

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 23rd September 2025

From the Principal

I used to enjoy watching the opening monologue of Jimmy Kimmel on his TV talk show, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* That was until last week when his TV show was pulled off air by his network due to a comment he made on it about the death of Charlie Kirk, or more specifically, about the reactions of people to it. I don't really get the context of the comment or why it was offensive, but Jimmy Kimmel wasn't the first talk show host to be taken off air, with Stephen Colbert also having his show cancelled.

The link between both of these is the belief, rightly or wrongly, that these shows have been pulled because of the influence of Donald Trump on television networks. He has been a big critic of both Kimmel and Colbert, just as they have been big critics of him.

So what has this got to do with Star of the Sea in George Town, Tasmania?

These events in other countries remind us of how important free speech is in our country. We might think that we have a reasonable amount of free speech, but in different situations we may not find we do.

Some people might be in a workplace where they are afraid to speak up about something which is wrong in case they get fired. Some children in families may be afraid to tell their parents how they feel about something in case their parents get angry with them. And even in school, some students might be afraid to share their thoughts in class because they think they will be ridiculed.

Every time we are afraid to have our voice heard, it means we don't have free speech. Because free speech is not about just saying whatever you want. Free speech is about contributing to conversations respectfully with the expectation that we will be listened to respectfully. Free speech is not about marching down the street with placards saying immigration should stop if the voice of the migrants is not being heard. Free speech is not about abusing people on social media but about having the responsibility to become informed about issues before giving an uninformed opinion.

Some may say that the current President of the United States is curtailing free speech by trying to shut up everyone who disagrees with him and surrounding himself with "yes men." I can't comment on that, but we need to recognise in our own lives the times when we don't allow free speech. Are there times when, because we don't want to hear what others have to say in case they disagree with us or they challenge us, we don't allow others to be heard - in our workplaces, families or schools?

Ironically for us, Jesus was an early victim of speaking up. His message of love was too radical for some and they silenced him by hanging him on a cross in case they lost power. And while we may think that seems a world away, every day of our lives we need to let people's voices be heard and we need to be respectful in letting our voice be heard.

In our Star of the Sea Catholic community, let us not forget our responsibility to let each other speak freely, especially our children. Because when we model free speech to them, we have more hope that the future will be a place where all can be heard.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*To suppress free
speech is a
double wrong. It
violates the rights
of the hearer as
well as those of
the speaker. -
Frederick Douglas*

*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 the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.



Stars of the Week - 18th September 2025

Kinder **Lily Eade**

For being able to move from one activity to another quickly when the teacher says it's time.

Prep **Lewis Smith**

For working hard in class with his work. And all his kind ways towards others.

Grade 1/2 **Lincoln Penfold**

For his effort and huge improvement in his gross and fine motor skills!

Grade 3 **Archie Bennett**

For his sustained focus and growing ability in our literacy and numeracy tasks.

Grade 4/5 **Thomas Smith**

For his amazing improvement in reading.

Grade 5/6 **Niklaus Quilty-Maguire**

For his adaptability and keen attitude towards with his daily Reading Fluency activities

Staff Movements

Mrs Tame is on leave Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Stewart is on leave on Thursday, and the first Tuesday of next term.

Mrs King is on some well-deserved Long Service Leave until the second week of Term 4. Her role is being filled by Mrs Couttie.

Primary Lost Property

Has your child lost some clothing? Our Primary Lost Property basket is very full at the moment, and the end of term is always a good time to recover any lost property. It is situated just inside the Primary Gallery.

Grandparents Day

Our Grandparents Day will be held next term in Week 2 - Tuesday 21st October. We will have a prayer service in the Church at 2:30pm, and this will be followed by an afternoon tea for our Grandparents. There is an RSVP attached to this newsletter.

Term 4 Calendar

The Term 4 Calendar is included in this newsletter. Term 4 is always a busy time so it might be handy to put this calendar on the fridge at home. At this stage, we believe all dates are correct, but we will inform parents and carers if anything changes.

