



# ST THERESE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONTO



## PARENT & CARER HANDBOOK



(07) 4166 1654



[stm@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stm@rok.catholic.edu.au)



2-10 Rayleigh St.  
Monto Q 4630

School hrs: 8:45am - 3:00pm  
Office hrs: 8:00am - 3:30pm



# ST THERESE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,

## MONTO

## Welcome

Welcome to St Therese's Catholic Primary School. As we enter 2024, we are pleased to introduce our new Principal, Mr. Scott Murray, who is supported by our Assistant to the Principal - Religious Education (APRE), Miss Rebecca Place.

Our school's Vision and Mission Statement encourages the development of partnerships between parents, school, and the wider community. With education constantly evolving due to government, system, and internal influences, our school aims to provide an education for your child that represents the current curriculum initiatives.

We encourage you to become actively involved in your child's education. Our teachers are always willing to discuss your child's progress and learning needs with you. There are several committees and events that parents and friends can attend, and parent help in classrooms and within the general school is always welcomed.

St Therese's Catholic Primary School prides itself on being a family community and is well known for the family atmosphere it has created and continues to nurture. One of our school's strengths is our community spirit and the way we support each other. Due to the smaller size of our school, the welcoming nature of the students, parents, and staff, and our emphasis on the importance of family and the values of Catholic Education, our students are able to learn and grow in a supportive and caring environment. We celebrate the lives of all those in our school community – not just the children!

The purpose of this booklet is to further acquaint you with various aspects of the life of the school. Please do not hesitate to contact our Principal if you have any further questions. I am sure you will find and continue to find your association with the St Therese's family a most rewarding experience.

## Mission and Vision

### Vision Statement


At St Therese's Catholic Primary School we aspire to follow the teachings of Jesus to develop compassionate members of the global community who will embrace wisdom, lead innovation and be inspired by St Therese to make a difference by doing little things for others.

### Mission Statement


At St Therese's Catholic Primary School:

- We Make Jesus Real;
- We follow the charism of Nano Nagle;
- We do Manners, We do Respect, We play Nicely, We Learn;
- We actively encourage Growth and Reflective Mindsets;
- We foster Belonging, Connecting, Learning within and outside the school community;
- We emphasise the value of individuality and encourage students to reach their full potential.



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# ST THERESE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONTO

## Principal's Welcome

Welcome to St. Therese's Catholic Primary School, Monto.

It is with great pride that I introduce myself as the principal of St. Therese's, commencing in 2024.

My journey in education has taken me from the Townsville Diocese in Far North Queensland to the heart of Western Catholic Schools, where I have developed a deep appreciation for the unique sense of community and lifestyle inherent in smaller schools.

At St. Therese's, we are committed to providing a high-quality education deeply grounded in the Catholic tradition. Our approach aligns with my core values as an educational leader, emphasising the importance of leading by example, upholding the school's expectations within the community, and setting high academic and personal standards for our students. We believe in preparing them to be future leaders who make meaningful contributions to society.

We understand the significance of a well-rounded education. Our students engage in a diverse array of academic, sporting, musical, and social justice activities. Our aim is to nurture their skills, resilience, and talents, fostering a strong sense of compassion and justice, so they are equipped to positively impact our community.

Our small school size allows for multi-age classes that provide a nurturing, spiritual, and student-centered learning environment. Our dedicated teachers at St. Therese's utilise the latest educational practices and tailor their approach to our multi-age philosophy, catering to each child's unique abilities and needs.

A pivotal aspect of our students' success is the strong sense of belonging fostered within our school community, bolstered by consistent support and encouragement.

I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to welcome you and your family to St. Therese's Catholic Primary School, Monto, and to be a part of your child's educational journey.

God bless,

Mr Scott Murray  
Principal  
St Therese's Catholic Primary School, Monto  
[scott\\_murray@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:scott_murray@rok.catholic.edu.au)



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# ST THERESE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONTO

## History of St Therese's, Monto



St Therese's Catholic Primary School is a small school situated in the rural community of Monto, within the Diocese of Rockhampton in Central Queensland. The school caters for students from Prep (Preparatory Year) to Year Six. Our school has strong links with the St Therese's Parish community.

We encourage all members of the school community to have a faith-filled commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ. As a community we strive to create an environment dedicated to enriching the development of the social, emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual capabilities of each individual. Our beliefs about learners and learning are informed by the Diocesan Learning Framework.

Through the implementation of an Inclusive Curriculum, we endeavour

- to develop lifelong learners who:
- value and encourage each others special talents;
- use Christian values to shape their lives;

contribute to the life of the parish and their communities.

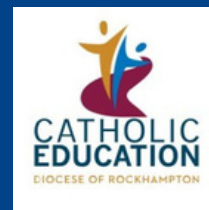
St Therese's Catholic Primary School supports the philosophy of an integrated approach to curriculum. We share a belief that this approach to learning will:

- Be an effective means of creating a greater sense of purpose in the learning process by making clear connections between the key learning areas;
- Guide learners towards a positive and real life experience of the world.

