

# Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 26th May 2026

## From the Principal

Recently at a Board meeting we were talking about signing up for things without fully checking the details. We were talking about permission notes from school in particular, but it got me thinking about some of the other things we sign up for in life.

If you are like me, every so often when I open a computer program or an app I am presented with the message that the terms and conditions have changed and I have to read and agree to them before going further.

And, if you are like me, I don't read them at all. I just agree, going by the assumption that the conditions couldn't have changed so much that I am giving my possessions away to a particular company. Sometimes I have started reading them, but without full knowledge of what the original terms and conditions were, they don't make much sense. So I just agree so I can get on with what I was doing.

Often we sign up to new jobs without a full understanding of the role. If I really knew what was going to be involved in being a principal, maybe I would have had second thoughts! And of course what is involved in our jobs can change over time. What is involved in being a teacher has changed a lot over the past 20 years. But we usually adapt to the changes. Otherwise we suddenly have a thought one day that the job we were doing when we first started and the job we are doing now is so different that we say to ourselves, "I didn't sign up for this!"

And then there are things we don't sign up for, as such, but just launch into it.

Marriage is one of these things. No one gives us a list of roles and responsibilities for marriage and the only idea we have of how to do it is by looking at the marriage of our parents. Once it starts, all we can do is adapt and communicate with our partner and hope that we can find a positive way forward together.

Parenthood is another thing we start without knowing all of the "terms and conditions." We think we know what to expect (after all, we were all children once), but then we come across issues that we never had to face as children, and we are left scrambling for answers and, in our low moments, say to ourselves, "I didn't sign up for this!"

Thankfully for us, God has already signed us up on our behalf. God knows all of the terms and conditions, the roles and responsibilities, and knows that we can meet them. So even in our lowest moments when we lack confidence in what we are doing, God knows we can do it. All we have to do is accept that and let our lives unfold.

**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

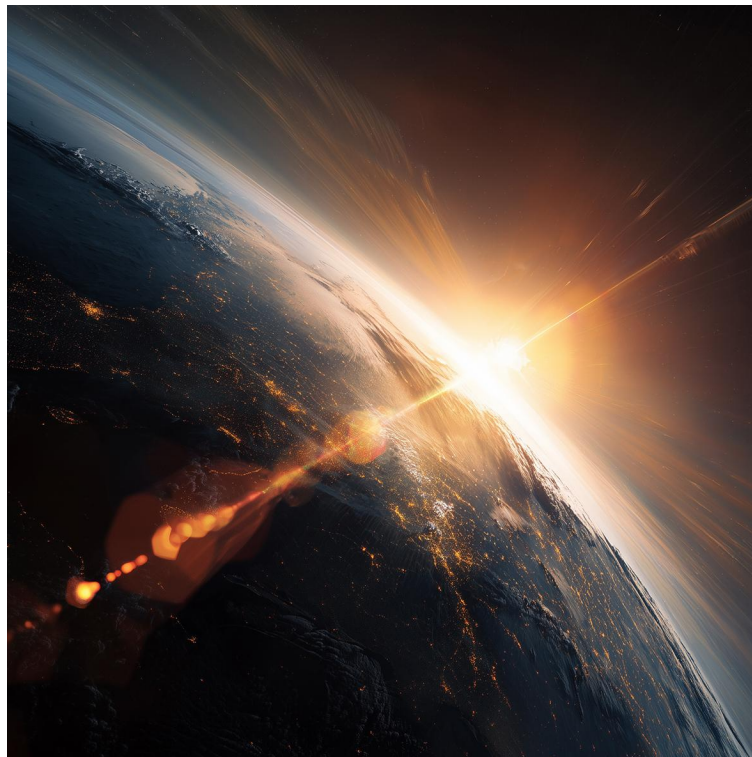
## Psalm for the Most Holy Trinity

*Glory and praise forever!*

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.  
Blest your glorious holy name.

You are blest in the temple of your glory.  
You are blest on the throne of your kingdom.

You are blest who gaze into the depths.  
You are blest in the firmament of heaven.



## 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.

### 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.

### Enrolments

**Kinder 2027** - 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 necessarily 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.

