

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 19th May 2026

From the Principal

I spent about 5 years in Melbourne at university, studying Science and then Education. During that time I caught a lot of trains and trams and some buses. One of the things that I remember about those trips is that the trams and trains always seemed to be alive with activity. People were talking to each other, others were reading books or the newspaper. There was always a sense of people being alive. Every so often someone's phone would ring (these are the days when the only thing you could do on a mobile phone was make or receive a call, or send or receive a text). When the phone rang you could almost guarantee that one of the next things you would hear was someone saying, "I'm on the tram!" in a really loud voice.

The atmosphere was generally pretty positive on these trips (except if it was a late night trip on certain lines, but that's another story).

I was in Melbourne again over the last school holidays, and once again I used trains and trams to get around. It struck me how different the mood was on the trains and trams. In most cases, there was just silence. Looking around, I soon find out why. Everyone had their heads down looking at their phones. They were very rarely interacting with the people around them, and, when a group of friends were talking with each other, it almost seemed out of place. There didn't seem to be a positive or negative mood, just one of disinterest in the world around them.

It has been amazing how, in the space of about 10 years, how much phones have had an effect on the population. Whilst they have brought a lot of benefits and a lot of convenience, they have also created a situation where we seem to have trouble with boredom, so if we feel bored for even a minute we feel we need to pick up our phone to stop that boredom.

I recently heard someone say that we should "touch our wives more than we touch our phones." You could change that phrase to suit any situation. Are we holding our partners more than our phones? Are we holding our children or family more than our phones?

What we hold onto says something about what we think is important. And how long we hold onto something compared to other things says something about the order of importance we put things in. God doesn't invite us to be slaves to technology or entertainment. He invites us to be in loving relationships with God and with each other.

So what will you do the next time you're bored? Rather than reaching for your phone, try reaching for someone you love.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

Life is different
when we
discover what
is deeply
important to us.
- Stephen
Covey

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

Psalm for Pentecost Sunday

*Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth*

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord.



Star of the Sea Church Times

Mass times for this week:

Saturday Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm Saturday

Sunday Mass - 11:00 am 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

Last Thursday we welcomed **Del King** who is doing a TA prac at Star of the Sea on Thursdays. We welcome **Mr Robert Conrad** who will be doing his UTas prac placement in Mrs Davis' Grade 6 class over the next six weeks.

Mr Chapman will be out on Thursday at a meeting.

Mrs Nesbit will be out on Friday for Professional Learning.

Mrs Robotham will be out next Monday at a meeting.

Mrs Harmer will be out next Tuesday for a meeting.

Hospitality Class Training

This week our Year 9/10 Hospitality class will be starting their 8 week course at Drysdale in Launceston. They will be participating in the Barista course and the Responsible Service of Alcohol training.

Winter Sport

This Thursday our Year 7s and 8s will begin the Winter Sport roster. This will see them head into Launceston each week to compete against other schools in soccer and netball. We wish them well and we thank their teachers for supporting the roster.

Student Free Day

A reminder that **Friday 29th May is a student-free day**. The office will be closed and all staff will be involved in workshops regarding school improvement.

When We Ring Home

Sometimes students are injured at school but the injury is minor so the student remains at school. Sometimes we will notify parents about minor injuries, sometimes not. As a school, we will contact parents or guardians to inform them if their child has had a head knock, or when they have a visible injury that a parent might be concerned about (something greater than a band aid).

Enrolments

Kinder 2027 - Last week we had our Kinder Information morning and we have now officially opened enrolments for Kinder 2027. We encourage all forms to be handed into the College office by the end of Term 2.

Year 7 2027 - If you know of someone who is wishing to enrol their child in Year 7 for next year (from another school), please encourage them to have their enrolment form into the office by the end of this term (July 10th). We may have limited spaces for enrolments next year so enrolments will not be done on a first come first served basis.

Space left in 2026 - Many of our classes are close to full, so we are currently accepting enrolments on a case-by-case basis. Our Grade 1/2 class is officially full and has a waiting list.

School Lunches

School lunches begin again this week.

Wednesday - Grades 3 to 6

Friday - Prep to Grade 2

This week is cheesy mac with green salad.

Walk Safely to School Day - Friday May 22

The National Walk Safely to School Day is being held this Friday May 22. Star of the Sea will be holding an event in support of this important day. The aim of the event is to raise awareness of the benefits of leading an active life, walking to school and highlighting road safety information for children.

Our event will begin at 7:45 am at Windmill Park (Pirate Park). Breakfast will be available and will include egg and bacon rolls or GF wraps, fruit and juice.

After breakfast students will be able to play in the park together and then we will walk to school via the Esplanade.

Please complete the Compass Event so we can ensure we cater for the right number of participants.

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 2.