Our Mission Statement is the very essence of our vision – making this statement a living and visible presence in the everyday life of the school.



# ST THERESE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONTO



## CATHOLIC EDUCATION DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

There were Catholic schools in what is now the Diocese of Rockhampton before the Diocese was formed. The first Catholic school was opened in Rockhampton in 1863 by the first Parish Priest, Father Charles Murlay and Miss Bridget Mary Ennis. The infants' and girls' school opened in Alma Street Rockhampton and the boys' school in West Street in 1868. Faint traces survive suggesting that there may have been small lay schools in other centres as well.

There were two lay schools in Mackay by 1869 and it seems one in Gladstone by 1871. The Sisters of St Joseph came to Mackay in 1872 at the invitation of legendary French Priest Father Pierre Marie Bucas and pioneer Irish Sugar Planter TH Fitzgerald. The Sisters were active in opening numerous schools, Copperfield 1873, Gladstone 1874, and Bundaberg 1876.

The Sisters of Mercy arrived in Rockhampton in 1873 and took responsibility for the infants' and girls' school which became known as St Patrick's and in 1880 a second group of Sisters arrived in Mackay. In 1882 the Diocese of Brisbane was divided into two, with the new Diocese of Rockhampton now coming into place.

The story of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton is one of courage, sacrifice, struggle and vision; a story of commitment and above all of faith and trust in a provident God. Scanning the archival records we read in awe of how priests, religious, parents and lay educators battled tirelessly in some of the most difficult conditions and often against all the odds to provide children of successive generations with an opportunity to acquire knowledge of the world and to be always mindful of the call of Jesus and the Mission of the wider Church.

The Diocesan Catholic Education Office commenced in 1964 and was the first Catholic Education Office in Queensland. Prior to this various priests had toured the Diocese as Inspectors of Religious Education in schools. The Rev Dr Cecil Ballard was appointed as the First Director 1963 – 1975. After Dr Ballard's death in 1975, Rev Dr Kevin Castles was appointed as the Second Director 1975 – 1988. When Dr Castles retired from the position Mr Joe McCorley was appointed as the Third Director of Catholic Education for the Rockhampton Diocese from 1988 – 2001. Mr McCorley accepted the position of Executive Director for Queensland Catholic Education Commission in early 2001 and in July of that same year Miss Leesa Jeffcoat was appointed the Fourth and Current Director for Catholic Education in the Rockhampton Diocese.

In 2013 Catholic Education celebrated 150 years of Catholic schools in the Diocese and another exciting chapter in the long history of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton has since been written with St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald opening in 2014 and St Brendan's Catholic Primary School opening in the Northern Beaches area of Mackay in 2015.

From those humble beginnings back in 1863, 31 primary schools, 8 colleges as well as Kindergartens and facilities in various centres across the Diocese now provide educational opportunities based on a strong Catholic ethos to families from Bundaberg to Mackay and west to Longreach. Gospel based education is provided to over 16 000 students from Kindergarten to Year 12, encouraging student development not only academically, but also spiritually, socially, emotionally and physically to become considerate and contributing members of society.

From humble beginnings to the vibrant and successful education facilities we see today. The story of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton continues to be written as we continue to 'honour the past, enrich the present, shape the future and find meaning for life.'



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# ST THERESE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONTO

## WHAT'S ON IN 2024

### Term 1

- Welcome BBQ
- Beginning of Year Mass
- Swimming
- Swimming Carnival
- Bishop's In-service Day
- Ash Wednesday
- Open Night
- Holy Week Celebrations

### Term 3

- Parent Teacher Interviews
- Challenge Cup
- Catholic Education Week
- Father's Day
- Year 6 Camp
- Day for Daniel
- World Teachers' Day QLD
- Open Night

### Term 2

- Monto District Cross Country
- ANZAC Day March
- NAPLAN Online Testing
- Monto Show
- Athletics Carnivals
- Mother's Day
- Abercorn Goodwill Games
- Open Night

### Term 4

- School Photos
- Swimming Carnival
- 5 & 6 Camp
- Life Education Van
- Celebration Night
- St Therese's Fair
- Graduation Mass



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# ST THERESE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONTO

## SCHOOL UNIFORM GUIDELINES

At St Therese's Catholic Primary School, we are dedicated to creating an educational environment that respects the dignity of each individual, upholds our community and Catholic values, and aligns with the Australian Curriculum. We promote that both students and staff enjoy a safe and optimal setting for everyone. The belief that each person is made in the image and likeness of God, recognises the inherent dignity and worth of every individual, which forms the foundation of our respect for all. Guided by our school motto, "All deeds for God," we strive in presentation, conduct, and behaviour to live out these values daily in our presentation, conduct, and behaviour influenced by the Berry Street Education Model, which stresses the importance of a nurturing, structured, and engaging learning environment.

