

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 18th November 2025

From the Principal

This Friday we celebrate our Presentation Feast Day, where we recall the life of Nano Nagle and the work of the Presentation Sisters. Last week we recognised Remembrance Day, where we remembered all of those who died in wars.

Both days involve the telling of stories - stories of the life of Nano Nagle and stories of wars. But the way we retell history is always biased. We tend to focus on the things that bring out the messages that we want, and ignore or gloss over other parts. This is not an unusual thing, it is part of human nature. But what we tell and choose not to tell in our stories perhaps says something about who we are.

Many of us were brought up with a particular story regarding Anzac Day and the landing at Gallipoli. Within this story we hear about mateship and bravery and heroism of the Australian soldiers. And while that was all undoubtedly there, what we don't hear about is the fact that the landing was poorly executed, the gains were non-existent and the whole Gallipoli campaign is considered a military failure from the side of the Allies.

But whether we like it or not, those failures were part of the story. It was those failures which were to influence how things were done in the future.

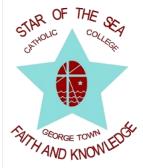
Similarly with Nano Nagle, we hear stories of sacrifice and generosity, of starting schools and visiting the poor. We tend to gloss over the farce of bringing Ursuline nuns in to help with the schools, only to discover that they were an enclosed order and couldn't leave the convent. We also don't hear much about Nano spending hours in prayer each day, to the detriment of her own health. Perhaps we find that much prayer uncomfortable in 2025.

Again, though, those parts of the story are important because they shaped who Nano was and the eventual forming of the Presentation Sisters.

Students, and adults, are good at telling stories which emphasise themselves as the victim and glossing over the role they had to play in any sort of incident. It is a typical human response to avoid shame. But it is important that we are prepared to tell those parts of the story which hurt or don't make us look good, because those are the parts which lead to growth. In a way, our failures are the most important parts of our story.

In our Star of the Sea Catholic community it is important that we hear all parts of each others' stories, but that means we must be prepared to tell them sometimes, as hard as that may be. That doesn't mean we tell them to everyone we see, but perhaps to those we trust. The important thing is, we need to tell of our failures as much as our successes, because it is our failures that shape us as we start to become the people God calls us to be.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*You have to own
your mistakes.
Otherwise, your
mistakes own you. -
Paulo Coelho*

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



PO Box 206, Corner of Friend and William Street, George Town, 7253

Ph: 6382 1242 Email: sots.reception@catholic.tas.edu.au

www.starsea.tas.edu.au



Star of the Sea Catholic College

Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart

Spirituality

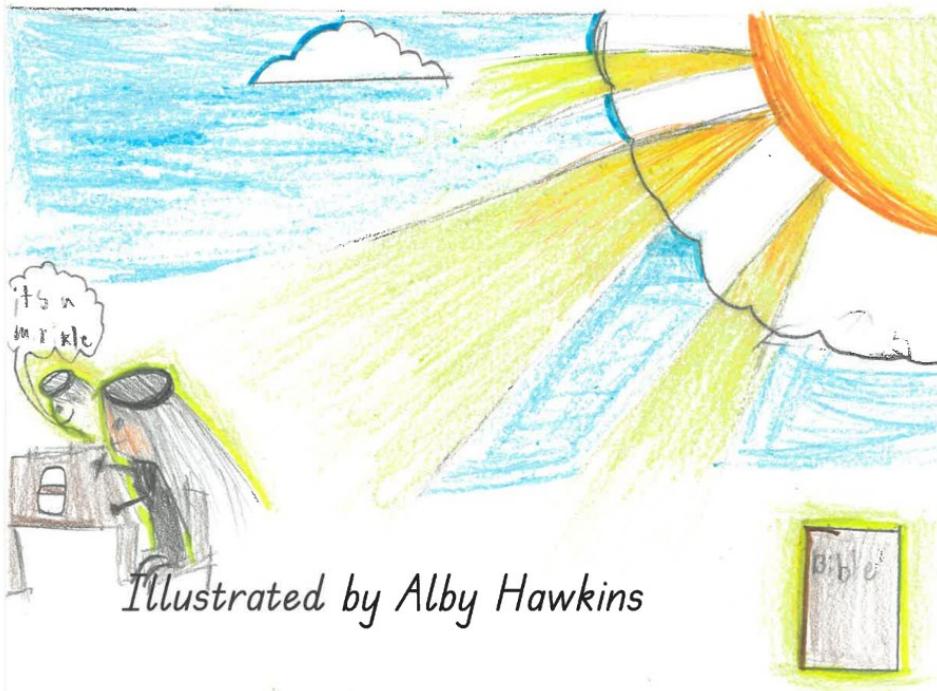


Attentiveness

Hospitality

Compassion

Mrs Sikkens' Grade 4/5 class have been talking about the Bible. Mrs Sikkens asked the class to draw a picture reflecting their understanding of what the Holy Spirit inspiring and guiding the authors might have looked like. Alby drew the picture below.



