

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 11th August 2026

From the Principal

For thousands of years, humans have talked about the importance of showing gratitude. Almost all of us, when we were growing up, were taught to say thank you at the appropriate times to the appropriate people. Even today, mental health experts recognise the importance of gratitude and encourage us to recognise opportunities to express our gratitude.

Sometimes it is obvious who it is exactly we want to thank. Someone cooks a meal for us, we thank them. Someone helps us with a task, we thank them. We go to the shops and we thank the person who serves us. We see a show and we applaud at the end as a sign of our gratitude.

Sometimes it is less obvious who to thank. We might recognise we are having a good day, or our life is in a good place, but who do we thank for that? We might want to express gratitude for seeing something beautiful in nature, but who do we show gratitude to for that?

Last week we celebrated the Blessing and Opening of our redevelopments. Even though we had started using them about a year ago, we hadn't had the opportunity to officially open them. But the ceremony was still important, as it gave us the opportunity to say thank you. When the students started using the new secondary play area last year, no one was hanging around to be thanked. Last week, though, we were given the opportunity. We were able to thank architects and project managers, politicians and Presentation sisters, and many others who were involved in not only making the project happen, but also who had been stewards of the school over the past decades.

The presence of the Archbishop and Father Bala for the blessing of the areas also gave us the opportunity to thank God. There are a couple of things that happen when we bless something. It is a way of praising God and thanking Him for his graces, and it is also a way of recognising God's presence in our school. Because of this, the blessing of a building overflows to us and we too are blessed.

This week is Catholic Education Week, and it is another opportunity to show gratitude, this time to all of those who have contributed to Catholic Education in Tasmania over the last 200 years or so. We thank teachers, school staff, religious people who have worked in the Catholic Education Office, and countless others who have contributed to this great endeavour of educating the whole person.

And of course through the liturgies and prayers that will happen next week, we thank God, just as we thank God for that beautiful sunrise or for the recognition that we live in a safe and beautiful place or for Star of the Sea Catholic College.

Let us use this week to focus on our gratitude, to God and to each other and to those who support us in our lives, and in doing so continue to be the people God calls us to be.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

In happy moments, praise God. In difficult moments, seek God. In quiet moments, worship God. In painful moments, trust God. Every moment, thank God. - Rick Warren

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 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.



Star of the Sea Mass 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.



Welcome

We welcome Oliver (4) and his family to the Star of the Sea Catholic community. We hope they enjoy their time here.

Staff Movements

We welcome back **Mrs Sikkens** who has returned to teach the Grade 4/5 class. We thank **Mrs Couttie** for all of her work with the class over the past weeks.

Miss Fox is on leave tomorrow.

Mr Tulk is on leave for the next two weeks. Toby Davis and Zen Lazdauskas will provide support with utility in his absence.

Academic Competitions

Starting this week some of our students will be involved in the Maths, Science and English competitions. Thank you to Mrs Tame for organising these.

Book Week Parade - early notice

Our Book Week Parade will be held on Thursday 27th August (just over 2 weeks). On the day, students are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite book character.

Catholic Education Week

This week is Catholic Education Week, a chance for us to celebrate the contribution that Catholic Education makes to Tasmania. As part of the week our Year 6s will travel to Launceston tomorrow to participate in the Catholic Education Week Mass with other northern Catholic schools.

As part of the week we also have a chance to celebrate the contribution that **Mrs Rose Briscoe** has made to Star of the Sea. Mrs Briscoe will be receiving an award tomorrow for Outstanding Service as an Employee within Catholic Education.

Mrs Briscoe began at Star of the Sea in 1985, and in her time here she made a huge contribution to the school, especially in the area of Religious Education. For many years Mrs Briscoe was the Religious Education Coordinator at Star of the Sea, which saw her preparing students for receiving the Sacraments, preparing meaningful prayers and liturgies for the school, engaging staff in prayer and Spirituality Days, getting students involved in Vinnies, as well as teaching Religious Education to hundreds of students!

In her later years at the school Mrs Briscoe played a big role in supporting our First Nations students, along with promoting literacy throughout the school.

Star of the Sea has been extremely lucky to have had Mrs Briscoe at our school for such a long time. We wish her well in her retirement and know that she will always be part of the fabric of Star of the Sea Catholic College.



Exploring Para-sport Opportunities

The Tasmanian Institute of Sport has established a dedicated Para Unit to identify, support and develop Tasmanians who may be eligible for para-sport.

Led by Dr Kirstie Turner, the unit aims to increase participation, improve access to high-performance pathways and potentially double Tasmania's Paralympic representation for Los Angeles 2028 and again for Brisbane 2032.

