

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 18th March 2025

From the Principal

This year in our secondary assemblies, as well as in our RE classes, we have been looking at saints. This was not a particularly deliberate plan we had, but it came out of the mention of various saints in the student diary. And not only are we looking at their lives but we are also looking at some of their characteristics - what can we take out of their lives and put into our own?

Yesterday saw the celebration of St Patrick's Day. St Patrick's Day has become less about the saint himself and more about the day and a celebration of all things Irish. This is perhaps a good thing as what we know about the life of St Patrick himself is a bit fuzzy and shrouded in myths and legends. This is the same with a lot of early saints and there is a danger that the story of their lives ends up sounding a little bit like that of Santa Claus (who was, of course, based upon St Nicholas), which secondary students tend to reject as fairy tales.

It is probably more beneficial for our young adults to look at some of our modern day saints and what characteristics they had which we can try to emulate.

- Sister Clare Crockett is not a saint but was an aspiring young Irish movie and TV actress who, while attending a retreat, suddenly realised she was wasting her life. She gave it all up, joined a group of religious sisters and went to various parts of the world serving those in need. She died when the house she was staying in collapsed in an earthquake in Ecuador in 2016, aged 33 years. She displayed a great love for life and approached everything with joy.
- Blessed Sandra Sabattini was an Italian who volunteered at a drug rehabilitation centre and was studying to become a missionary doctor. She died in a car accident in 1984 aged just 22 years. She was known for giving help to all who needed without judgement.
- Saint Maximilian Kolbe died in the Auschwitz death camp run by the Nazis in World War II. He died because he offered to die in the place of another man. He was 47 years old. He is known for this amazing act of sacrifice.

While we hope that none of our students or family members ever die early, we can look at these saints and holy people as examples of how we can live our lives - in service to others. The way they lived their relatively short lives challenges us not to waste ours on accumulating stuff, but instead to ask ourselves how we can serve those around us generously. What are the needs in our community and how can we meet those needs? When we answer that question, and act upon the answer, we can then be the people God calls us to be, and start on the road to sainthood ourselves!

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*To be saints is
not a privilege
for a few,
but a vocation
for everyone. -
Pope Francis*

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



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Star of the Sea Catholic College

Heart

Spirituality



Attentiveness

Hospitality

Compassion



Religious Education and Faith Development

Second Week of Lent



Toefuata'iga - (Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah) is a 13-year-old primary school student from Samoa. Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Toefuata'iga's school community struggled without reliable access to clean water, which impacted students' education and hygiene. Teachers often had to leave the school to fetch water from nearby homes, disrupting lessons and adding strain to the community. When the water ran out at the school, students were sent home which meant they missed out on valuable learning time.

Thanks to the support of Caritas Australia in partnership with Caritas Samoa, Toefuata'iga's school now has a 10,000 L water tank through a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program. Teachers and students are now able to focus on education and improved hygiene.

"Now that we have the water tank, things are so much better, we can stay at school all day, and I get to spend more time learning and playing with my friends. I'm happy that we don't have to go home early anymore." – said Toefuata'iga.

This transformative story is just one example of how Caritas Australia's Project Compassion creates waves of change around the world.

Will you stand with students like Toefuata'iga this Lent?

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes, buying a ticket in our Easter Egg raffle or by scanning the QR code.



Stars of the Week - 13th March 2025

Kinder

Medea Quilty-Maguire For being such a great friend and learner in Kindergarten every day.

Prep

Eileithya Quilty-Maguire For a super start to her Prep year. It is lovely seeing Eileithya's confidence grow each day.

Grade 1/2

Logan Hawkins For her consistent focus and dedication towards completing her schoolwork.

Grade 3

Logan Suitor For maintaining a consistent focus and demonstrated ability in all areas of literacy and mathematics.

Grade 4/5

Finley Upston For demonstrating excellent leadership qualities.

Grade 5/6

Ryder Hawkins For his fantastic and consistent effort with Sizzling Starts during Literacy activities. Your creations are an inspiration to others. Keep up the great work!

Swimming Carnival Years 3 - 10, 2025

Well, it may have been one of the shortest Swimming Carnivals in history due to the storm that came through, but there were still plenty of highlights.



Staff Movements

Mrs Halley is on leave tomorrow.

Mrs Harmer is at Professional Learning on Thursday.

Mrs Briscoe is at Professional Learning on Thursday and next Tuesday.

Mrs Davis is taking some well-deserved Long Service Leave and will be away from Thursday 20th March and will return on Monday 31st March.

Mrs Broughton is currently on leave.

Mr Chapman is at a meeting next Monday.