### Sporting Events this Week

This is a very busy week of sporting events. To help everyone stay on track, here is what is happening:

**Tuesday 26th May** - NHSSA Cross Country; Grade 5/6 Futsal Competition

**Wednesday 27th May** - Grade 4 Futsal Competition

**Thursday 28th May** - TPSSA Cross Country; Year 7/8 Winter Sport

We wish all our teams well and know that they will represent the school well.

### Second Term Visit with MJR

*Wow! How good was it to visit the Year 4/5s, Year 6s, Year 7s and Year 8s again and see so much improvement in the concentration and listening skills of the students. We discussed the topic of 'Joy' and how we can bring joy to others (and to ourselves) by not taking others for granted and remembering that we have the power to instil joy in others. We also discussed how we need to appreciate the taxing job of being a teacher or parents. It is NOT easy but by taking the time to thank those that care for us it can bring immense joy.*

*We discussed and shared*

- i) Joyous things we had seen this year.*
- ii) A view or place that brings us joy.*
- iii) A present we had been given or we had given that brought joy.*
- iv) When you have appreciated joy in a group eg family, team, class etc*

*Some of the classes wrote a card to someone who has brought us joy, to thank them and express our gratitude for what they had done for us. Again, I was impressed with the positive attitude from the students and look forward to catching up with them, later in the year.*

*Marty Ogle*

### School Lunches

School lunches will be different this week due to the student-free day on Friday.

**Wednesday** - Grades 3 to 6

**Thursday** - Prep to Grade 2

This week's meal is Vegetable Korma with Rice + Fruit Yoghurt.

### School Photos

Monday 15th June is school photos day. On this day students are expected to be in full school uniform. For consistency, students are to wear either a blazer or jumper. Kinder and Prep will wear PE as usual. Students not in full school uniform may not be able to have their photo taken. An information flyer on how to order photos, will be sent to Parents, via Compass.

### Grade 7/8 Winter Sport

**Soccer** - SOTS Vs Cressy 2 - 2

Last week, Star of the Sea students in grade 7-8 opened their winter sport campaign. The soccer team played very well, managing to make a second half comeback to bring the score back to 2-2



**Netball** Star of the Sea proudly fielded three netball teams at the recent competition. The teams were supported by Miss Fox, Mrs Harmer and Teacher Aid, Millie, whose encouragement and assistance throughout the day were greatly appreciated. All students represented the school admirably, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and determination. One of our teams played against Cressy and secured a well-deserved win. Congratulations to all students who participated and represented Star of the Sea with pride.



This week, the netballers continue to play their matches at The Hub while the soccer team is off to Prospect High to vs Prospect High School.

### 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 - 21st May 2026

**Kinder**     **Oliver Swanson**

For the effort he puts into the things he does at Kindergarten and the pride he takes in what he achieves.

**Prep**     **Jasmine Bishop**

For great thinking in numeracy.

**Grade 1/2**     **Oliver Hewitt**

For doing a great job of the Shout Out Draw during Assembly.

**Grade 3/4**     **Zeke Matthews**

For always producing his best work and working hard to complete his tasks.

**Grade 4/5**     **Logan Suitor**

For the enthusiasm and dedication towards all aspects of his learning.

**Grade 6**     **Niklaus Quilty-Maguire**

For demonstrating great friendship and leadership skills by successfully and patiently assisting another classmate with a challenging writing activity. Well done!

### *National Reconciliation Week - May 27th - June 3rd*

National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

National Reconciliation Week runs from Wednesday May 27th until Wednesday June 3rd. This is a time to raise awareness of the ways in which we can all work together to build connection and a sense of belonging for everyone in our community.

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2026 is **All In**, a call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day. Over the coming week we will be participating in activities to explore ideas about reconciliation and the ways in which we can promote a community that is respectful, welcoming and inclusive for all.



## *From the Deputy Principal*

### *Pentecost and Reconciliation: A Shared Journey of Listening, Truth, and Unity*

On Sunday, after listening to the Homily at Mass, I was reflecting on the similarities between Pentecost and the concept of reconciliation. Pentecost is celebrated in the Catholic Church, 50 days after Easter and was celebrated a few days ago in our Church communities. Every year, Christians around the world celebrate the feast of Pentecost, which reflects upon a moment described in the Bible when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and enabled people from many nations and languages to understand one another. For Australians, especially during the ongoing journey of reconciliation, Pentecost reminds us of the importance of truth telling, listening and unity.

