

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 31st March 2026

From the Principal

During Holy Week we are reminded of the suffering of Jesus and how each of us also experiences suffering in our own personal ways. As we encounter Holy Week we are reminded of the ideas associated with betrayal, abandonment, injustice and pain. In our own lives we have stood at the foot of the cross ourselves, when we have felt that things are broken, when relationships have been strained or when we have felt weak and alone. The message of Easter is that despite this suffering, that is hard and real, there is also the resurrection, which is the hope, the renewal, the way forward into our future.

This is our opportunity to turn with patience to gratitude. When life presents us with hardships, we are called to take stock of what we do have, to appreciate the opportunities presented to us that show us that life continues and as it was with Jesus, that one thing sometimes has to end in order for something else to come into our lives in its place. When people are content to place their trust in God, awaiting what is new to take the place of what had come before, they allow new beginnings to take root in their lives. This does not mean that we have to be thankful for all of our sufferings, rather that from our suffering or loss, we can begin to look toward the small moments of joy that come after a period of suffering, which could be the kindness of another, an unexpected moment of peace or beauty, or having something else show up in our lives that was not there before.

When we allow gratitude to grow, amidst suffering or out of suffering, it begins to shape us in new ways. It allows us to recognise new parts of ourselves or new pathways we may follow. In this way, embracing gratitude allows us to be transformed. When gratitude takes root in suffering, it begins to change us.

This Easter, we are called to consider the reality of suffering and also the invitation of gratitude. To see these things, not as opposites, but as companions on the journey of faith, allows us to accept what has been and to move forward in life.

As we move forward in life, we go together, as companions on the journey.

Carmen Robotham
Acting Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

Gratitude turns
what we have
into enough-
Aesop

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 been learning about the ways in which Caritas Australia supports others through its global projects. Caritas and Project Compassion calls us to Unite Against Poverty. At Star of the Sea we have had a focus on the ways we can raise awareness and build understanding about the circumstances of others. We have shared this information in class, in assemblies and through our newsletters and social media communications.

This week Project Compassion reminds us that every step taken as part of an event or activity helps to ensure that when people around the world face poverty, injustice and disaster, they do not do so alone. By participating in events and awareness raising and turning compassion into action, our community is helping to transform the lives of people like 13-year-old Sisilia from rural Tanzania.

Life has been difficult for Sisilia since her father passed away when she was just a baby. Sisilia supported her mother by fetching water for the family three times a day, often through unsafe and exhausting conditions that left little time for study.

With help from funds raised during Project Compassion, Sisilia and her school were able to be supported by a project that improved access to clean water by installing taps in the school, as well as in Sisilia's village – meaning it now takes her just two minutes to collect water. For Sisilia, less time spent walking means more time spent in school, chasing her dream of one day becoming a pilot.

It is this type of work that school communities like Star of the Sea, can support through their fundraising events throughout Lent.

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



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

<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 Romein is on leave this week and will return after the Easter Break

Miss Fox is on leave on Thursday.

Mrs Stewart is on leave on Thursday.

Mrs Freeman and Mr Lawrence will be attending the NHSSA Carnival on Thursday.

Mr Chapman on Leave

Mr Chapman is currently on leave until the end of the term and will return at the beginning of Term 2. During this time, Mrs Robotham has stepped into the role of Acting Principal and Mrs Nesbit will be the Acting Deputy Principal.

Easter Holiday Dates

A reminder that Easter holidays start this week. School will finish for staff and students this Thursday 2nd April. Staff and students return next Wednesday 8th April. The office will be closed over the Easter break.

Daylight Savings Ends Sunday

A reminder to everyone that Daylight Savings ends this Sunday, April 5th. Remember to adjust your clocks accordingly.

Hot Lunches

Hot lunches for this week are:

Wednesday - Grades 3 to 6

Thursday - Prep to Grade 2

(Due to the Easter Break which begins on Good Friday)

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.

Easter Prayer Service

We will hold our Easter Prayer Service this Thursday, April 2nd in the Church. The service will commence at 10:10 am. Parents and families are welcome to join us in the Church for this event.

