

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 5th August 2025

From the Principal

This week marks Catholic Education Week in Tasmania. It is a time where we get the chance to recognise and celebrate the contribution that Catholic Education makes, and has made, to the state of Tasmania over the past 180 years or so. But it also raises a question for us to reflect upon - what is a Catholic school?

If you asked ten different people what a Catholic school was, you would probably hear ten different answers. But this is not surprising, because Catholic schools are different things to different people, and operate in different ways in different communities.

There are some Catholic schools that sit in prestigious suburbs of Melbourne and Sydney which many of us would need to mortgage our houses for our children to attend. Then there are some Catholic schools around the country where it is totally free to attend.

There are some Catholic schools where students wear fancy uniforms each day and have long waiting lists, while there are others who serve students who have dropped out of other schools and require flexible learning.

There are Catholic schools that are one of many schools in a certain area, while there are other Catholic schools which are the only school in town and provide education for everyone in that town.

There are Catholic schools where everyone who attends is Catholic, and there are Catholic schools where the population of Catholic students is close to zero.

There are Catholic schools who run independently, with no oversight by any Catholic Education Office, and there are others (like ours) who are part of a bigger system.

And just like the varying schools, there are varying attitudes towards them by parents. Some parents would only ever send their child to a Catholic school, while other parents say that they will never send their child to a Catholic school. Some parents send their children to Catholic schools because they went to one themselves, while others send their child to a Catholic school because it suited the needs of their child and it is their first experience of a Catholic school.

So what ties them all together? What defines a Catholic school?

There is no easy answer, but at the risk of generalising, perhaps the thing that binds Catholic schools together is that they meet the needs of the communities they serve. Those needs vary greatly, depending upon each community, but the school is there to meet them. And when there is no need anymore for a Catholic school in a particular community, it closes down and the people move on to meet the next need, just as has happened in the past in Tasmania and around Australia.

So that's why Star of the Sea is still here and is still going strong, 68 years later - it is still meeting the needs of the George Town community. Whether the need be for our Catholic education, or because of our 5-day Kinder, or because a student doesn't quite fit into another school, or because of our care and concern for those with learning needs, we are still needed.

And that is something worth celebrating this week.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*An education in
the fullness of
humanity should
be the defining
feature of Catholic
schools. - 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

Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart
Spirituality



Attentiveness

Hospitality

Compassion

Psalm for 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.



Staff Movements

Ms Gay is on leave from tomorrow until August 26th.

Mrs Nesbit is on Professional learning on Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Taylor is on Professional Learning on Thursday.

Mrs McGillivray is out all this week as she is working with the Catholic Education Office.

Mr Chapman is away next Tuesday as he will be attending the Installation of Archbishop Tony Ireland in Hobart.

Catholic Education Week

This week is Catholic Education Week where we recognize and celebrate the importance of Catholic Education to our state. Tomorrow students from Year 6 will attend the Catholic Education Week Mass being held at St Thomas More's Primary School in Launceston. As a school, we have attended and participated in this event for a number of years. Tomorrow we will have students reading in Mass and our Student Leaders will be supporting the event by cooking the BBQ for everyone who attends. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to be involved in the broader Catholic education community.

Country Gold Selection

A number of our Grade 5s and 6s will be attending Country Gold selection on Thursday. We wish them well!

Young Tassie Scientists

Tomorrow (Wednesday) the Year 5 students will walk to the George Town Library to meet with three 'Young Tasmanian' scientists who will share with the students their work through engaging talks and activities to inspire students of all ages with real-life science.

Early Notice - Book Week Parade

The one-and-only Book Week Dress Up Parade will be held on Tuesday 19th August. On that day, students are invited to dress up as their favourite book character. The theme for this year's Book Week is "Book an Adventure!" This reminds us of the new worlds and stories we can explore through books.

Mental Health Supports Survey

Parents and carers would have received a Compass message today inviting them to participate in a Mental Health Supports survey for Catholic Education Tasmania. Our staff and students (Grades 4-10) are also participating in the survey that will help Catholic Education to decide what is the best way they can offer support in the mental health area. This survey ends on Friday.

