

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 24th March 2026

From the Principal

Last week I attended the Ordination and Installation of the Bishop of Ballarat, Fr Mark Freeman who comes from Tasmania. Over the 24 hours I was in Ballarat, it was like having my life flash before my eyes. Growing up in the Ballarat Diocese, and now having been in Tasmania for over half my life, I saw people and things from many different stages of my life, from when I was just a child right up until the present day.

Sometimes we look back at our lives and wonder, "What if?" We ask ourselves "What if I did this instead of that, or took that job instead of this one, or stayed in that town rather than moving to this one?" It can be dangerous for us to think like this because it can lead to regrets, and having regrets is not always healthy.

We can regret saying something to someone and feel we need to apologise, and that is okay. But when we regret bigger decisions in our lives from many years ago, we start to doubt our happiness. We trick our brain into believing that there was some sort of "perfect" or "happier" life that we could have been living, if only we had made a different decision 15 years ago.

The reality is, how happy we are in our lives doesn't come from a big decision that we made a long time ago, it actually comes from the many small decisions that we make every day. Because a lot of our idea about "happiness" comes from a sense of feeling we belong, that we are loved. We won't be happy if we have a million dollars in the bank but don't feel loved or feel like we belong.

So if we want to be happy in the present, we have to look at our everyday decisions, like how we treat others, like if the people we choose to hang around with treat us in a loving way, like how we show others that they are loved and that they belong. Over my years in education I have come across many students who have felt unhappy at school, but at the heart of this unhappiness was that they didn't feel they belonged, and at the heart of that was a belief that they shouldn't have to do any work around that, but it had to come from everyone else. Unfortunately for them, they were likely to carry around that belief into their adult lives, always blaming others for how their life ended up or regretting decisions they made 10 years earlier.

For those who hold onto spiritual beliefs there is an advantage, as we always know we are loved by God, and are worthy of love, so no matter where we are we feel like we belong. But not everyone is at that point in their lives with their beliefs. So it comes back to those day-to-day decisions that we make with regards to how to live our lives.

Our happiness is not to be found by jumping in a time machine and going back to make different decisions in our lives. It is found today, here and now, in our choices and the way we treat others that we encounter on the journey.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

There are no regrets in life, just lessons. -
Jennifer Aniston

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



Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart

Spirituality



Attentiveness

Hospitality

Compassion

Reflection for Lent

Over the last few weeks, we have shared some of the stories presented to us by Caritas Australia to make us more aware of the inspirational work we can support through Project Compassion. They call us to Unite Against Poverty.

This week Project Compassion asks us to learn more about the work of Caritas Australia in humanitarian emergencies. There are so many situations around the world that require a timely response. Caritas is active in the aftermath of earthquakes, floods, storms, plagues, drought and failed harvests. Of course, there will be time to enquire about the causes and to ask if climate change may have been a factor or if poor building standards caused problems. But first, people and communities need to survive, and Caritas has a lot of experience in this area. Your generosity to Project Compassion makes a wonderful difference to people in need. Thank you for helping to bring light to dark places. Jesus says about Lazarus, 'unbind him, let him go free.' We too can set people free.

We pray for those coping with humanitarian emergencies in many countries around the world, that our donations to Project Compassion this Lent make a positive difference to people in need.

Amen



Sacraments

If parents would like their child to receive any of the Sacraments of the Catholic Church, they are most welcome to speak with our Grade 6 teacher, Mrs Lynelle Davis, about this.

Generally, students are able to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation from Grade 3 upwards.

If parents would like their child to be baptised into the Catholic Church, this can occur at any age.

All families are most welcome to explore this opportunity.

Holy Week at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in George Town

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| <i>Sunday 29th March -</i> | Palm Sunday Mass at 11:00am |
| <i>Thursday 2nd April -</i> | Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of the Feet at 6:00pm |
| <i>Friday 3rd April -</i> | Stations of the Cross at 9:30am; Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00pm |
| <i>Saturday 4th April -</i> | Easter Vigil at 6:30pm |
| <i>Sunday 5th April -</i> | Easter Sunday Mass at 11:00am |

Staff Movements

Mrs Halley is on leave on Wednesday.

Mrs Nesbit is on Professional Learning on Wednesday.

Mrs Robotham is at a meeting on Friday.

Mrs Taylor is at a meeting on Friday.

Mrs Romein is on leave next week.

Mrs Stewart is taking a year's leave starting from Term 2 as she takes on a role with BlendEd, a new education option in Tasmania. It is a great opportunity for her and we wish her well. We are currently advertising for her replacement.

Welcome

We welcome **Miss Allyson Reedy-Mead** who will be doing her teaching prac at Star of the Sea over the next four weeks. Miss Reedy-Mead will be working with Mrs Davis in the Grade 6 classroom.

