Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 24th November 2026

From the Principal

This coming Sunday marks the start of Advent, that period of four weeks of waiting before Christmas. Many people with children younger in their households will use Advent Calendars as a way of helping them visualise the countdown to Christmas. Parents among us may start to panic as we suddenly realise we haven't started organising anything we wanted to get done before Christmas!

In the Catholic Church we are called to be on our guard and stay awake, because we don't know when the time will come (Mark 13:33). Many of us will find this idea frustrating. We will have had experiences of having to stay in our houses because a tradesman said he would be there "sometime before lunch," or because we get a notification that there will be a delivery "between 12pm and 3pm" and we have to be there to collect the parcel! We find waiting around for something to happen to be a waste of our time.

But during Advent, rather than seeing waiting as frustrating and a waste of our time, we are called upon to use the waiting as a time of reflection. We are called to reflect upon our own lives and discover ways in which we might be changed. As we sometimes tell the students, if Jesus appeared at your house tomorrow and told you everything about your life in front of your family, what are the things you might be embarrassed about?

None of us are perfect, so there is always room for growth. Advent is a time where we can ask ourselves what we are attached to which is stopping us from growing. Are we too attached to making money or seeking success? Are we attached to social media, and we spend more time on it than we do interacting with our family? Are we holding a grudge against someone for something that happened last week, last month or even last year? All of these things can hold us back and stop us from growing.

But the call to be on our guard and stay awake is also something we are asked to do with each other. People's needs don't suddenly disappear in the lead up to Christmas. If anything, they get bigger. This has been a year of uncertainty in George Town with the closure of Liberty Bell Bay and the time it took for agreements to be reached for Bell Bay Aluminium. For some families it may be a Christmas that looks a bit different than usual due to job losses and the rising cost of living. We are called to be attentive and supportive to these people, now more than ever.

Waiting can be frustrating, but it can also lead to growth if we are prepared to put in the work. In Our Star of the Sea Catholic Community, let's make this Advent a time where we open ourselves up to reflection and growth, and so be the people God calls us to be.



Richard Chapman
Principal

Attentiveness, Hospitality and Compassion.

Waiting on the Lord is never wasted time. - *Charles Stanley*

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

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Star of the Sea Catholic College

SchoolTV

Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart

Spirituality



Attentiveness

Hospitality

Compassion

Psalm for the Feast First Sunday of Advent

Lord, make us turn to you,
let us see your face and we shall be saved.



O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name

Star of the Sea Mass Times

Mass times for this week:

Saturday 28nd November Mass - 5:00pm Saturday

at the George Town Catholic Church (Our Lady Star of the Sea) which is located in Goulburn Street, across the road from the Hall. We will have visiting priests until further notice.

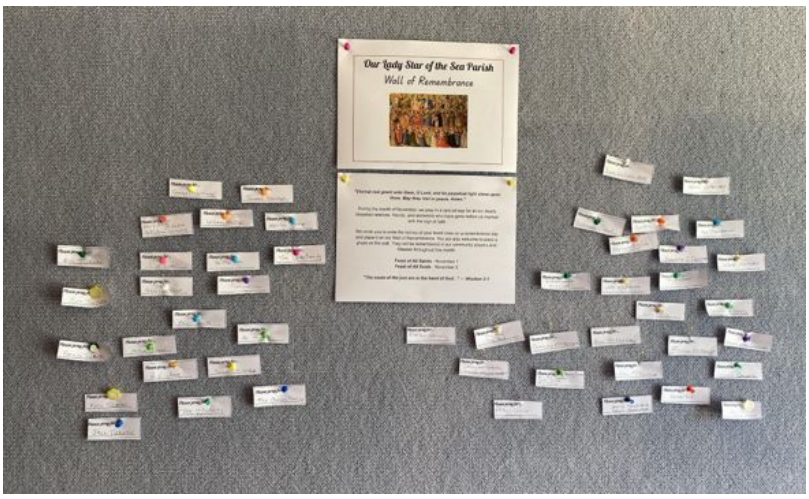
Wall of Remembrance

In the Catholic Church, November is traditionally a time when we remember and pray for those who have died.

In the foyer of the church we have our Wall of Remembrance. People are invited to write the names of friends and family who have died and pin it to the wall.

We remember all of these people in our prayers at Mass on Sunday.

If you would like to contribute to the wall, the church is open this Saturday for Mass at 5pm. Alternatively, you are welcome to call into the office and we can take down the names and pin them up for you.



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Staff Movements

Mrs King is on leave on Wednesday.
Mrs Halley is on leave on Monday.

Welcome

We welcome Mrs Barwick to the front office for a few weeks. She is in training to take over from Mrs Loud in 2027.

In Our Prayers

We keep in our prayers Mrs Harmer and her family. Mrs Harmer's father died last Thursday in Victoria. Mrs Harmer will take some time off in the near future to attend the funeral.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

2027 Book Packs

Information regarding 2027 book packs was released on Compass last week (or via email for families new to the College in 2027). If the book packs are ordered before December 4th, delivery is free. Sounds like a great Christmas present opportunity!

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. Our ***Little Stars*** transition program for our 2027 Kinder students has begun.
2027 enrolments - because we will have different class structures next year, spaces are available in most Primary classes for 2027. Families are welcome to call into the office for an enrolment form or download one from our website (starsea.tas.edu.au). There are also spaces in Year 10, although most of the other secondary classes are full or close to.