Enrolments for 2026

Enrolments for 2026 for all year levels are now open **and we are currently conducting enrolment interviews for those who have handed their enrolment forms into the school.** Families wishing to enrol into Star of the Sea for 2026 can call into the office for an enrolment form or download one from our website: starsea.tas.edu.au. We encourage all enrolments to be finalised by soon so that we can organise transition days for Year 7 and our Little Stars program for Kinders.

Not Here In 2026?

If your child will not be attending Star of the Sea in 2026, please let the office know. This will allow us to know how many places we have available to welcome other students in 2026.

School Lunches this Week

School lunches are as normal this week:

Wednesday - 3s to 5s (the Grade 6s will be having lunch in Launceston)

Next Monday - Preps and 1/2s

Science Expo

On Wednesday morning Year 5 students will be attending a Science Expo at the George Town Library with three Young Tasmanian Scientists who will share information about their work. Students will hear the scientists talk about their real-life science work and share in science activities. Students will walk to the library

Book Week Parade

Book Week is happening from August 16-23 and the theme for 2025 is Book an Adventure. We will be holding our Book Week Parade on Tuesday August 19th and the Year 10 Student Leaders will be hosting this. Every year many of our students come dressed as a character from a favourite book and the staff also get involved by dressing up for the day. Students can wear their costume to school for the whole day, or they can change into their costume at school. It is not compulsory for students to dress up but it certainly adds to the fun of the day if everyone does. We do not want students to feel left out so please have a conversation with your child about what they might wear and start to get excited!



Catholic Education Week - Casual Clothes Day

This week is Catholic Education Week and to celebrate the beginning of this week we held a Casual Clothes Day on Monday with proceeds going to The Samaritan Projects Tasmania. This worthwhile fund aims to support disadvantaged families in Tasmania. Thank you to everyone who made a donation to this yesterday.



Calendar Term 3 - 2025	
Wednesday 6th August	Catholic Education Week Mass
Thursday 7th August	Country Gold selections (5/6)
Tuesday 19th August	Book Week Parade (<i>Book an Adventure</i>)
Thursday 4th September	Father's Day Breakfast and Stall
Monday 8th September	Circle of Life in this week (Primary)
Tuesday 9th September	Year 9 Reflection Day
Wednesday 10th September	Year 8 Reflection Day 9/10 Winter Sport Grand Finals
Thursday 11th September -	Year 10 Reflection Day 7/8 Winter Sport Grand Finals, RUOK Day
Friday 19th September	RYDA (Year 10) (TBC)
Thursday 25th September	Country Gold
Friday 26th September	Term 3 Ends—End of Term Assembly

Christmas in July

On Wednesday July 30th the Student Leaders and SRC hosted a Christmas in July event. It was fantastic to see so many people come along to join in the Christmas themed activities. The Pass the Parcel was a favourite amongst the younger children as well as the Gingerbread Decorating table. There was also a selection of Christmas themed food on offer, a movie and then some indoor games. It was a great way to celebrate the completion of the new secondary area and it gave our community an opportunity to gather together for some mid winter fun.



Term 3 Primary Assembly Roster

The following classes will be leading assemblies over the coming weeks:

WEEK 3	Thursday 7th August	12:10 pm	Grade 3
WEEK 4	Thursday 14th August	12:10 pm	Grade 1/2
WEEK 5	Thursday 21st August	12.10pm	Prep
WEEK 6	Thursday 28th August	12.10pm	Kinder

Please note that this roster may change

Winter Sports Years 7, 8, 9 & 10

Week 2 results

- Yr 9/10 Netball 26-8 loss
- Yr 9/10 Soccer 5-2 win
- 7/8 Soccer 5-2 loss
- 7/8 Netball 11-12 loss

Week 3 games

Wed 6th August Years 9/10

- Netball Vs St Marys District HS at Hobblers Bridge
- Soccer Vs Cressy District HS at NTCA

Thu 7th August Years 7/8

- Soccer Vs Queechy HS at QHS
- Netball Vs Riverside HS at Hobblers Bridge



Emotion of the week

Relief

We feel relief when tension has left our bodies and we are able to breathe more easily, we feel safe for the moment and want to get on with something else. We breathe a “sigh of relief,” which signals to our body we are relieved but also reduces muscle tension.

(Brené Brown, *Atlas of the Heart*)

SetUp for Success

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.

