

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 21st October 2025

From the Principal

SBS has recently aired a program called *The Idea of Australia*, which basically looks at the stories we tell ourselves about the country we live in, and asks if they are really true. Many of us grew up with the idea of Australia being a place of the battler, of the pioneer, of the fair go, of Captain Cook and the ANZACS.

I remember having to do an assignment in secondary school where the topic was around who discovered Australia. We had done some lead-up work on this topic before having to write the essay, and we had heard about Captain Cook and some of the Dutch explorers who had come before him and mapped part of the country. But thinking back, I don't think at any time we discussed the idea that perhaps the Australian Aboriginals were here about 65,000 years earlier!

Fast forward about 35 years and at least we are now at the stage where most school students can recognise this. But when it comes to what we think the history of Australia is, especially after 1788, it often depends on who is telling the story.

Because the story will be different according to the narrator. Aboriginal Australians will most likely tell a story of being dispossessed, and of racist government policies which removed children from their families. Australians of British heritage might tell a story of pioneers and people "opening up the land." Australians of Italian heritage might tell a story of arriving in Australia after World War II and overcoming hardships, while Australians of Vietnamese heritage might tell a similar story, just set about 25 years later.

The point is, when it comes to history, all voices need to be heard, because all of these different groups contribute to what Australia currently is. The idea of bushrangers and the gold rush probably doesn't resonate with Australians of Vietnamese heritage, just as the story of Australians of Italian heritage probably doesn't resonate with Aboriginal Australians. But whether it resonates or not, we need to be prepared to be open and to listen, because all of these stories tell us who we are.

I write this reflection after returning from Melbourne where anti-immigration rallies were taking place. These seem to pop up every few years, but when we look deeper into them, they are usually led by people whose minds are closed to the idea that there might be different ideas about what Australia is to their own. The leaders of these rallies seem to lack empathy - the ability to see things from another's point of view. They seem to think that their idea of Australia is the *right one, and nothing else matters*.

The leaders of these rallies seem to want to put out a persona of being really tough, wearing all black and putting on masks. However, it would seem they are not tough enough to work in our nursing homes or hospitals or in hospitality or any other industry where there is a skills shortage which migrants fill.

In our Star of the Sea Catholic community we want our students to be welcoming, and to do so they need to recognise that people will have different viewpoints to them - often not wrong or right, just different. By continuing to be open to these different ideas of who we are, we get closer to the one idea of who God calls us to be.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*You have always
the same view from
your window! For
different views, visit
other houses! And
for different ideas,
visit other minds! -*

*Mehmet Murat
Ildan*

*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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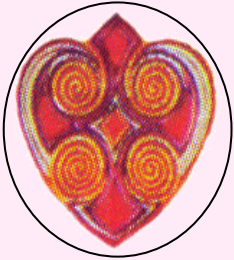


Star of the Sea Catholic College

Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart

Spirituality



Attentiveness

Hospitality

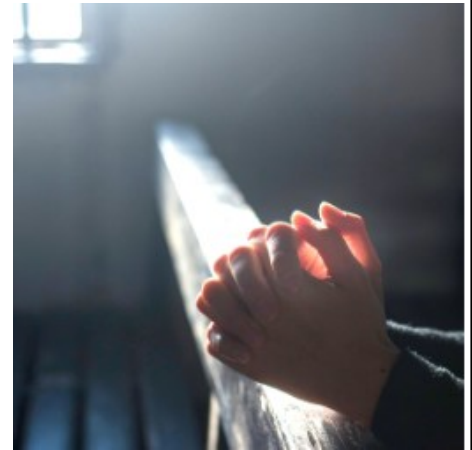
Compassion

Psalm for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

The Lord is close to the
broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will
save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his
servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be
condemned.



Emotion of the week

Confusion

We are confused when we are uncertain about what is happening or what is required. But it is good for us and vital for learning. It can motivate us, lead us into deeper learning and problem solving. We shouldn't avoid things that confuse us!



Welcome

We welcome Faith (Year 7), Nirvan (Kinder) and Mia (Prep) and their families to the Star of the Sea Catholic community. We hope they enjoy their time here.

Staff Movements

Ms Gay is on leave for this week.

Mrs Romein is on Long Service Leave for the next 3 weeks.

Mrs Loud will be on leave from the office for the rest of the year as she enjoys some travels.

