

# NEWS from the HEART...

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School  
10 McCann Crescent, Lenah Valley



3 December 2025

*"Change is the bridge from where we are to where we are going."*

## Advent Prayer

Loving God,  
During this Advent season, fill our hearts with hope for the future, peace in our minds, joy in our hearts, and love for one another. Help us to share these gifts with our school community and to welcome Jesus with open hearts this Christmas.  
Amen.



As we enter the final fortnight of the school year at Immaculate Heart of Mary, we have much to celebrate as a community, farewell those moving on, and prepare ourselves for the next steps in our journey.

This week, we announced our 2026 Student Leaders, who will lead their Houses and our school during their Grade 6 year. This year, more Grade 5 students than ever prepared and shared speeches to over 140 Grade 2-5 students and staff - a testament to the Grade 5 cohort for their willingness to give back to our school community.

School Captains	Molly Fulton & Billy Smith
Dillon Captains	Dottie Page & Addi Page
Donohoe Captains	Elsie Mesfin & Harry Halloran
Young Captains	Toby Marsh & Abi Balmer



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As we approach the end of the school year, our focus turns to supporting students as they prepare for their next steps. For our Kindergarten children, this means the exciting move from three days a week to full-time schooling. For our Year 6 students, it marks the significant transition from Immaculate Heart of Mary to the new experiences of secondary school. These moments bring anticipation and a sense of looking forward, while understandably carrying a little uncertainty.

At Immaculate Heart of Mary, we believe that learning to manage change is an important skill. We are committed to helping our students approach new beginnings with curiosity, confidence, and a strong sense of belonging.

This term, we were pleased to welcome our 2026 Kindergarten cohort through a four-week Pre-Kinder Program, helping our youngest learners feel comfortable in their new environment. We also warmly welcomed new students who will be joining us across Prep to Grade 6 in 2026, supporting them as they start to build connections and feel part of our school community.

Our Grade 6 students participated in Year 7 Orientation Days at their secondary colleges on Monday 24 November, offering a helpful glimpse into what awaits them next year.

Yesterday, our Kinder to Grade 5 students enjoyed a Step-Up Morning, meeting their 2026 teachers and spending time in the classrooms where they will continue to learn and grow. Experiences like these help ensure every child feels prepared, supported, and ready for the next chapter of their schooling journey.

## **Farewells 2025**

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We take this opportunity to acknowledge and farewell several valued members of our Immaculate Heart community:

**Donald Ryan**  
**Stephen Brook**  
**Meg Penilli**  
**Brianna Blazely**

**Ash Turner**  
**Piper Queen**  
**Alana Bickmore**  
**Jordana Drew**

Their commitment to our students and our school has been deeply appreciated, and they all leave an imprint that will continue to benefit our community long after they move on.

## **Teaching Arrangements – 2026**

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It was wonderful to see students meeting their 2026 teachers and spending time in their new learning spaces.

### **New Staff 2026**

We warmly welcome back Stephanie Melitsis and are delighted to welcome Susannah Clark who will share Performing Arts. We also welcome Dominie Paterno who will teach Digital Technologies.

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## **Class Teachers 2026**

Kinder: Lucy Brook

Prep: Maddy Halouvas

Grade 1: Julia Park & Simon Treweek

Grade 2: Stephanie Bruce & Emma Bayley-Stark

Grade 3: Trudi Merkel

Grade 4: Demi Tsai

Grade 5: Lily Adams

Grade 6: Nicole Morozoff & Mikayla Lack

## **Specialist Teachers 2026**

Performing Arts: Stephanie Melitsis & Susannah Clark

Japanese: Samantha Sangston

Digital Technologies: Dominie Paterno

PE/Gross Motor: Sandy Clark

## **Thanksgiving Mass**

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Next Tuesday, 9 December, we will be celebrating our Thanksgiving Mass at the Cathedral.

Our students would normally wear their House Colours on this day, however as this is a formal occasion, we would like all Grades 3 to 6 to wear their formal uniform and all Kinder to Grade 2 students to wear their sports uniform (no house colour tops please).