Welcome

We welcome Joel (Year 7) and Tristan (Grade 5) and their families to the Star of the Sea community. We hope they enjoy their time here.

College Board

The College Board AGM and first Ordinary Meeting will be held tomorrow Wednesday 19th March.

This week's AGM will also be the last meeting for our Chair, Mr Andrew Parkes. Andrew has served on the College Board for 6 years and has made a great contribution. We thank Andrew for all of his service to the Board and to the College.

Partial Lockdown

Last Wednesday the school went into Partial Lockdown for about an hour in the afternoon. Partial lockdowns are called when the school has a non-human threat. In this case, the threat was the lightning that was coming through with a storm. During this time outside doors were locked and students were not permitted to go outside. Work continued as normal in the classrooms. The lockdown was called off once the storm had passed.

Year 8 Camp

The Year 8s are on Camp on the East Coast from today until Thursday. Mrs Robotham, Mr Laurence and Mr Davis will accompany them. We wish them well and it is sure to be a great experience.

Swimming Carnival

Last week we held our Swimming Carnival, which came to an early end because of the weather. However, we will not be finishing the carnival on another day as all of the main races were completed, with only the novelty events and relays not being able to be held. A big thank you to Mrs Freeman and Mr Laurence for their work in organising the carnival and for their ability to be flexible throughout the day.

Book Pack Survey

Last week a survey was released on Compass to get an idea from parents and carers as to how they would like Book Packs to be done in 2026. We would encourage as many parents and carers to respond so that we get a good idea of what we should do later this year.

Re: School Improvement Surveys

Insight SRC is conducting this survey on behalf of Star of the Sea and Catholic Education Tasmania. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of their children's experience of school.

The results will benefit everyone within the school by providing valuable information about the ways in which the school can use staff, student and parent input to plan programs and activities to improve your child's experience at school.

While your participation is voluntary, it is important to remember that the success of this important project is dependent on the involvement of all parents. Login details will be sent to you shortly.

Deputy Principal's Report



This Friday March 21st we will celebrate Harmony Day at Star of the Sea. On Friday students will be permitted to wear their sports uniform and orange coloured accessories. Student Leaders will run activities in the Primary gallery at recess and lunchtime. Students will be invited to paint their fingernails orange if they would like to as well as participate in the other activities on offer.

Harmony Day helps to raise awareness about cultural diversity, encouraging the values of respect, equality and freedom, promoting participation for everyone. At Star of the Sea we will be promoting these things as well as encouraging all of our students to connect with other members of the community through their participation in activities throughout the day.

Mobile Phone Protocols

Star of the Sea Catholic College has had an expectation in place for a number of years, that students do not use mobile phones while at school.

At the beginning of 2025 the CET also introduced:

The Mobile Phones, Devices and Wearable Technologies Policy that applies to all students within Catholic Education Tasmania.

This policy outlines expectations around mobile phone use, student device use and includes wearable devices such as smart watches.

As a reminder, mobile phones are not to be used by students during the school day. Between 8:30 am and 3:00 pm mobile phones are not to be used and should be switched off or placed on a do not disturb mode. Other communication devices such as smart watches should also be placed on a do not disturb mode or study mode during the school day.

- Students are not permitted to access their phones to communicate or access communication apps.
- Students are not to take photos or videos while at school of themselves or others.

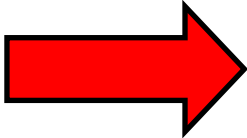
Whilst mobile phones and other communication technologies have a place in our daily lives, they should not be a source of distraction for students during critical learning time.

To help students with these expectations, we would ask parents and carers not to message their children during the school day. All messages for students should go through the College office.

School Lunches

School Lunches for this week are back to normal days:

Wednesday - Grades 3-6 - **Friday** - Prep to Grade 2



Star of the Sea Catholic College
1st - 2nd - 3rd Prizes
Tickets \$1
and available from the College Office



SetUp for Success

Our early learning program, SetUp, is back for 2025.

It is on every Wednesday during term time between 9:00am and 10:30am in the Kinder room and is for children from birth to 5 years of age. It is completely free and all are welcome.

Our Kinder teacher, Mrs Selina Taylor, will run SetUp this year.



Wednesday 2nd April	NHSSA Swimming Carnival
Thursday 3rd April	TPSSA Athletics Carnival
Tuesday 8th April	Caritas fundraiser
Wednesday 9th April	End of Term Assembly
Thursday 10th April	Last Day of Term 1 for students
Friday 11th April	Staff Spirituality Day
Friday 25th April	ANZAC Day