### Girls' Uniform

- Shirt: Blue St Therese's School Shirt
- Socks: Short, plain, white, ankle-length.
- Shoes: Black leather shoes or joggers – no coloured trimmings.
- Shorts/Skorts: Blue St Therese's School Shorts/Skorts

### Boys' Uniform

- Shirt: Blue St Therese's School Shirt
- Socks: Short, plain, white, ankle-length.
- Shoes: Black leather shoes or joggers – no coloured trimmings.
- Shorts: Blue St Therese's School Shorts

### Additional Uniform Items

- Hat: Must be a school bucket hat, available for purchase from the school office.
- Jumper: Must be a blue jumper, available for sale in our office.
- School bag: Students may bring any neat and tidy school bag. There is no specific school uniform bag, but a school bag with the school logo is available for purchase at our office.

### Winter/Cooler Months

- Blue jumper: Students may wear a plain blue jumper over their school shirt during cooler weather. The jumper must be free of logos or patterns and appropriately sized. Hoodies or sweatshirts are not allowed.
- Blue Tracksuit Pants: On particularly cold days, students may wear a plain blue tracksuit over their uniform. The tracksuit is to be free of visible branding or logos and fit appropriately.
- Blue leggings/tights: Students may wear plain blue leggings or tights under their school uniform during cooler weather. These must be free of any patterns or designs.
- Beanies and gloves: Students may wear plain blue beanies and gloves during cooler or winter weather, as determined by school staff. These items must be logo-free and blue only. They can be worn to and from the school or while outside but must be removed once inside the classrooms.

### Staff discretion:

School staff reserve the right to determine when it is appropriate for students to wear additional clothing during cooler or winter weather, including plain blue beanies and gloves, and other blue accessory pieces such as hair ties, ribbons, or headbands.



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### STUDENT ABSENCE

Parents are to ensure the regular attendance of their children. Electronic rolls are marked twice daily (morning and afternoon) in accordance with State Department regulations.

Please advise the school if your child is going to be absent, and provide the reason for the absence. An email, or a phone call to the school, is required.

Parents wishing to take children away for an extended period must inform the Principal of their intention.

If a child is absent from school without explanation, an SMS will be sent to parents after the roll has been marked.

### GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

For safety, students are not permitted to leave the school grounds once they have entered them. If parents request that their child/children come home, a written request addressed to the Principal, signed and dated by the parent, is required prior.

It is preferred that dental and medical appointments are attended to out of school time wherever possible. The school understands that this cannot always be arranged. If your child will be absent during school time for appointments, please advise the class teacher in writing or contact the school.

If the drop-off and pick-up times cannot be adhered to at any time, please contact the school and make alternate arrangements. If no contact is made, we will endeavour to contact the parents or the appointed next of kin to ensure the safety of the child. The school takes no responsibility for students who enter the grounds prior to 8:20 am or who remain behind after the last bus has departed.

Parents are asked to label all clothing and personal property clearly. The school takes no responsibility for lost personal property. There is a lost property basket in the front office for any items collected.

Swimming lessons, music, sporting activities (carnivals), LOTE, and/or arts council performances are part of the school curriculum. A written explanation from parents is required if your child is absent from these lessons.


Please inform the Principal of any changes to personal details or circumstances that need to be noted on our records (e.g. telephone number, address, medical history, etc.).

Technology devices such as mobile phones and iPads must be handed in to the office upon arrival and collected before leaving the school in the afternoon. Smartwatches are not permitted with a SIM or eSIM.


### PARENT HELP

Parent/carers' help in the classroom and around the school is welcomed and appreciated. On occasion, working bees are held, and any assistance you can provide is very much appreciated.

Please contact your child's classroom teacher or the Principal, and they will advise you where help is needed and any Blue Card requirements.

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# ST THERESE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONTO

## 2024 STAFFING

### **LEADERSHIP:**

PRINCIPAL:

Mr. Scott Murray

Assistant Principal of Religious Education:  
(APRE) & ARTS/HPE

Miss. Rebecca Place

### **TEACHING STAFF:**

PREP

Miss. Brooklyn Stone

YEAR 1 & 2

Miss. Alexa Campbell

YEAR 3, 4 & 5

Mrs. Naomi Romano

YEAR 6

Ms. Leiane Nelson

### **ANCILLARY STAFF:**

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Mrs. Lorraine Muller

SCHOOL CLEANER

Mrs Mabelle Alcoreza

GROUND'S STAFF

Mrs Tracey Larsen

### **SCHOOL OFFICERS:**

TEACHER ASSISTANT

Mrs Kellie Farmer

TEACHER ASSISTANT

Mrs Rebecca Glasgow

TEACHER ASSISTANT

Mrs Jemma Dahtler

TEACHER ASSISTANT

Miss Breanna Cook

TEACHER ASSISTANT/LIBRARIAN

Mrs Helene McCracken

## ST THERESE'S PARISH, MONTO

### **CONTACTS**

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Simeon Uchendu

PASTORAL COUNCIL CONTACT:

Mary Ann List

### **ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

Street Address

35 Melton Street, Biloela Qld 4715

Postal Address


PO Box 143, Biloela Qld 4715

07 4992 1252


### **LOCATION**

Cnr Rutherford St & Maxwell St, Monto Qld  
4630

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