

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 5th May 2026

From the Principal

Like many families before and many families to come, our family is going through a transition period at the moment. Our children are becoming more and more independent and, even though they still live at home, due to work and study commitments, we see each other less and less. It can seem unusual when we are all at home having dinner together on the same night!

These transition periods in our lives can be difficult sometimes. What we once considered normal, such as the way we spent our time, suddenly changes and we constantly have to readjust. Sometimes it seems as if the whole world is transitioning at the moment, with changing international relations changing our beliefs about the world. Sometimes the difficulty is seeing other people go through these periods and we realise our relationship with them is changing.

I recently visited my parents who have now moved into "old age." That is, they are losing their independence and are needing help from others to do certain tasks. Whether I like it or not, that means my relationship with them isn't quite like it was before. I used to visit them and be treated like a king! Now when I visit I have the responsibility of making sure certain tasks are done and helping them in any area I can.

As we celebrate Mothers Day this weekend we remember that some mothers have now moved into menopause, meaning their days of having children are over. For some mothers, this can be a difficult time both physically and emotionally as they move into a different stage of their lives.

But transitions can be positive experiences in our lives. With our children becoming more independent my wife and I are finding we have more time to spend together or on hobbies and other interests. When we travel we don't have to organise babysitters or transport for our children as much. Our children's independence sometimes allows their parents to have more independence and freedom themselves!

Transitions are also important times for growth as human beings. We see the world in a different way. We can empathise with different groups of people who have had a similar experience. Through new experiences we are able to enter into life more fully.

Of course as we enter the sixth week of the Easter season, we remember that we don't need to be worried or afraid in times of transition. The "great transition," Jesus dying and rising to new life, has already occurred! Whatever happens in our lives we know that God is with us on the journey as we continually work towards being the people we are called to be.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

Transitions are almost always signs of growth, but they can bring feelings of loss. To get somewhere new, we may have to leave somewhere else behind. - Fred Rogers

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



Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart

Spirituality



Attentiveness

Hospitality

Compassion

Prayer for Mothers Day

Heavenly Father,
thank you for the gift and joy of motherhood,
for Your grace to love and care for our families amidst our daily struggles and competing priorities.

Please bless all mothers and those who have taken upon themselves the responsibility of motherhood. Grant us strength, patience, wisdom and may Your Holy Spirit constantly inspire and guide us as we nurture our families.

Comfort those who mourn the loss of their mothers and heal those who have been hurt by broken relationships. May Your peace and love surround them.

Help families to honour and support their mothers, showing them kindness, gratitude, and profound respect, so our hearts may be filled with joy and our spirits be uplifted.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, please pray for us and our families.

I make this prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.



Staff Movements

Mrs Honeychurch returns from Maternity Leave this week. Mrs Honeychurch will be teaching Digital Technology in some Primary classes, as well as some Year 7 and Year 8 subjects, along with Childcare in Year 9/10.

We welcome back **Mr Tim Wedlock** to our Star of the Sea staff. Mr Wedlock will be working on Fridays, supporting the Grade 5 and 6 Winter sport program.

Jorden Cox begins her maternity leave at the end of this week. We wish Jorden well as she prepares to welcome a new addition to her family. We look forward to welcoming Jorden back next year.

We welcome **Millie Barnard** who will take Jorden's place in the Grade 1/2 classroom. Millie has had some transition days this week and we look forward to welcoming her full time next week.

School Lunch Program

There are no hot lunches this week. The School Lunch Program will resume in Week 2 of Term 2. 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.

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.



Staff Professional Development

On Friday April 17th, staff from the College met for a series of Professional Development sessions. The focus of the day was to reflect upon practice and build capacity to further support the growth and development of the school community and those who learn and work at Star of the Sea. Teaching staff also spent time working on embedding differentiation and adjustments into their learning programs and developing rich learning tasks for their classes.

Winter Uniform

At Star of the Sea Catholic College students are expected to move into the formal academic winter uniform at the beginning of Term 2. We expect to see all students wearing their uniform neatly, correctly and with pride. If you require additional uniform items please make arrangements this week to order and collect these. If families need assistance with uniform items, please contact Mrs Condric in the office.

Mother's Day Stall Friday 8th May

Please ensure that your child brings some money on Friday for the Mother's Day stall. Items will be priced from \$1 to \$10.

New School Socks

Our new school socks have arrived and are available for purchase. The new design is white with a maroon hoop around the top and will replace the existing maroon and grey socks, as these are phased out. Students may wear either the white socks or the maroon socks (girls) or grey socks (boys) for the remainder of the year. We encourage families to purchase the new socks as older pairs need replacing.

TPSSA Athletics Carnival

On Thursday April 16th a team of athletes from Star of the Sea travelled to the St Leonard's Athletics Centre to compete in the TPSSA carnival. Throughout the day our athletes demonstrated resilience and excellence as they strived to perform to the best of their ability. While the whole team were successful there were also a number of standout performances which resulted in 6 students being selected for the State Championships which are being held in Launceston this Friday May 8th. Thank you to our hard working staff for supporting our students to have these opportunities. Thank you also to Mrs Freeman and Mr Laurence for the organisation that has gone into making these days a success. We wish our representatives the best of luck as they take on even bigger challenges at the State Championships this week.

Cross Country

The Cross Country event will be held on Tuesday May 19th. More information will be available closer to the date.

Star of the Sea Church 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.

