

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 29th September 2026

From the Principal

Would you call yourself a stupid person? I'm sure not many of us would, but there are different ways of looking at the idea of stupidity. Our immediate thoughts about stupid people is that they don't know "stuff," whether it be reading and writing, maths, or just facts about the world. But perhaps there is another way of looking at it.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor who, during World War II, was arrested by the Nazis for hiding Jews, and eventually hanged towards the end of the war. He was very much against Adolf Hitler and it has been suggested he was involved in a plot to have Hitler assassinated.

While he was languishing in prison, he had time for thinking and writing, and he wondered why so many people were going along with Hitler's ideas even though they were obviously wrong. How did, seemingly, quite normal and sensible people get sucked into Nazi propaganda rather than asking questions?

He came up with the theory that stupid people are not people who know or don't know certain things. Stupid people are people who have given up independent thinking. They are people who have stopped asking questions. He noticed that this happened more in groups than alone. People stopped their independent thinking so they could fit in. No one likes to be the outcast, so we just go along with whatever is going on.

Of course, that makes us easy prey for powerful leaders. Powerful leaders become powerful when their followers become mindless. It helps the leaders to maintain control. Powerful leaders also tend to try to use slogans and catchwords, and we get sucked into using these instead of thinking for ourselves. "Stop the boats!", "Make Australia great again!", "Fire the liar!" and "We've gone too woke!" are just some of the ones our Australian politicians have used and we hear people repeat, without knowing too much about what they are saying.

Bonhoeffer suggested that you can't defeat stupid people with logic - they just get angry. Only an external "act of liberation" could change their minds.

Do we see *stupidity* in our own lives? Probably, and we have probably all been guilty of it at some point. We only have to look at the way people jump onboard social media posts to realise how people have lost their independent thought.

In our Star of the Sea Catholic community, we want to teach our children to have independent thinking. It is harder when their lives are affected by what they read and watch online, but we must keep challenging our students to question things. Otherwise, we are only a few slogans away from the next human disaster caused by powerful leaders.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act." -
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

Prayer for Our Lady Star of the Sea

Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean,
guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas
that they may reach the haven of peace and light
prepared in him who calmed the sea.

As we set forth upon the oceans of the world
and cross the deserts of our time,
show us, O Mary, the fruit of your womb,
for without your Son we are lost.

Pray that we will never fail on life's journey,
that in heart and mind, word and deed,
in days of turmoil and in days of calm,
we will always look to Christ and say,
'Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?'



Our Lady of Peace, pray for us!
Bright Star of the Sea, guide us!
Our Lady Star of the Sea, pray for seafarers, pray for us.

Amen

The Feast Day for Our Lady Star of the Sea was Sunday 27th September

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.

Fr Bala has returned to India. Until further notice, George Town will be serviced by priests from Launceston.

These Mass times will continue for a few weeks until a decision is made about moving to one Mass per weekend.

Staff Movements

Mrs Harmer is on leave Thursday and Friday.

Mr Wedlock finished his role last Friday. Mr Wedlock was employed for Term 2 and 3 to assist with Primary Winter Sport. We thank him very much for all of his work in this area which made the running of sport very smooth.

Annie Hughes will also finish with us this week. Annie has been acting in the role of Student Wellbeing Officer while we advertised the role. We thank Annie for all of her support that she has offered the students during this time.

Mrs Romein is on leave on Friday.

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.

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.

End of Term Assembly

We will be holding our End of Term Assembly this Friday 2nd October at 10am in the church. Parents and families are most welcome to attend.

Front Office Receptionist Role

Mrs Loud will be retiring at the end of this year. Because of this, we will soon be advertising for a Front Office Administration Officer position. The position is for 4 days per week during term time. Whilst the successful applicant will start next year, if possible there will also be time for training this year.

Grandparents Day

We will be celebrating our Grandparents with a prayer and a Devonshire tea on Friday 23rd October (first week back of Term 4). The prayer in the church will begin at 1:45pm, followed by an opportunity for Grandparents to visit their child's classroom at 2:15pm, followed by Devonshire Tea at 2:30pm in the Hall. Please note - the Devonshire tea is for Grandparents only (not students). An RSVP is included in this newsletter.

George Town Futures Expo

Our Year 9 and 10 students will be visiting the George Town Futures Expo tomorrow Wednesday 30th September. This exhibition style fair will showcase local initiatives, businesses, and services through interactive exhibits and activities. The event aims to foster community engagement and inclusivity, with a focus on migrant awareness and school leavers. Local and state-based organisations will offer information on education, employment, social services, and career pathways and opportunities.

Year 9 and 10 Options 2027

Our Year 8 and 9 students have been given their options booklet to help them decide what options subjects they want to do next year and have had a chance to find out more about each option. They have now begun the process for choosing options for 2027. Options will only run if there are enough students to warrant them running.

Year 10 Work Experience

This week the Year 10 students have participated in a work placement. They have had some positive experiences and employers have been very impressed with their attitude and aptitude.

Zavier Cooper had to complete his work placement earlier in the term and accepted an apprenticeship as a result of his work.

Thank you to all the employers who took on a work placement student this year. Work Experience is not possible without work places being generous with their time. Congratulations to our Year 10 students for a great week.



Term 3 Primary Assembly Roster

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

Please note that this roster may change

Week 10	Thursday 1st Oct	Grade 3/4	12:10pm
----------------	-------------------------	------------------	----------------

School Lunches

School lunches will be as normal this week.