The invitation is a white arched card with a dark blue border. At the top center is the school crest, which features a cross with a crown above it, surrounded by a circular border with text. Below the crest, the title "Immaculate Heart of Mary Thanksgiving Mass" is written in a red serif font. The main body of text is in a dark blue sans-serif font and includes an invitation to parents and families, the date and time (Tuesday 9th December, 9:30am), the location (St Mary's Cathedral), and a closing message about giving thanks for the school year.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Thanksgiving Mass**

Dear Parents and Families,

We warmly invite you to our  
End of Year Thanksgiving Mass

When: Tuesday 9th December,  
9:30am

Where: St Mary's Cathedral

We hope you can join us as we  
give thanks for a wonderful  
school year.

## **Caritas Just Leadership Day – Compassion in Action**

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Several of our Grade 5 students spent the day at Holy Rosary participating in the Caritas Just Leadership Day. They explored what it means to lead with compassion, justice and courage, and how small actions can make a big difference in our world. The students came back inspired and ready to put their ideas for positive change into action.



## School Triathlon Challenge

Congratulations to our Triathlon Team, who proudly represented Immaculate Heart at the Schools Triathlon Challenge in Bellerive on Friday, competing in both individual and mixed team events.

A big thank you to Mr Clark, Mrs Merkel, Miss Drew, and our parents for your support and encouragement, helping make this event such a positive experience for our students.



## Christmas Appeal

**Christmas Appeal**

Our Junior Joey's and St Vincent De Paul are once again seeking your support.

We aim to spread as much joy as possible this year; every gift will brighten up another child's Christmas.

Our Christmas Appeal will be running from now until Monday 8th December.

We have attached a list of ideas for donations.

Please do not wrap any gifts or donations and ensure that gifts are in their original packaging.

All gifts can be placed under the Immaculate Heart Giving Tree in the school office.

Thank you for your generosity supporting families in need.

### CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

Gifts for individuals and families can help make someone's Christmas extra special. We have added some ideas below. It is good to check with your Conference what items the families they support require. We also recommend asking your Conference if you can assist with gift wrapping.

Note: if your local Conference is inactive or does not require additional donations at this time, check in with your Schools Engagement Officer about which local Vinnies Service(s) or Support Centre may require support this Christmas.

- Babies and Toddlers**
  - Rattles
  - Blankets/Comforters
  - Building Blocks
  - Bath Toys
  - Soft Toys
  - Musical toys
  - Storybooks
- Young Children (4-8yrs)**
  - Sports equipment
  - Books
  - Dolls
  - Outdoor games
  - Board games
  - Toy cars or trains
  - Stationery
  - Colouring-in books/texts
  - Dress-up costumes
  - Water pistols
  - Christmas stocking
- Older Children (9-12yrs)**
  - Lego
  - Cards games
  - Magic Trick set
  - Books
  - Activity books
  - Puzzles
  - Hair accessories
  - Outdoor equipment
  - Shopping/Gift cards
  - Water pistols
  - Christmas stocking
- Teenagers**
  - Movie Vouchers
  - Body lotions
  - Accessories (e.g. caps, jewellery)
  - Deodorant packs
  - Shopping/Gift cards
  - Books
  - Perfume/spray packs
  - Make-up (e.g. lip gloss, nail polish)
  - Beach Towels
  - Bags, back-packs
  - Christmas stocking
- Adults**
  - Books
  - Perfume or deodorant packs
  - Cosmetic gift packs
  - Movie vouchers
  - Homewares
  - Hampers
  - Vinnies Vouchers

**SHARE YOUR EFFORTS!**  
Share your pictures and stories by tagging us on Instagram: @vinnies\_tasmania and Facebook: @vinniestasmania

**THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US TO CHANGE LIVES!**

## Capital Works Building Project

### Transformation of the Heart Fly Through

As we move closer to the completion of our project, this week there have been concrete pours, carpet installation, and the internal painting is almost finished. The focus will then move to the external works as we journey towards the beginning of 2026.

## Nurturing Hearts

Come along for our final Nurturing Hearts session – a 'Pop in and Play' at the Park located on the corner of Pedder & Carlton Street, New Town. Mrs Brook would love to see you there!

