

# Star of the Sea Catholic College

## Newsletter

7th December 2021

### From the Principal

**We are not supposed to manufacture the “perfect” Christmas.**

“Are you ready for Christmas?” This is a question many of us will be asked in the coming weeks. And most likely we will respond with something like, “Just a few more presents to get,” or “I’m going to the supermarket two days before Christmas this year to avoid the crowds.”

But when we think about it, it is a funny question to ask, because whether we are “ready” or not, Christmas will still come. It won’t matter how many presents we have brought or how much food we have prepared, Christmas will come. And even if we think that we don’t have enough presents or food on the day, it will all still happen.

Over the years we have been led to believe that Christmases have to happen in a certain way, and if they don’t then it’s not a “true” Christmas. Some of this comes from the traditions in our families, while some of it comes from the messages we get from watching Christmas ads. Ads for supermarkets or department stores at this time of year make us believe that, to have a “proper” Christmas, we have to have certain food on the table, or have our tree decorated in a certain way, or have certain presents under the tree. Otherwise it’s just not Christmas!

So what we end up doing is trying to manufacture a “perfect” Christmas. We make sure we have certain Christmas trees and certain food and certain presents, and our Christmas day activities are done in a certain way so we can take a picture of them and send it out to all of our friends to let them know we are celebrating the perfect Christmas.

In her Christmas song, *Love is Christmas*, Sara Bareilles talks of what Christmas means to her, saying that she doesn’t care if there are presents or not, what is important is the people. “Love is not a toy,” she sings, “and no paper will conceal it.” Her song recognises that we are not supposed to manufacture the “perfect” Christmas.

Perhaps that is why, when we think back to past Christmases, we find the ones we enjoyed the most were the free-flowing ones. They were the ones where someone started a game of cricket in the backyard that went on into the evening. They were the ones where the kids started a water fight and everyone joined in. They were the ones when everyone joined in with a board game someone received as a present and laughed themselves silly. They weren’t memorable *because of* the cricket game, or the water fight, or the board game. They were memorable because of the loving relationships of the people who were there. The stuff that happened just gave a chance for those loving relationships to be expressed.

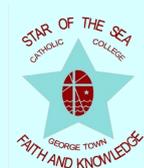
So how do we get ready for Christmas? Probably by doing as little as possible. You can get ready for a Christmas meal, or you can get ready to give and receive Christmas presents, but if we want to get ready for Christmas itself, all we have to do is be open to receiving the love of those who are important in our lives.

**Mr Richard Chapman,  
Principal**



Love is who we are,  
and no season can  
contain it  
Love would never  
fall for that.  
- Sara Bareilles  
(Love is Christmas)

Attentiveness,  
Hospitality  
and  
Compassion.



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*Star of the Sea Catholic College acknowledges the Leterremairener people as the traditional custodians of the land on which our school stands.*

# Religious Education and Faith Development

## The Feast of the Immaculate Conception December 8

*“Greetings favoured one! The Lord is with you.” (Luke 1:28)*

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception teaches that Mary at her conception was born free of the impact of original sin through the gift of God’s grace. Mary received the greatest gift of all from God: to be blessed as the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, we are each gifted in so many ways by God. Like Mary, we need to cheerfully accept these gifts and use them responsibly to spread the love and compassion of God to those whom we encounter every day.

The celebration of The Immaculate Conception on 8th December is a fitting time to thank God for the unshakable example of Mary and to pray for guidance about how we, like Mary, can also bring the face of Christ to others. The season of Advent is the perfect time to reflect on our gifts and attributes and think about how we could grow them so that we can be Christ in the world and bring hope, peace and joy to others.

Heart

Spirituality

Attentiveness



Hospitality

Compassion



## COVID Vaccinations

The State Government has announced that bookings for COVID vaccinations are now open to 12 to 15 year olds. At this stage there are no plans to have vaccinations here at the College, so we would encourage parents and carers to book vaccinations by ringing the Tasmanian Public Health hotline (1800 671 738) or booking online. Bookings can also be made at the George Town Medical Centre.

## COVID-19 Restrictions

We thank all of our families for the way they have followed the COVID-19 restrictions that have been placed upon schools. Every few weeks we will put a reminder of these restrictions in our newsletter, assuming there are no significant changes. Here is our last reminder for the year!

- Students should not come to school if sick (especially with cold or flu symptoms), and parents and carers are also asked not to come on to the property if sick.
- If waiting for your child outside the buildings or dropping off your children, please maintain social distance from others. Only stay as long as you need to in classrooms.
- If attending Primary assembly, please check in and use hand sanitizer. We will space the chairs out.
- Should you wish to contact your child's teacher but are reluctant to come into the school, you can contact them through phone or email.
- If you have any questions, please contact the College office.
- Please check in using the Check In Tas app if entering any buildings.

## 2022 Enrolments

We are still accepting enrolments for all year levels for 2022. If you would like your child to attend Star of the Sea in 2022, or know of someone who would like their child to attend, enrolment forms are available at our office and through our website ([www.starsea.tas.edu.au](http://www.starsea.tas.edu.au)).