Illustrated by Alby Hawkins

Stars of the Week - 13th November 2025

Kinder

Lilyan Monaghan

For cooperating to get things done.

Prep

Mia Ernst

For a wonderful start to her time here at Star of the Sea. Great listening and having a go at everything!

Grade 1/2

Mason Giles

For his excellent effort across all learning areas. Well done Mason!

Grade 3

Dante Saunders

For being considerate of others. She is always willing to help and does her best to learn.

Grade 4/5

Eden Smith

For her kindness and compassion, especially to younger students.

Grade 5/6

Thomas Singline

For the kindness he demonstrates to everyone, everyday. You are a wonderful role model to those around you!

Lego League

Well done to our Lego League team who competed last Wednesday on the northwest coast. Although unsuccessful, they did a great job in representing the school.



Primary Performances

Knock Knock

On Thursday, our Kinder to Grade 3 students saw a performance of Knock Knock, an early childhood wellbeing performance, which was brought to us by Happy Habits. This was a wonderful show that explored emotions and problem solving as our students became crime scene detectives. The students absolutely loved this performance and we thank Ms Gay for organising such a wonderful opportunity for our younger students.



Water Guardians

On Friday we had two performances of The Water Guardians, which was brought to us by Tas Water. Students were introduced to the main characters from this performance through a series of stories they shared in class in the lead up to Friday's shows. We also had a quiz to complete as part of the educational resources, and we were impressed by how much knowledge the students had gained about being wonderful water guardians.



Star of the Sea Mass 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.

Staff Movements

Mrs McGillivray is on leave tomorrow and on Professional Development on Thursday.

Mrs Condric and Mrs Natasha Davis are at meetings on Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Freeman is on leave on Friday and next Monday.

Mrs Nesbit will be at a meeting next Monday.

Principal Meetings Thank You

Last week Star of the Sea hosted over fifty Principal and Catholic Education Tasmania staff for meetings from Wednesday morning to Friday afternoon (CCEL). This involved supplying meeting spaces, food, and leading them in prayer.

Everything went well and there were lots of compliments about the food and the participation of the students. Catholic Education Tasmania sent this message:

On behalf of all of us, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your incredible hospitality and support in hosting CCEL.

Your generosity in providing such a welcoming venue, leading us in prayer, and ensuring every detail was taken care of truly made these two days a success.

We deeply appreciate the effort that went into the preparation, the care you showed in making this gathering meaningful and productive, and the wonderful catering.

Your commitment to excellence did not go unnoticed, and we are so grateful for the time and energy you invested.

Thank you once again for everything you did to make this event so successful. It was a privilege to be welcomed into your community.

NHSSA Athletics Carnival

As many would know, the NHSSA Athletics Carnival has been switched to tomorrow (Wednesday) because of poor weather last week. We wish our athletes all the best!

Secondary Triathlon

We have a number of secondary students competing in the school's triathlon in Devonport on Thursday. Again, we wish them well and thank Mr Laurence for his organisation of this.

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, has begun. Last Tuesday we had a full-day Orientation Day 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 changed due to Presentation Feast Day:

Wednesday - 3s to 6s

Thursday - Preps to 2s

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.



Presentation Feast Day

Presentation Feast Day is this Friday 21st November! Here's what you need to know for the morning:

- 1. Students can wear casual clothes and, rather than a gold coin donation, donate to the Vinnies Christmas Hampers.**

Here is a list of what is possible to bring along:

*Tinned Ham (450g)
Tin Instant Gravy mix
Christmas Pudding or Cake
Tinned Vegetables
Pack fruit mince pies
Custard (Long-life) (1L)
Packet sweet treats (such as sweet biscuits)
Packet Savoury treats (such as savoury biscuits)
Chocolates
Tinned Fruit*

- 2. We will start the day with a Pilgrimage, as part of the Jubilee Year theme, *Pilgrims of Hope, and parents are welcome to join us and walk with their children.***

All students will be bussed to the starting points:

Secondary students will start on Low Head Road at the bottom of North St.

Upper Primary students will start (when secondary students get there) on Esplanade North at the bottom of Arthur St.

Lower Primary students and Kinders will start (when all other students get there) at Pirate Park at the end of Macquarie St.

The Pilgrimage will go along the track (we won't be walking on the road).

It will then go to the College Hall where there will be a short reflection before we move into the Church at approximately 10:30am.

- 3. We will have a prayer service in the Church at approximately 10:30am.**

This will be the culmination of the Pilgrimage. We will have a prayer service with songs, prayers and a chance for the College Captains to reflect on the life of Nano Nagle.