Term 1 Primary Assembly Roster

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

Please note that this roster may change

WEEK 9	Thursday 2nd April	No Assembly due to Easter Prayer Service in the Church	10.10am
WEEK 10	Friday 10th April	Primary Easter Liturgy - Mrs Robotham	TBA
WEEK 11	Thursday 16th April	End of Term Assembly in the Church	TBA

Easter Egg Raffle

The Giant Easter Egg Raffle will be drawn on Thursday April 2nd at the end of the Easter Prayer service. Tickets can be purchased from the front office or from the Student Leaders when they visit classes this week. Tickets are \$1.00 each. All money from the raffle will go towards the Project Compassion money we donate to Caritas this year.

2026 School Effectiveness Survey

This week your child will bring home a letter with a unique code for you to access the **2026 SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY**. We strongly urge parents and guardians to complete this survey as it provides us with specific information about Star of the Sea Catholic College and assists us to plan for the improvement of our school. The survey is being conducted by Insight SRC on behalf of our school and Catholic Education Tasmania.

The survey is designed to assist our school in gaining an understanding of parent's perceptions of their child's experience at school. The results will benefit everyone within the school and will provide valuable information about the ways in which our school can use parent input to plan programs and activities to improve your child's experience at school.

The survey portal will remain open this week and will **close on Friday April 3rd**. We hope to have a high proportion of parents complete the survey as this provides us with invaluable data on which to base future decisions. Parent log in information, a password and online portal access information will be contained in the letter which will be given to students to bring home today.

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.





Stars of the Week - 19th March 2026

Kinder	James Honeychurch	For focusing so well at daily review learning time every morning in Kindergarten.
Prep	Daisy Simpson	For all her helpful ways in Prep and for working so hard in all she does. Well done.
Grade 1/2	Axel Grimsey-Gray	For being an enthusiastic learner. You are such a great thinker.
Grade 3/4	Rafael Tilain	For consistent focus and dedication towards producing his best work.
Grade 4/5	Kota Franzeskow	For demonstrating excellent focus and engagement in his learning.
Grade 6	Malakai Hyland	For making a concerted effort to learn his alphabet. You are making wonderful progress. Keep up the great work!

NHSSA Swimming Carnival

On Thursday, April 2nd, a selected group of Secondary students will travel to the Launceston Aquatic Centre to participate in the NHSSA Swimming Carnival. We wish all participants the best of luck in your events.

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.

Project Compassion Fundraising

There is still time to drop a few coins into our Project Compassion boxes this week. The weight of these has been steadily climbing and we hope to add even more during the week. If you have any silver or gold coins that you could donate, any contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Calendar Term 1 - 2026	
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

On Monday March 30th we held our Walk for Water event to raise awareness for people around the world who undertake substantial journeys everyday to collect water for their families. As part of this event staff and students were encouraged to raise and donate an amount of money as part of a goal setting activity. Students walked in class groups, carrying water around the water trail, which had been set up in the Primary yard. Well done and thank you to everyone who participated and raised money for this event. If there are further amounts of money still to be donated, this can be brought into the office throughout the week. We hope to have a final total for our combined Project Compassion fundraising initiatives by late Thursday.



Harmony Week

Last week our school community celebrated Harmony Week. There were a range of activities held throughout the week including Harmony Breakfasts, games and activities, a BBQ, shared meals at lunchtime between Primary and Secondary students and indoor sports in the gym. Thank you to our Student Leaders for organising this opportunity for our community and to all staff who helped out with different events across the week.

Regional Primary School Basketball Tournament

Congratulations to our Grade 5/6 Basketball Team who competed in the Regional Primary School Basketball Tournament in Launceston over the weekend. The boys played four fantastic games, winning three out of the four. Throughout the weekend the boys worked so well as a team, were focused on their game plan, stayed calm under pressure and utilised every member of their team, encouraging one another, sharing the ball around and making some superb plays. Our students were wonderful ambassadors for Star of the Sea, showed outstanding sportsmanship and were a credit to themselves in their manner and gameplay.

A huge thank you to Mrs Freeman for her work in preparing the boys for their weekend tournament and for coaching and managing their matches over the weekend. Thank you to our parents as well for being a great support throughout the weekend. In two weeks time it will be time for our Grade 3/4 teams to play their games, we wish them the best of luck!