## Book Packs 2022

Officeworks will be our new provider for book packs for 2022. The school will buy them from Officeworks and then sell them to families at the beginning of next year (at cost price) . More information around this will be provided at a time closer to the sales date.

## George Town Christmas Parade

As mentioned earlier, this is on this Friday. We would love to see as many students as possible join our walking float. Please return your permission slips to the office by Wednesday so we have an idea of how many people are attending. Parents and carers are welcome to walk with their children. A big thanks to Mrs Ewa Power for organising the float this year.

## Reports

At this stage we are hoping to release our End of Year Reports on Compass on Tuesday 14th December. Year 10 reports will be printed out and sent home.

## The Santos Science Experience

Keegan Jacobs, Jessica Boyd, Brianna Taber and Ella Erb will be attending a Santos Science Experience at the Uni from Wednesday to Friday this week.

This is an amazing experience which includes hands on activities in laboratories, lectures and participation in other programmes.

## What's On Between today and the end of School

Coming up in the next two weeks is:

- **Wednesday 8th December: Little Stars and SetUp Christmas Party** - for our Little Stars and SetUp families.
- **Thursday 9th December: Year 10 Last Day of School** - this will include the traditional "running through the corridors."
- **Thursday 9th December: Year 10 Final Prayer and Awards** - this will occur at 6:00pm in the Church for the Year 10s and their families.
- **Thursday 9th December: Primary Pool Day** - this is for all Primary students from about 12pm onwards. Permission form are required to be returned to class teachers.
- **Friday 10th December: George Town Christmas Parade** - this starts at 5:30pm and all students are welcome to be involved. Permission form are required for Primary students so we have an idea of numbers.
- **Friday 10th December: George Town Christmas Carols** - this starts at 7pm. Mr Taylor will be performing a few carols at this event, hopefully with the help of a few students!
- **Monday 13th December: Year 10 Leavers Dinner** - this event starts at 6pm for the Year 10s and their families, however everyone is invited to watch the students arrive at The Crazy Duck from about 5:15pm onwards.
- **Tuesday 14th December: Secondary Big Day Out** - this is for the secondary students. Each year level will be participating in different activities. Permission forms will be required to be returned to class teachers.
- **Tuesday 14th December: Primary Nativity Play and Prayer** - this event starts at 10am in the Church. The Grade 1/2s will be performing the Nativity Play while the other classes will all be performing Christmas songs. Parents are most welcome to attend.
- **Thursday 16th December: End of Year Assembly** - this starts at 10am in the Church. This is a chance for us to recognise the outstanding achievements of our students in 2021. Parents are most welcome to attend.
- **Thursday 16th December: Lip Sync Battle** - this will occur in between recess and lunch for the students as a last day activity.
- **Friday 17th December: Last Day of School for Staff** - our office will close at 12pm, reopening again in 2022.

## Kinder – Year 6 Pool Party - reminder to Parents



**Thursday 9th December** the Primary Students will be participating in their annual End of Year Pool Fun Day at the George Town Pool. The teachers will be taking their classes to the pool from roughly **12:00pm onwards**.

Students are required to wear their full sports uniform on the day. They will need to bring their bathers and towel, including a rashie.

The classes will be walking to and from the pool. Parents are welcome to attend. If you do intend on joining us for the day, please make sure you adhere to the COVID safety rules implemented by the pool and please stay at home if you have cold or flu like symptoms.

A permission slip, with canteen order has been sent home. Please return to your child's class teacher before the day.

## K-2 Athletics.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the K – 2 Athletics a successful and fun day. Thank you also to the parents who came along. Everyone had a lovely time.



## 2022 Term Calendar

### Term One

Start: Monday 31 January 2022 (Teachers Commence)  
Thursday 3 February 2022 (Students Commence)  
Finish: Thursday 14 April 2022

*This includes an Easter Break from Friday 15 April 2022 – Tuesday 19 April 2022*

### Term Two

Start: Monday 2 May 2022  
Finish: Friday 8 July 2022

### Term Three

Start: Monday 25 July 2022  
Finish: Friday 30 September 2022

### Term Four

Start: Monday 17 October 2022  
Finish: Thursday 15 December 2022 (Students Finish)  
Friday 16 December 2022 (Teachers Finish)

### GEORGE TOWN-KAROOOLA- LILYDALE

#### CATHOLIC PARISH

#### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

#### GEORGE TOWN - OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

*Preparation for Christmas—Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Friday 17th December—6.00pm—7.00pm

*Mass Times*

Friday 24th December, Holy Mass—9.30pm

Saturday 25th December, Christmas Day Mass—10.00am

Saturday 1st January, New Year's Day Mass—9.30am

#### LILYDALE ST ANNE'S

*Mass Time*

Friday 24th December, Christmas Eve Mass—6.30pm

*Please note:*



25th December and 1st January there will be no Vigil Mass.