What to bring and wear:

For the Pilgrimage, *all* students should wear comfortable shoes to walk in (sneakers will be fine). A hat may be necessary in the morning (check the weather closer to the day) and appropriate clothing so they don't get too hot or too cold while walking (again, check the weather closer to the day). We are doing the Pilgrimage in the morning so it is not too hot.

It is not essential to bring food and drink as we will supply some on the way!

Presentation Day Activities

Our Presentation Day is this Friday November 21st. The day will include a Pilgrimage in the morning and a prayer service. There will also be a range of activities in the afternoon which students from all grades can participate in. These will include: The PCYC Mobile Activity Centre, novelty games and basketball hoop throwing competition, big games such as connect four and snakes and ladders, giant bubble blowing, badge making, art and craft, face painting, mini temporary tattoos, bracelet making, henna art and we also hope to have pony rides. All of the activities will take place on the Primary campus either within classrooms, in the gallery or on the yard or gym. **Activities on the day are free.**



There will be BBQ and other food available such as Subway and pizza. All food items are \$2.00 per serving. Students wishing to purchase food will need to bring in some money for this. Students are also welcome to bring their own lunch if they prefer.

Lanterns

Students have participated in the making of a lantern, which they have decorated. The lanterns will be included in our Prayer Service and contain a battery operated tea light. Students will be able to bring their lanterns home on Friday. We would like to inform parents that the tealight candles contain a small battery and this battery can be a hazard for small children, particularly if swallowed. Parents are advised to store lanterns in a safe place out of reach of small children.

Henna Art

As part of our Presentation Day activities on Friday, we will have a Henna artist onsite. Students are invited to get henna art on their hands or arms. Henna art remains on the skin for a period of time, typically between 1-3 weeks. Due to the way henna art remains on the skin we are asking students to gain parental permission before getting this artwork done. Only students with parental permission provided via Compass will be able to participate in the henna art activity on Presentation Day.

Pony Rides

We are hoping to have the delightful ponies from Tandara Ponies on site again this year as part of our Presentation Day activities. Due to the nature of pony rides, we require parental permission for students to participate in this activity and for them to ride the ponies. The ponies are small and for this reason this is an activity which will only be available for our younger students (Kinder - Year 4). Only students with parental permission provided via Compass will be able to participate in pony rides.

School Colour Run

A reminder that the cut off date for ordering prizes is this **Wednesday, November 19th**. Any student who has registered for the School Colour Fun Run and who has raised \$10 or more is eligible to order a prize. There is still time to register and fundraise.



Student profiles can be created by visiting the official website: <https://app.schoolfundraising.com.au>

Thank you to all families and students who have supported the Colour Fun Run fundraising so far. Let's see how much we can raise by our Colour Fun Run date which is Friday December 5th.

Emotion of the week

Grief

Grief - we feel grief as a deep and intense sorrow or distress, especially when someone has died. But grief is something that can contain many emotions. Brené Brown talks about grief as having three components - loss (such as the loss of normality), longing (such as longing for understanding or meaning), and feeling lost (because we need to re-orientate our physical and emotional worlds). Sometimes we don't get over grief, it just finds a place in our lives.

Calendar Term 4 2025

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

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 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

2026 Catholic Education Tasmania Gazetted School Calendar

Term One:

Teaching Staff Resume:	Monday 2 February 2026
Students Resume:	Friday 6 February 2026
Term 1 Concludes (Students):	Thursday 16 April 2026
Term 1 Concludes (Teaching Staff):	Friday 17 April 2026
Term 1 Student Non-Attendance Time:	Monday 20 April 2026 – Friday 1 May 2026
Easter:	Good Friday = 3 April 2026, Easter Monday = 6 April 2026, Easter Tuesday = 7 April 2026

Term Two:

Staff and Students Resume:	Monday 4 May 2026
Student Free Day:	Friday 29 th May 2026
Term 2 Concludes:	Friday 10 July 2026
Term 2 Student Non-Attendance Time:	Monday 13 July 2026 – Monday 27 July 2026

Term Three:

Teaching Staff Resume:	Monday 27 July 2026
Students Resume:	Tuesday 28 July 2026
Term 3 Concludes:	Friday 2 October 2026
Term 3 Student Non-Attendance Time:	Monday 5 October 2026 – Friday 16 October 2026

Term Four:

Staff and Students Resume:	Monday 19 October 2026
Student Free Day:	Friday 23 October 2026
Year 10 Students Conclude:	Friday 11 December 2026
Students Conclude:	Thursday 17 December 2026
Teaching Staff Conclude:	Friday 18 December 2026

Some of these dates may be subject to change. We will advise of any changes in our weekly newsletter.