AMC Immersion Experience

On Monday April 13th students in Grades 9-10 were invited to an information session run by staff from the Australian Maritime College (AMC) about an upcoming 3 day Immersion Workshop which is being offered in June by the AMC, which is being supported and sponsored by TasPorts. The Immersion Workshop will provide students with practical hands on learning and an introduction to the AMC and what it offers future learners. This opportunity is free and travel to and from the AMC in Launceston will also be provided. If students in Grades 9-10 are interested in applying for this opportunity they need to complete the application which is available by using the QR code distributed at school and included here.



<https://forms.office.com/r/Cm449fbHSM>

Term 1 Award Winners

Merit Awards

Year 7

Ebony King	Consistent effort and application in all subjects
Ryan MacFarlane	Consistent effort and application in all subjects
Rhianna Crowden	Consistent effort and application in all subjects
Rayne Stafford	Consistent effort and application in all subjects
Sebastian Winters	Consistent effort and application in all subjects
Georgia Curtis	Consistent effort and application in all subjects

Year 8

Joel Berger	Consistent effort and application in all subjects
Tobias Jones	Consistent effort and application in all subjects
Mikayla Hundermark	Consistent effort and application in all subjects
Ella MacFarlane	Consistent effort and application in all subjects
Jai Mark	Positive contributions to Religion and Engagement with learning

Year 9

Mia Clark	Dedication in RE
Grace McKittrick	Conscientious efforts in RE
Keegan Leslie	Exhibiting vast improvements in many areas
Aiden Lang	Engaging effectively during whole class discussions in History
Charli Davy	Consistent effort and application in Health
Paityn Tunks	Academic achievement in Mathematics

Year 10

Ruby Clarke	Consistent effort and application in all areas
Kaiden Hewitt	Exemplary work in English
Lillian Mather	Consistent effort and application in Health



Application to Learning Awards

Kinder	Erwin Monaghan
Prep	Audrey Suitor
Grade 1	Lillian McKean
Grade 2	Zhen Gbenimacho
Grade 3	Lucas Ratcliffe
Grade 4	Lachlan Smith
Grade 5	Kirra-Lyla Harris
Grade 6	Thomas Singline



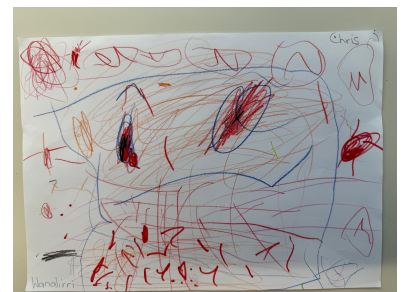
Swimming Champions

Year 3	Logan Hawkins & Rafael Tilain
Year 4	Elsie Sherriff & Chad Jenkins
Year 5	Vanessa Linley & Alby Hawkins
Year 6	Evie King & Dyson Bromley
Year 7	Rhianna Crowden & Nate Walker
Year 8	Bria Jarman & Jai Mark
Year 9	Paityn Tunks & Angus McKean
Year 10	Lillian Mather



First Nations Reading Immersion Program

This year we have introduced a Reading Immersion Program for our First Nations students. First Nations students in Lower Primary have been working with Mrs Michelle Youd exploring texts with First Nations characters, contexts and stories. It has been a joy to see the enthusiasm and engagement that has come from this experience. The student responses to these sessions show a deep level of understanding and connection and some examples have been included in our newsletter this week.



Mother's Day

Mother's Day events

This week Star of the Sea will celebrate Mother's Day on Friday May 8th. The Mother's Day stall will be held in the morning. Thank you to everyone who has contributed items for this, your support and generosity has been greatly appreciated.

The Mother's Day Prayer Service will begin at 2.15 pm Friday afternoon in the Church. Mrs Davis and Grade 6 students will lead this service. Members of our community are warmly invited to attend.

The Mother's Day Afternoon Tea will be held in the Hall following the prayer service. Please complete the RSVP slip included in the newsletter if you will be attending. This assists us in our organisation for catering. If there are specific dietary needs please specify this on the RSVP slip.

Mother's Day Events - Friday May 8th

The Mother's Day events will occur at the end of the first week of Term Two.

- The Mother's Day stall will be held in the morning on Friday May 8th.
- The Mother's Day Prayer Service will be held at 2:15 pm in the Church on Friday May 8th.
- The Mother's Day Afternoon Tea will be held in the Hall following the Prayer Service.

Please RSVP by returning the slip below or emailing sots.reception@catholic.tas.edu.au



Mother's Day Afternoon Tea RSVP

Name of Student/ Students:

Number of adults and students attending: _____

Dietary needs: GF DF Vegetarian Vegan Nut Free Other

(Please circle all that apply and provide more information for other)



Please return this form to the front office by Wednesday May 6th.

Calendar Term 2 - 2026	
Thursday 7th May	Mother's Day Stall; Mother's Day prayer
Wednesday 13th - Fri 15th May	Year 10 Camp
Thursday 14th May	Kinder 2025 Information morning
Friday 15th May	National Walk to School Safely Day
Tuesday 19th May	Star of the Sea Cross Country
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 1	Thursday 7th May	Grade 3/4	2.00pm - Please note change of time this week only
WEEK 2	Thursday 14th May	Grade 1/2	12.10pm
WEEK 3	Thursday 21st May	Prep	12.10pm
WEEK 4	Thursday 28th May	Kinder	12.10pm