At its heart, Pentecost is about transformation. People came together and began to understand one another. Strangers became more connected as a community. These same themes are central to reconciliation in Australia.

Pentecost was not about everyone thinking the same thing, rather about mutual understanding and hearing the same message. Reconciliation calls upon all Australians to listen deeply to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices, histories, and cultures as a way of understanding their journey and experiences. For many decades, First Nations peoples were denied the right to speak their truth. Languages were suppressed, children were removed from families, and cultural practices were forbidden. Reconciliation begins with recognising these realities, which is embedded in truth telling. Pentecost reminds us that true community emerges when people are heard and valued and treated with dignity and respect.

Australia is home to one of the oldest continuous cultures on Earth. Hundreds of distinct nations and language groups existed long before the introduction of English and other introduced languages. Pentecost celebrates the sacredness of language and communication. The revival and preservation of First Nation languages, as well as the development of more widespread understanding and acknowledgement of First Nations languages takes a step toward reconciliation and instating dignity, healing, and spiritual renewal.

Pentecost reminds us that we are all able to engage in active justice. The disciples did not remain hidden after receiving the Spirit. They went into the world to build a more inclusive and compassionate community. In the same way, reconciliation requires action from each of us in the way we support the expression and communication of truthful history and the way we walk alongside First Nations communities with humility and respect.

Together we can focus on a shared belonging, acknowledging the truth and reality of the past. Reconciliation promotes an Australia where we all share the nation with mutual respect acknowledging First Nations peoples as the original custodians of the land.



### National Walk Safely to School Day

The National Walk Safely to School Day was held on Friday May 22nd as part of National Road Safety Week. Star of the Sea held our event on Friday morning, on the banks of Kanamaluka, on a cold, foggy morning. We gathered at Pirate Park and shared breakfast, before assembling to walk together along the foreshore to school. Thank you to everyone who attended and to the staff who came along to support this event. Even though it was a very cold morning, the turn out from our school community was fantastic.



### First Nations Day at Hollybank

On Wednesday May 20th, a group of First Nations students participated in an activity at Hollybank which was designed to strengthen resilience and connection. Students worked together to overcome personal fears, drawing on one another's resilience and encouragement to conquer the zip lines as part of the Tree Tops Adventure course. While some students were enthusiastically looking forward to the challenge, others found the adventure daunting and for some, terrifying.

After getting harnessed and listening to the safety briefing, everyone made their way to the starting point. There were mixed emotions as everyone became hooked onto the zip line and one by one each person headed off on the first section. Tears and terrified faces were mixed with smiles and looks of exhilaration. As each person progressed around the course, they were able to gain an extensive aerial view of the area of Pipers River, which was home to the Poorrermainrener clan of First Nations people.

One of the most significant stretches of the zip line took students over a 405 m stretch which crossed Pipers River from above. This section is one of the longest and fastest zip line experiences in Australia. Everyone who attended the excursion made their way around the whole course which showed significant courage and resilience. It was a great way for students to build greater connections with their peers and the country and habitat they explored.



<b>Calendar Term 2 - 2026</b>	
<b>Tuesday 26th May</b>	NHSSA Cross Country Carnival
<b>Thursday 28th May</b>	TPSSA Cross Country
<b>Friday 29th May</b>	Student-free day (Discernment year)
<b>Monday 8th June</b>	King's Birthday public holiday
<b>Monday 15th June</b>	School Photos
<b>Thursday 19th June</b>	Grade 6 Presentation Charism Day
<b>Friday 26th June</b>	TPSSA Winter Sport Round 1
<b>Sunday 5th - Sunday 12th July</b>	NAIDOC Week
<b>Monday 1st July</b>	Year 10 Work Experience week - <i>to be confirmed</i>
<b>Friday 10th July</b>	End of Term Assembly; Term 2 ends for students

### Futsal Competition

This week students in Grades 4-6 are participating in the Launceston School Futsal Titles which are being held at the Elphin Sports Centre. This is the first time our students have participated in this competition and we look forward to hearing about their experience.



We wish them the best of luck in their games.

### Term 1 Primary Assembly Roster

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

**Please note that this roster may change**

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