Mr Chapman on Leave

Mr Chapman will be taking some leave from Wednesday 25th March to the end of the term and will return at the beginning of Term 2. During this time, Mrs Robotham will take on the role of Acting Principal and Mrs Nesbit will be the Acting Deputy Principal.

Hot Lunches

Hot lunches for this week are as normal:

Wednesday - Grades 3 to 6

Friday - Prep to Grade 2

This week's meal is Creamy Chicken Jacket Potato.

If students have dietary requirements, but you would still like them to participate in the Hot Lunch program, we can often accommodate this. Please inform the class teacher of any of these.

Next week's hot lunches will be on Wednesday (Grades 3-6) and Thursday (Prep to Grade 2) due to the Good Friday holiday.

Term 1 Primary Assembly Roster

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

Please note that this roster may change

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|----------------|---------------------|---|---------|
| WEEK 8 | Thursday 26th March | Grade 6 | 12.10pm |
| WEEK 9 | Thursday 2nd April | No Assembly due to Easter Prayer Service in the Church | 10.10am |
| WEEK 10 | Thursday 9th April | No Assembly due to Easter Liturgy hosted by Grade 4/5 | 12.10pm |
| WEEK 11 | Thursday 16th April | End of Term Assembly in the Church | TBA |

Easter Raffle raising funds for Project Compassion

Tickets in our 2026 Easter Raffle are now available. Tickets are \$1.00 each and can be purchased from the front office. There are three Easter baskets on offer as first, second and third prizes. All proceeds from the Easter raffle will go toward our Project Compassion fundraising for Caritas. Thank you for the donations already received which have been included in our Easter baskets, they are certainly looking bright and cheerful and are full of some fantastic gifts including plenty of chocolate Easter treats and other Easter surprises.

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is fast approaching.

We will be having our Mothers Day Stall in the first week of Term 2.

We would really appreciate your donations of appropriate gifts for mums.

Any donations can be left at the front office.

Thank You for your generosity.





Stars of the Week - 19th March 2026

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| Kinder | Navy Bodis | For going out of her way to include people and make new friends in such a positive way. |
| Prep | Medea Quilty-Maguire | For being a great VIP and for all her clever work. |
| Grade 1/2 | Isaiah Tilain | For being engaged in all learning activities. What a superstar learner. |
| Grade 3/4 | Billie Walker | For excellent engagement in the creative story writing process. |
| Grade 4/5 | Mia Barker | For demonstrating an amazing improvement in confidence and maturity. |
| Grade 6 | Brooke Baillie | For the enthusiasm and dedication demonstrated towards your Shakespeare Literacy extension activities. Keep up the great work! |

Tell Someone

As part of the state government's *Tell Someone* campaign, we have put posters around the school, encouraging adults and students to tell someone if they see signs of grooming or sexual abuse. More information can be found at www.tellsomeone.tas.gov.au.

2027 Year 7 Enrolments

A letter was posted on Compass for parents of our current Grade 6s, as well as put on Facebook for the wider community, to alert families wishing to enrol their child into Year 7 at Star of the Sea next year that there may be limited places. Please contact the College office if you have any questions about this.

Tasmania Reads - Reading Activities at Libraries around Tasmania

Libraries Tasmania is celebrating Tasmania Reads from Sunday 22 to Saturday 28 March 2026. Tasmania Reads is an annual week-long celebration of reading and stories in all forms. It is happening this week in libraries across Tasmania. The week is filled with fun reading inspired events and activities for all ages at libraries, schools and organisations across Tasmania. Be part of the story by attending an event, including author talks, book launches, children's storytime, pop-ups at community events and more.

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| Calendar Term 1 - 2026 | |
| Monday 30th March | Walk for Water |
| Wednesday 1st April | NHSSA Swimming Carnival |
| Thursday 2nd April | School gathering for Easter NHSSA Swimming Carnival |
| Friday 3rd April | Good Friday - Easter break begins |
| Wednesday 8th April | students return |
| Thursday 9th April | TPSSA Athletics Carnival **note date change |
| Thursday 16th April | Last day of Term 1 for students End of Term Assembly 10:00am |
| Saturday 25th April | ANZAC Day |
| Monday 4th May | First day of Term 2 for students |



SetUp for Success

Our early learning program, SetUp, is back in 2026 and is on every Thursday 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. Mrs Ros Ashenden will run SetUp during Term 1.



Catholic Education Commission Tasmania

AWARDS NOW OPEN

25 Years of Service

If you have completed 25 years of service within Catholic education this is your chance to shine a light on your remarkable journey by completing the self-nomination form.

Help us recognise your passion for education, and your steadfast dedication to our shared mission. Your commitment to Catholic education has not only impacted countless lives but has also been instrumental in shaping the future of our schools and communities.