Mrs Wood will take on the role for the rest of the year, with Mrs Davis supporting.

Star of the Sea Athletics Carnival

The Star of the Sea Athletics Carnival for Grades 3-10 students will take place tomorrow afternoon at school and all day on Thursday at the St Leonard's Athletics Centre. More information about this has been provided through Compass.

The K-2 Athletics Carnival will take place next Tuesday at school. More information about this has been provided through Compass.

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.

Enrolments for 2026

Enrolments for 2026 for new students 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.** *Little Stars, our Kinder transition program, begins tomorrow. Yesterday was our first transition time for students coming into Year 7 next year, both from Star of the Sea and other schools.*

School Lunches this Week

School lunches for this week are:

Wednesday- 3s to 6s

Friday - Preps to Grade 2



Calendar Term 4 2025

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
Thursday 30th October	TPSSA Swimming Carnival
Friday 31st October	World Teachers Day
Monday 3rd November	Recreation Day Holiday
Monday 10th November	Ryka Ali performance
Tuesday 11th November	Remembrance Day
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	Colour Run
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, George Town Christmas Parade
Monday 15th December	Advent Prayer
Tuesday 16th December	Last day for students; End of Year Assembly
Wednesday 17th December	Last day for staff

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.



Flexischools is now Live!

Our Flexischools trial for Term 4 has started well with things running smoothly and many families using it already. There have been some questions raised, so we will continue to answer them as we go:

- **There is a fee of 29 cents charged when I order. Why is that?** That fee goes directly to Flexischools and helps them to run the service, paying for their employees etc. While a fee of 29 cents per order is probably not a big deal if you only order one lunch order per week, it becomes a bigger deal the more times you order. Part of our trial is to see whether families are okay with that fee for the convenience of ordering online.

- **I would still like to use cash. Can I?**

While we are obviously encouraging as many families as possible to try ordering through the app, if you would still like to use cash, you can. Lunches can still be ordered in the classroom at the beginning of the day using the lunch tubs.



SOCKTOBER Crazy Sock Day

On Friday October 24th we are encouraging everyone to wear some crazy socks as part of our Socktober Crazy Socks Day. Socktober is an awareness raising event which is part of Mission Month that aims to highlight the needs of others in the world and raise money to support those who are disadvantaged. As part of Socktober we will also be hosting some soccer activities on Friday. Soccer is a sport that is played globally and an activity that unites people around the world. We hope everyone can participate in our Crazy Sock Day and the Socktober soccer activities. Students are asked to bring a gold coin donation on the day. The money will go towards the Socktober mission fundraising. This year the mission project is supporting projects in Zambia. We have been learning more about Zambia and how the funds from Socktober will be used to support local communities.



Star of the Sea Colour Fun Run



The 2025 Colour Fun Run will be held on Friday December 5th. We hope everyone is able to join in our Colour Fun Run activities which will include class based activities and an opportunity for students to participate in the Colour Fun Run where they will negotiate an obstacle course and have the opportunity to run through the colour stations. Students will need a white or black t-shirt to wear for the Colour Fun Run, which will end up multi-coloured by the end of the day!

All students in the College are encouraged to participate and join in the fundraising and Colour Run activities. Student profiles can be created by visiting the official website: <https://app.schoolfundraising.com.au> or by using the QR Code. Our fundraising target for 2025 is \$5000 so let's get started!

Important dates to make a note of include the Colour Fun Run Event Date which is December 5th and the prize ordering window which is between November 14th-19th. All students who raise \$10 or more are eligible to select a prize relevant to the amount they fundraise. Details about prizes can be found on the website and will also be advertised at school in the coming weeks.



Event Date

DEC
05

Prize Open

NOV
14

Prize Close

NOV
19

Term 4 Primary Assembly Roster

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

Please note that this roster may change

WEEK 2	Thursday 23rd October	12.10pm	Kinder
WEEK 3	Thursday 30th October	12.10pm	Grade 5/6
WEEK 4	Thursday 6th November	12.10pm	Grade 4/5
WEEK 5	Thursday 13th November	12.10pm	Grade 3
WEEK 6	Thursday 20th November	12.10pm	Grade 1/2
WEEK 7	Thursday 27th November	12.10pm	Prep
WEEK 8	Thursday 4th December	12.10pm	Kinder
WEEK 9	Thursday 11th December	12.10pm	Primary Nativity