Please note that the finishing date for students is Tuesday 16th December.

Summer Uniform Changeover

Students will be wearing the Summer Uniform from the beginning of Term 4, however now that the weather has warmed up, students may wear their Summer Uniform this week if they would like to. We expect all students to present themselves neatly attired wearing the correct school uniform. This means students should wear the correct formal uniform each day. Students should only be wearing the sport uniform on the days their class has PE. Please visit the Uniform Shop on Thursday afternoons if you need to purchase uniform items. If you need support in providing items of uniform for your child please contact Mrs Condric or Mrs Natasha Davis in the Finance Office.

We would encourage families to have their children try on the summer uniform this week, as many will have grown over the past 6 months and may not fit into it anymore! The Uniform Shop is open on Thursdays between 2pm and 4pm.

NTJSA Representatives

Congratulations and good luck to Matilda Jacobs, William Singline, Ryder Hawkins and Alby Hawkins who head off this weekend to compete for the NTJSA representative side in the Pacific Junior Championship in Queensland.

We wish them well as they compete against other soccer leagues in Australia, with 3 full days of competition.



Calendar Term 3 - 2025	
Wednesday 24th September	End of Term Assembly
Thursday 25th September	Country Gold
Friday 26th September	Term 3 Ends

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 soon so that we can organise transition days for Year 7 and our Little Stars program for Kinders.

Star of the Sea Church Times

Mass times for this week:

Saturday Vigil Mass - 5:00pm Saturday

Sunday Mass - 11:00am Sunday

at the George Town Catholic Church (Our Lady Star of the Sea) which is located in Goulburn Street, across the road from the Hall.

Unwanted Fishing Rods

Do you have any unwanted fishing rods and/or reels hanging around your house, especially short rods? If you do, Star of the Sea would love to accept a few in order to do some fishing activities with some students. They can be dropped off to the College office for Gary Davis, our Student Wellbeing Officer.

School Lunches this Week

School lunches are as normal this week:

Wednesday- 3s to 6s

End of Term Assembly

Our End of Term 3 Assembly will be held tomorrow, Wednesday 24th September in the Church at 10am. Family and friends are welcome to come along as we recognise the hard work from the students during this term.

Grandparent's Day Celebration Tuesday 21st October

Grandparents are welcome to join the Primary students in the Church for a prayer at 2:30pm, this will be followed by afternoon tea in the hall.



Please RSVP by Monday 20th October

I/we _____

are the grandparents of _____

and I/we will be attending the Grandparent's Day celebrations:

Church Prayer ☐ Afternoon Tea ☐

Dietary requirements _____

Calendar Term 4 2025

Monday 13th October	Insight into Learning PL Day (Student-free day)
Tuesday 14th October	<u>Term 4 begins for Students</u>
Friday 17th October	Grade 5/6 Girls Soroptimist session; Primary Choral activity
Tuesday 21st October	Grandparent's Day
Wednesday 22nd October - Thursday 23rd October	Star of the Sea Athletics Carnival (Grade 3-10) - half day on Wednesday
Wednesday 22nd October	Little Stars begins
Tuesday 28th October	K-2 Athletics Carnival
Friday 31st October	World Teachers Day
Monday 3rd November	Recreation Day Holiday
Monday 10th November	Ryka Ali performance
Tuesday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Wednesday 12th November	TPSSA Swimming Carnival
Thursday 13th November - Friday 14th November	Principal meetings at Star of the Sea
Friday 14th November	RYDA (Year 10s)
Thursday 20th November	NHSSA Div 3 Athletics Carnival
Friday 21st November	Presentation Feast Day and Pilgrimage
Monday 1st December	Advent Prayer; Year 10 Exam week begins
Friday 5th December	George Town Christmas Parade (TBC); Colour Run (TBC)
Monday 8th December	Advent Prayer; Year 10 Service Day
Tuesday 9th December	Primary Transition morning; Year 10 Big Day Out
Wednesday 10th December	Last day for Year 10s; Year 10 Final Prayer and Awards
Thursday 11th December	Primary Nativity Play
Friday 12th December	Year 10 Leavers Dinner
Monday 15th December	Advent Prayer
Tuesday 16th December	Last day for students; End of Year Assembly
Wednesday 17th December	Last day for staff

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Invites you to our

End of Term Assembly on



Wednesday 24th September 2025

At 10:00am in the Church

Please join us



Flexischools

From Tuesday 14th October (first day of Term 4), Star of the Sea will be trialling the use of Flexischools for online ordering and cashless payments for our school canteen **for our Primary students**.