If you have reached this significant milestone in your career, we encourage you to seize this opportunity and self-nominate for the 25 Years of Service Awards.



Recognition Awards

Do you know someone whose dedication and commitment have positively impacted Catholic Education Tasmania? Now is the time to shine a spotlight on their contributions!

Whether it's a devoted staff member, a supportive friend, or a passionate advocate, we encourage you to nominate those whose efforts have made a lasting impact on our educational landscape.

Submitting a nomination is easy: simply fill out the online nomination form and share why your nominee deserves to be recognised!



Nominations close Friday 17 April 2026 at 5:00pm.



Walk for water

As part of our Project Compassion fundraising, the Student Leaders will be hosting a Walk for Water event on Monday March 30th. On this day, classes will recreate a daily experience that many young people from around the world participate in every day. This is a walk, done daily and up to three times a day to collect water in jugs, bowls or buckets so that families can have water to drink. Sometimes young people are walking several kilometres to collect water and then carry this back to their families. Having to collect water in this way for daily survival impacts the lives of young people in many ways. One of the people we have been learning about, Sisilia, who lives in Tanzania, walks several kilometres, three times a day to provide water for her family. This has an impact on her education and her safety.

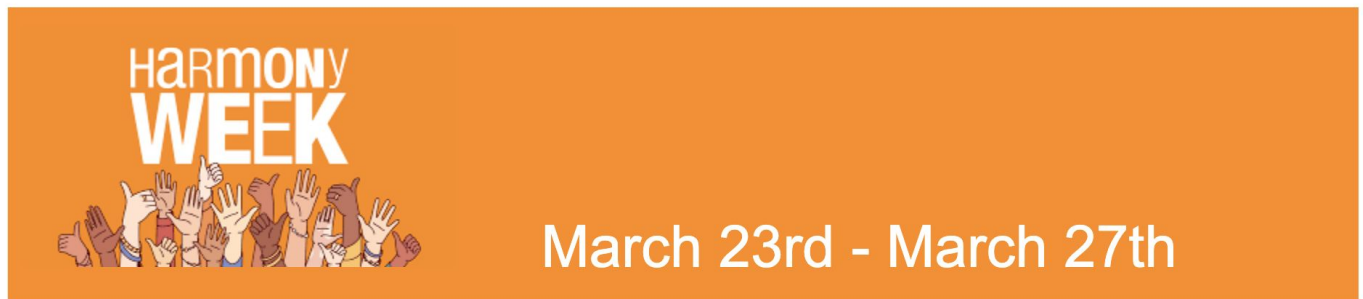
As part of the Walk for Water event we will be asking students to gain sponsorship or a donation of a specific amount of money which aligns with a level of sponsorship. Students will walk with their class for a specific distance and take turns carrying water, helping them to understand the burden and responsibility other young people around the world have in providing water for their families. Donations or sponsorship can be brought in to the school prior to the event or in the days following the event. We understand not all families are in a position to donate large amounts of money, so sponsorship or donation levels will begin at a gold coin amount and progress incrementally to larger amounts. All students who make a contribution will receive a certificate of participation

We are aiming to raise \$1000 through our Walk for Water event to add to our Project Compassion contribution. If each student and staff member is able to raise \$5.00 in sponsorship or donation, we will reach our target amount. More information will be provided via Compass and students have been provided with notices to go home with information and a sponsorship or donation form.

Sponsorship forms need to be returned by Monday March 30th. Sponsorship money and donations need to be returned by Thursday April 2nd.

Harmony Week

Harmony Week is happening this week at Star of the Sea from March 23rd - 29th. Harmony Week is an opportunity for us to recognise and celebrate diversity in our community. The Year 10 Student Leaders held their Harmony Week launch yesterday, hosting assemblies for Primary and Secondary students. During these assemblies the Student Leaders introduced information about the purpose of Harmony Week and explained the reason we hold this event and what activities will be happening throughout the week. We encourage all students to be actively involved in the activities that have been planned for the week.



| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Harmony Week Launch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Prayer in Class Teacher | Harmony Week Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakfast Club Harmony Prayer in Class Teacher | Harmony Week Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakfast Club Harmony Prayer in Class Teacher | Harmony Week Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Prayer in Class Teacher | Harmony Week Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Prayer in Class Teacher |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Week activities in classes Harmony Gathering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary 9:15 am Primary 10:45 am | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Week activities in classes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Week activities in classes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Week activities in classes Primary Assembly P5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Week activities in classes Secondary Assembly P1 |
| RECESS + LUNCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Hands activity Orange Nail polish | LUNCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soccer activities in primary yard | LUNCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Week hot lunch | LUNCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Week BBQ | LUNCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Games in the hall |