Stars of the Week - 14th May 2026

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| Kinder | Erwin Monaghan | For always knowing what is right and wrong and for the way he stands up for what is right so that everyone is safe and happy. |
| Prep | Ari Bezemer-Mahoney | For a wonderful start to the new term - great learning And great sharing of all his knowledge. |
| Grade 1/2 | Grayson Matthews | For huge improvement with his writing. |
| Grade 3/4 | Jasmine Walker | For consistent focus in all areas of the curriculum. Well done Jasmine! |
| Grade 4/5 | Kailan Wheeldon | For his positive attitude and willingness to try hard in all academic areas. |
| Grade 6 | Tommy Smith | For his positive attitude to completing his multiplication grid challenge during mathematics lessons. Keep up the great work! |

Grade 6 and Prep Tree Planting



Year 10 Melbourne Trip

Year 10 students headed to Melbourne on Wednesday May 13th for their three day interstate trip. After a smooth flight Wednesday morning, the group collected their luggage and headed to Southern Cross Station in the city on the Skybus. The hotel was a short walk from Southern Cross Station.

After checking in and lunch, it was time to work out how to navigate the tram system to get to the Melbourne Museum. The afternoon was spent exploring a number of exhibitions including Rome.

On Wednesday evening it was time to be challenged by the cells in Prison Island. This was an incredible experience with teams up against the clock to solve riddles and problems to overcome the challenges in each cell block. Our brains were tested with code breaking, maths, physics, strength and stamina challenges and some that were just mind boggling! We definitely recommend a trip to Prison Island if you are ever in Melbourne.

On Thursday morning we travelled by tram to the Queen Victoria Market where we got something for breakfast and did some shopping. Another tram ride took us to Flinders Street Station and we walked along the Yarra River to the DFO in South Wharf where we did some outlet shopping.

The Melbourne Sea Life Aquarium was our mid afternoon experience and we got to see some amazing exhibits of marine animals and sealife. We also enjoyed the 4D short film.

For the rest of the afternoon we headed to the Bourke Street Mall area to explore the huge department stores.

We enjoyed dinner together at Saving Grace, a restaurant in Church Lane, which we walked to before heading to O'Briens Icehouse in the Docklands Precinct for an ice skating session. Although most people tried to ice skate it was not our most favourite activity. We did enjoy watching the ice hockey training session and a few of us managed to get the hang of skating. We caught the tram back to our hotel to rest up for a busy final day.

On Friday we ate breakfast at our hotel which offered a continental breakfast of cereal, fruit, toast, pancakes and a range of juices. We repacked our cases and checked out, storing our luggage for the day.

Our first stop was Federation Square which we explored for about 30 minutes before heading into the ACMI Australian Film and Television Exhibition. This exhibition showcased the history of film and television in Australia and had some incredible displays which were really well thought out. We were able to collect digital footprints of the exhibition displays we most enjoyed and bring the information home with us.

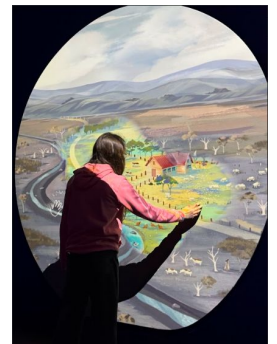
Next we headed to the Shrine of Remembrance to learn about the war history of our country and the conflicts our military has been involved in. The Shrine of Remembrance has displays and information from all of the major military campaigns with uniforms and equipment, boats, maps and many stories of Australian soldiers.

For the final part of the day we headed into the CBD to Melbourne Central which is a massive shopping mall that is five stories high and takes up multiple city blocks.

We headed back to the hotel to collect our belongings and then took the Skybus to the airport to get ready for our flight home.

We returned late Friday night, very tired but happy that we had such a great experience in Melbourne. Thank you to Mrs Nesbit, Mr Goodall and Mrs Robotham for taking us to Melbourne for our Year 10 Trip. It was a great experience.

Year 10 Melbourne Trip



Calendar Term 2 - 2026	
Tuesday 19th May	Star of the Sea Cross Country
Wednesday 20th May	Indigenous TreeTops Excursion
Friday 22nd May	Walk safely to school Day
Tuesday 26th May	NHSSA Cross Country Carnival
Thursday 28th May	TPSSA Cross Country
Friday 29th May	Student-free day (Discernment year)
Friday 5th June	Real Talk visit (secondary) (TBC)
Monday 8th June	King's Birthday public holiday
Monday 15th June	School Photos
Thursday 19th June	Grade 6 Presentation Charism Day
Friday 26th June	TPSSA Winter Sport Round 1
Sunday 5th - Sunday 12th July	NAIDOC Week
Monday 1st July	Year 10 Work Experience week - <i>to be confirmed</i>
Friday 10th July	End of Term Assembly; Term 2 ends for students

Term 1 Primary Assembly Roster

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

Please note that this roster may change

WEEK 3	Thursday 21st May	Prep	12.10 pm
WEEK 4	Thursday 28th May	Kinder	12.10 pm
WEEK 5	Thursday 4th June	Grade 6	12.10 pm
WEEK 6	Thursday 11th June	Grade 4/5	12.10 pm
WEEK 7	Thursday 18th June	Grade 3/4	12.10 pm