This means that Primary student parents will be able to order, and pay for items from our school without needing to pay cash or visit in person or write on a paper bag in the morning.

To create an account with Flexischools so that you can order and make payments for our school, you can download the Flexischools app from the Apple or Google store and follow the prompts to create an account.

Account set-up and online ordering instructions are available from Flexischools at

<https://flexischools.com.au/parents>.

We're using Flexischools to simplify school life.

Download the app today

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Issued by MCorp ACN 14 508 777 AFSL 470564. Read FOS & TMO at www.flexischools.com.au/legal. Advice is general & doesn't consider your needs.

If you already have a Flexischools account for another family member, just select the Profile icon on the app and +Add New Student.

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.

Our Kinder teacher, Mrs Selina Taylor, is running SetUp this year.



Emotion of the week

Loneliness

We feel lonely when we feel we lack connection or belonging, or we have no meaningful social interaction. We desire more connections with others. Being alone and being lonely are not the same thing. You can be alone but not desire social interaction.

Prep excursion to Hagley Farm



Term 3/4 Primary Assembly Roster

The following classes will be leading assemblies over the coming weeks. **Please note that this roster may change**

WEEK 10	Thursday 25th September	12.10pm	Grade 1/2
T4 WEEK 1	Thursday 16th October	12.10pm	Prep
T4 WEEK 2	Thursday 23rd October	12.10pm	Kinder
T4 WEEK 3	Thursday 30th October	12.10pm	Grade 5/6

Footy Colours Day/Wear your team colors day

Students and staff will have the opportunity to dress up in their favourite team colours on Friday September 26th for our Footy Colours / Wear Your Team Colours Day.

We understand that some people do not follow a particular football team, so there is an opportunity to choose any team or team colours regardless of the sport this represents.

The SRC are in the process of planning activities for this day so it would be great to see lots of our staff and students involved. We will be asking for a gold coin donation on this day and the proceeds from the day will go towards the Mini Vinnies Fundraising for the year.



Digital Footprints, Social Media Restrictions and Online Safety

Whenever someone uses an online environment they are creating a trail of information about themselves. This trail of information shapes what other people know about a person. It also shapes what other people think. A digital footprint presents information about a person that can shape the way they are perceived now and into the future. The information that is shared online does not disappear. It is important to understand this and to think about what the impact is of sharing certain information online. This includes information that is shared on platforms, websites and social media. Once information, images and ideas are shared in an online environment, an individual loses control over who has access to those things.

Many people have had concerns about the consequences of young people using certain websites and social media platforms. As a result, the Australian Government has taken steps to limit access to a number of platforms for young people. The government has advised these restrictions will come into effect at the end of 2025.

“The restrictions aim to protect young Australians from pressures and risks that users can be exposed to while logged in to social media accounts. These come from design features that encourage them to spend more time on screens, while also serving up content that can harm their health and wellbeing.” (esafety Commissioner, 2025)

With this in mind it is a good idea for parents to conduct a review of the type of access your child has to online environments. A growing number of platforms that children regularly access have the potential to expose them to unsafe experiences.

There are a number of websites that can provide parents and students with reliable information about online safety including:

Esafety Commissioner - <https://www.esafety.gov.au>

Star of the Sea School TV - <https://starsea.tas.schooltv.me>

School TV Digital Reputation -

<https://starsea.tas.schooltv.me/newsletter-external-resource/digital-reputation-susan-mclean>