

# CELEBRATIONS / COMMEMORATIONS

**Scope:** This policy applies to St Patrick's College ('the College') Mackay conducted by Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton (referred to as Catholic Education in the document).

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

St Patrick's College will plan and conduct ceremonies for the college community that celebrate the ethos of the Catholic faith, in general and the College, in particular.

## 2. DESCRIPTION

As a college of over 80 years, the College should celebrate the traditions of the school and the relevant rituals that evolve as the College grows in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Celebrations, ceremonies, rituals and events should be planned to reflect and support our mission statement and faith.

When planning Celebrations or Commemorations, the following will be taken into consideration:

- Gratitude:** The College comes together to give thanks and appreciation eg Cultural Showcase & Awards Evening; Sports Dinner etc.
- Community:** The College joins together to share a common purpose and set of values eg Opening Mass, Welcome BBQ etc.
- Hope:** The College gathers to engender a sense of hope in difficult times eg funeral; remembrance service etc.
- Joy:** The College celebrates the important rites of passage and rituals of growth eg Graduation; Valedictory etc.
- Remembrance:** The College pauses to remember the brave deeds of past students and community members eg Anzac Day Ceremony; Rats of Tobruk etc.
- Partnership:** The College combines with its major partners to celebrate our common goals eg Success at Senior Study; Senior Schooling Night etc.
- Conviviality:** The College revels in the sociable elements of running a school with staff, students, parents and clergy eg Parent Functions; World Teachers' Day etc.

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

- Celebrate our unique character;
- Celebrate our joy – commemoration of tragedy;
- Two year journey is marked by the highs of achievement, growth and rites of passage.
- The celebrations, rituals, symbols and traditions of the college will be constructed to emphasise faith, joy, belonging, service, hope and acknowledgement of effort and achievement.

## 4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

Ecclesiastes 3 : 1 - 8 "To Everything there is a Season"