well being and progress so please contact your Principal to discuss any factors that might be affecting your child's attendance and engagement at school.



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

*belonging, connecting, learning*

## **DATE CLAIMER**

### **Whole School Picnic and Disco**

**Friday 11 June  
5:30pm – 8:00pm**



***Come and help us celebrate the great new facilities we have.***

***Bring your own dinner and a rug and enjoy a picnic and a dance.***

***A bar will be operating on the night to sell drinks.***

***Parents should please be aware that, while some dance music is being organised for the student's enjoyment, no formal supervision of the children is being provided by the school. Parents are responsible for the supervision of their children during this social gathering.***

***Students may not attend this function without being accompanied by a supervising adult.***

***A reminder not to attend if you are unwell or experiencing Covid symptoms. Please sign in on arrival and obey all distancing guidelines.***



# Student of the Week Award

*Congratulations for always giving your very best. You shine your light in the way you strive for excellence and you show your peers an example of how they can achieve more.*