School Lunches

School lunches will be as normal this week.
Wednesday - Grades 3-6
Friday - Prep to Grade 2

Term 4 Primary Assembly Roster

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

Please note that this roster may change

WEEK 6	Thursday 26th November	12.10 pm	Grade 4/5
WEEK 7	Thursday 3rd December	12.10 pm	Grade 3/4
WEEK 8	Thursday 10th December	12.10 pm	Grade 1/2

Advent Prayer

Every Monday for the last weeks of school, all of the staff and students will gather for Advent Prayer, which is a chance for us to really focus on preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. This takes place at 9am every Monday in the Primary Gallery. Parents and carers are welcome to join us.

Year 10 Exams

Our Year 10s begin their exams next week. This is a great opportunity for them to experience exam situations as well as learning how to revise for a year's worth of work. We wish them well over the coming week.

Year 10s at Ainslie

Our Year 10s journeyed out to Ainslie last week to help put Christmas trees up. They did a great job and the residents and staff were most grateful.









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Chess Tournament

On Monday November 23rd we held our 2026 Star of the Sea Chess Tournament. 16 students from Grade 1 through to Grade 6 entered the tournament and played matches against a range of people throughout the day. It was a fantastic learning opportunity for all students. There was some strong play by our two Grade 1 entrants, Temperance Targett and Eileithyia Quilty-Maquire, who both held their own against much older and more experienced players. Well done to Temperance and Eileithyia for having the confidence and courage to join in this tournament.

Overall there was a sound level of chess played throughout the day, with some confident players. We congratulate everyone who entered and took up the challenge of playing in this tournament. Results and certificates for this tournament will be celebrated at the Primary assembly on Thursday.









Our early learning program, SetUp, 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 is running SetUp in Term 4.

SetUp for Success

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From the Deputy Principal
Presentation Feast Day

On Friday November 20th we gathered for our 2026 Presentation Feast Day. Early in the day we celebrated Mass with Father Vinco. Sister Elizabeth Vagg joined us for Mass which was greatly appreciated and very special. Mr Chapman and Mr Wedlock led our music and hymns and student leaders from across the school led the Acknowledgement of Country and Mass readings.

College Captains Lillian Mather and Ruby Clarke shared their reflections on the role Nano Nagle has played in their lives and the way her legacy and the legacy of the Presentation Sisters shapes our experiences at Star of the Sea and in our broader lives.

In the afternoon we brought our lessons to an early close and shared lunch and an afternoon of activities in the Primary yard area. Students were delighted to see the Tandari ponies return and our younger students had great enjoyment interacting with and riding the ponies. The PCYC brought along their Taiko drums and their MAC trailer of activities which many students engaged with throughout the day. Face painting, tiny temporary tattoos, art, craft, bracelet and bead craft, Christmas craft, badge making and lots of other things were also on offer. Students moved around each activity, spending the afternoon with their friends and students from different ages and grades interacted and shared the day together.

Thank you to Father Vinco and all staff who contributed to making the day very enjoyable and special.

Thank you also to all families who contributed items to our hampers. If there are any additional items of food to be donated, these can be brought in this week. We will be donating the hamper items late this week.



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George Town Christmas Parade and Christmas Carnival

Star of the Sea will be participating in the George Town Christmas Parade and Christmas Carnival in December. All students in the school are invited and very welcome to be a part of this event. Some planning and preparation will occur in the coming weeks and more information about what students are able to wear for this event will be shared in the coming weeks. If you would like your child to be included please indicate their involvement by completing the Compass event which will be published soon.

Movember Big Mo Day

This Friday the Student Leaders will hold a Movember Big Mo Day. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness about wellbeing and health issues that impact boys and men. Everyone is welcome to wear their best version of a Big Mo (A big moustache). There will be some activities at recess and lunch for students to participate in. This is a free event.





Stars of the Week - 19th November 2026

Kinder	**Aj Freeman**	For the energy, determination and outstandingly positive attitude he shows all day every single day at Kindergarten.
Prep	**Daisy Simpson**	For learning to trust herself during Maths and Literacy lessons and for all her great learning. You should be so proud of yourself!
Grade 1/2	**Zoe McKitrick**	For excellent progress with her reading and writing.
Grade 3/4	**Alice Roney**	For her hard work and focus across all areas of the curriculum
Grade 4/5	**Madalyn Goodridge**	For her excellent leadership and her ability to take on extra responsibilities at a moments notice.
Grade 6	**Tommy Smith**	For his excellent attitude at 'having a go' at every activity on the Year 6 camp even with a thumb injury. Your enthusiasm and energy was contagious. Well done!

Calendar Term 4 2026

Athletics Achievements

Congratulations to the following students for qualifying for the State athletics carnival next Thursday in the following events:

- Rayne Stafford (High Jump)
- Georgia Curtis (Discus)
- Avaya Hooper (Triple Jump and reserve for the 1500m)

Term 4 - 2026	
Monday 30th November	Advent Prayer; Year 10 Exam week begins
Tuesday 1st December	Magic Faraway Tree Performance
Monday 7th December	Advent Prayer; Year 10 Service Day and Big Day Out
Tuesday 8th December	Last day for Year 10s; Final Prayer and Awards
Wednesday 9th December	Primary Transition Morning
Thursday 10th December	Year 10 Leavers Dinner
Friday 11th December	Grade 6 Breakfast and Prayer; George Town Christmas Parade
Monday 14th December	Advent Prayer
Tuesday 15th December	Primary Nativity
Wednesday 16th December	Last day for students; End of Year Assembly
Thursday 17th December	Last day for staff

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