Wednesday - Grades 3-6

Friday - Prep to Grade 2

From the Deputy Principal



Congratulations to our fantastic fundraisers. So far we have raised over \$3000. We are really impressed with the efforts already and are looking forward to seeing the fantastic fundraising that happens over the holiday period. There will be additional incentives for students who are the highest fundraisers in their class with Colour Run Ambassador t-shirts, coloured headbands and colour run sunglasses for our highest fundraisers. The highest fundraiser overall will get to wear the Golden Cape.

Who will it be?

There is still time to sign up and get started with your fundraising. Students who raise \$10 or more are eligible to select a fundraising prize based on the amount of money raised. Information about these prizes can be found in the brochure that has been sent home with students or on the Australian Fundraising website.

Visit <https://myprofilepage.com.au/> for more information.



Next **Thursday October 1st** we will hold our Footy Colours Day. This is an opportunity to celebrate the teams we love to support. Any team colours are welcome and there will be activities on the day that have a footy theme. Please bring a Gold Coin Donation on the day. Proceeds will go towards Samaritan Projects Tasmania.

HEYWIRE

TAMAR VALLEY

Young people from across the Tamar Valley have had the opportunity to share their stories, experiences and ideas through **ABC Heywire Tamar Valley**, a unique initiative designed to amplify the voices of young people living in regional communities. Year 9 and 10 students were invited to be a part of this event earlier in the year and two Year 9 students, **Aidan Lang and Aaron Gilmore**, took up the challenge and were successful finalists.

This program brought together 34 young people from the Launceston, George Town and West Tamar local government areas for a week of storytelling, leadership, connection and celebration. Last week the group gathered in Launceston for the culminating awards and event celebrations.

Among the stories produced were young people reflecting on their connection to family and Country, their experiences of moving between countries and cultures, finding belonging through sport and community, pursuing sporting dreams, discovering confidence through creative interests, and overcoming personal challenges.

Aidan's story describes how basketball helped him move from watching other students from the sidelines to becoming involved in a team and developing stronger connections. With encouragement from his family and support from his mentor, Aidan joined the West Side Trojans and played his first game — an experience that became an important milestone in his confidence and sense of belonging.

Aaron's story describes the relationship he shared with his pop who he said was his best friend and with whom he shared countless adventures including fishing, camping and enjoying the outdoors. Aaron's story explores the importance of relationships and learning to navigate life following the loss of his grandfather.

The program culminated in the **Heywire Tamar Valley Summit**, bringing together the finalists, community leaders and program partners. The summit provided an opportunity for participants to develop ideas about how their communities could become even better places for young people to live.

We congratulate Aaron and Aidan on being finalists in this fantastic event. You can listen to their winning entries by visiting <https://www.abc.net.au/heywire/programs/tamar-valley>.



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.

Star of the Sea Athletics Carnival Grades 3 - 10

Our SOTS Athletics Carnival is coming up in **week 1** of next term! This year we have decided the Athletics Carnival will be on Thursday the 22nd October at the St Leonards Athletics track.

Consent is required for all students to attend the Athletics Carnival. If you have not already given consent for your child to attend please do so via Compass.

Star of the Sea Catholic College
Invites you to our
End of Term Assembly on
Friday 2nd October 2026
At 10:00am in the Church
Please join us



Stars of the Week - 24th September 2026

Kinder	Stanley Moore	For being such a dedicated and involved student in every discussion, learning time and playtime at Kindergarten. He gives everything his best and always has great ideas.
Prep	Jasmine Bishop	For working so well on her handwriting skills and for neat and careful work in all her work.
Grade 1/2	Temperance Targett	For being an enthusiastic learner who is always trying her best.
Grade 3/4	Oliver Robertson - Brown	For settling in nicely at Star of the Sea College.
Grade 4/5	Hallee Goodyer	For her excellent understanding of Mathematics, especially in the area of multiplication.
Grade 6	Rilee Brown	For her resilience and persistence during Mathematics activities involving fractions. Your bravery in asking for assistance is to be commended.

2026 Calendar

Term 3 - 2026	
Thursday 1st October	Country Gold
Friday 2nd October	Term 3 ends; End of Term Assembly
Term 4 - 2026	
Monday 19th October	Student Free Day
Tuesday 20th October	Students resume
Thursday 22nd October	3-10 Athletics carnival at St Leonards (there is no 1/2 day on the Wed)
Friday 23rd October	Grandparent's Day Celebration
Thursday 29th October	TPSSA swimming carnival at Scottsdale
Friday 30th October	World Teachers Day; Colour Run
Monday 2nd November	Recreation Day Public Holiday

Grandparent's Day Celebration

Our Grandparents Day celebration will be held on Friday 23rd October (First Week back of Term 4).

We will be celebrating with a prayer service in the church, which will begin at 1:45pm, followed by the chance for Grandparents to visit their grandchildren's classroom at 2:15pm. Grandparents can then enjoy a Devonshire tea at 2:30pm in the Hall. Please note - the Devonshire tea is for Grandparents only (not students).

RSVP by Wednesday 21st October

I/We _____ are the grandparents of _____
and I/we will be attending the Grandparent's Day Celebration:

Church Prayer ☐ Class visit ☐ Afternoon Tea ☐

Dietary requirements _____