The Tasmanian Para Unit will expand youth and senior talent programs, provide greater access to specialist training and hold sport-sampling sessions in Hobart, Launceston and the North-West. Its broader goal is to create more sporting opportunities for Tasmanians with disabilities or impairments, regardless of their age, location or previous sporting experience.

There are many sports available at a Paralympic level. To explore the complete list, visit the [International Paralympic Committee's sports webpage](#).

For further information follow the link on the QR code or to discuss possible eligibility, please contact:

Dr Kirstie Turner

Para Unit Lead, Tasmanian Institute of Sport OR

Email: kirstie.turner@tis.tas.gov.au

Deon Kenzie

Australian Paralympian and two-time Paralympic medallist

Email: deon.kenzie@tis.tas.gov.au



Students who feel unsure about making contact are welcome to speak with Mrs Harmer or Mr Laurence, who will be happy to help them take the next step.

School Lunches

School lunches will be as normal this week.

Wednesday - Grades 3-5 (Grade 6s are at the Catholic Education mass on Wednesday and will get lunch there)

Friday - Prep to Grade 2

Enrolments

Kinder 2027 - Enrolments for Kinder 2027 are still open. We encourage all forms to be handed into the College office as soon as possible.

Year 7 2027 - Our enrolments for Year 7 2027 **have now closed**. Families of students from other schools who have submitted an enrolment form are currently being contacted to be invited to an interview.

Spaces 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.

Term 3 Primary Assembly Roster

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

Please note that this roster may change

WEEK 3	Thursday 13th August	Grade 3/4	12.10pm
WEEK 4	Thursday 20th August	Grade 1/2	12.10pm
WEEK 5	Thursday 27th August	Prep	12.10pm
WEEK 6	Thursday 3rd September	Kinder	12.10pm

Stars of the Week - 9th July 2026

Kinder	Erwin Monaghan	For always being so positive and encouraging to his peers at Kinder.
Prep	Joesiah (Joey) Forbes	For an excellent start to Prep. Making friends and joining in with all class learning and activities.
Grade 1/2	Rouxel Coetzer	For excellent focus during Literacy lessons. Your reading has improved immensely. Keep up the great work, Rouxel.
Grade 3/4	Logan Hawkins	For her focus and sustained effort in creating interesting Powerpoint slides. Well done Logan.
Grade 4/5	Elsie Sherriff	For being a good team member and public speaker.
Grade 6	Sam Moore	For consistent improvement in all areas.

From the Deputy Principal

Catholic Education Week Mass and BBQ

As part of Catholic Education Week some of our staff and students will attend the Catholic Education Week Mass which will be held tomorrow at Sacred Heart Church in Newstead. Our Year 6 students will join other Northern Catholic schools for the Mass on Wednesday. Rilee Brown will be reading for the congregation and we thank Rilee for representing our school at this event. The Year 10 Student Leaders will also attend this event and will be cooking and serving the BBQ for the staff and students who attend Mass. We thank the Student Leaders for their hospitality and service as part of this event.



This year we will be celebrating Book Week during Week 5 of Term Three. As part of this week we will hold a Book Week Parade. This is an opportunity for staff and students to dress as a character from a favourite book for the day and participate in the Book Parade Parade. The theme for 2026 is a Symphony of Stories. You can find out more about Book Week by visiting the Children's Book Council of Australia website: <https://cbca.org.au/childrens-book-week/>

7/8 Winter Sport

Netball:

The Hub - Mowbray
SOTS Div 1 vs KMHSb
SOTS Div 3a vs PHSc
SOTS Div 3b vs PHSb

Soccer:

SOTS vs RHS @ Riverside HS



Term 3 - 2026	
Monday 10th August	Fire Week for Primary
Wednesday 12th August	Catholic Education Week Mass
Monday 24th August	Year 10 Reflection Day
Tuesday 25th August	Year 8 Reflection Day
Wednesday 26th August	Year 9 Reflection Day
Thursday 27th August	Book Week Parade (<i>Symphony of Stories</i>)
Thursday 3rd September	Father's Day Breakfast and Stall
Thursday 10th September	7/8 Winter Sport Grand Finals; RUOK Day
Thursday 1st October	Country Gold
Friday 2nd October	Term 3 ends; End of Term Assembly

Father's Day... Is only 2 months away.

So we are starting to collect Father's Day presents now for our stall.

If you are a skilled person who could make a few donations

Or a dedicated shopper with an extra few dollars,

Or you have a few extra unused things around the house.....

We would love a gift from you and your family.

All donations gratefully accepted.



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 3.



Blessing and Opening of Redevelopments

Last Thursday we had the Blessing and Opening of our redevelopments, with the Archbishop of Hobart Tony Ireland and Ms Jess Teesdale MP in attendance. It was a joyful occasion and the students are to be complimented on the way they presented themselves on the day.