## Carols at St Mary's Cathedral



A promotional poster for 'Carols at St Mary's Cathedral' on a dark red background with string lights. The title 'Carols at St Mary's' is written in white cursive. A yellow starburst on the left says 'FREE ENTRY'. The date '13 DECEMBER, 2025' and time '7:00 -9:00 PM' are in yellow. The location 'ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL' and 'GATES OPEN AT 5.30PM' are in white. Three bullet points list activities: 'MUSIC AND CANDLELIGHT FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMERS', 'DERWENT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & SOUTHERN STRINGS', and 'PICNIC, FOOD VANS AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES'. The Archdiocese of Hobart logo is in the bottom right.

**FREE ENTRY**

**13** DECEMBER, 2025  
7:00 -9:00 PM

ST MARY'S  
CATHEDRAL

GATES OPEN AT  
5.30PM

- MUSIC AND CANDLELIGHT FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMERS
- DERWENT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & SOUTHERN STRINGS
- PICNIC, FOOD VANS AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Archdiocese of Hobart

## Social Media Age Restrictions

From 10 December, Australian young people under 16 will not be allowed to create or hold accounts on certain social media platforms. This is not a ban, it's a delay to having accounts.

Being logged into an account increases the exposure under-16s have to design features that encourage them to spend more time on screens, while serving up content that can harm their health and wellbeing. The delay is an opportunity for them to build their digital literacy skills and resilience.

Information and resources to support parents and carers, and young people to prepare for the change are available at eSafety's [Social media age restrictions](#) hub.

Here are three things you can do:

1. Read eSafety's [frequently asked questions for parents and carers](#) to find out what's changing and why.
2. [Register for an eSafety live webinar](#).
3. Use the eSafety [Get ready guide for parents and carers](#), and [conversation starters](#) to start preparing for the change.



An infographic with a white background and dark blue accents. The title 'Social media changes are coming' is in bold dark blue. A yellow speech bubble contains text about the December 10th restriction. An illustration of a smartphone with social media icons is shown. A QR code is in the bottom right. Logos for the Australian Government and eSafety Commissioner are at the bottom.

### Social media changes are coming

From 10 December, certain social media platforms won't be allowed to let Australian children under 16 create or keep an account.

**Visit the eSafety hub** for information and resources to support parents and carers, young people to prepare for the change.

visit us at  
**eSafety.gov.au**

Australian Government | eSafety Commissioner

## Enrolment Vacancies



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



LIMITED VACANCIES  
PREP - GRADE 3

We welcome you to come and be a part of  
our thriving school community.

PLEASE CONTACT US  
TO BOOK A TOUR

(03) 62 283 335  
10 McCann Crescent  
Lenah Valley TAS

ihms@catholic.tas.edu.au  
www.ihms.tas.edu.au

## Gazetted School Calendar 2026

Term One Resume (Teaching Staff)	2 February 2026
Term One Resume (Students)	6 February 2026
Term One Concludes (Students)	16 April 2026
Term One Concludes (Teaching Staff)	17 April 2026
Term One Student (Non-Attendance Time)	20 April 2026 – 01 May 2026
Easter (Good Friday)	03 April 2026
Easter (Easter Monday)	06 April 2026
Easter (Easter Tuesday)	07 April 2026
Term Two (Staff and Students Resume)	04 May 2026
Term Two (Concludes)	10 July 2026
Term Two Student Non-Attendance Time	13 July 2026 – 27 July 2026
Term Three Resume (Teaching Staff)	27 July 2026
Term Three Resume (Students)	28 July 2026
Term Three Concludes	02 October 2026
Term Three Student Non-Attendance Time	05 October 2026 – 16 October 2026
Term Four Resume (Students and Teaching Staff)	19 October 2026
Student Free Day	23 October 2026
Term Four Concludes (Students and Teaching Staff)	17 December 2026*

\*In circumstances where a Show Day public holiday falls within student non-attendance time, the schools within that region will conclude on Thursday 17 December 2026.

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## Planning 2026

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Planning for 2026 is underway. If your family is considering leaving Immaculate Heart at the end of the year, we kindly ask that you notify the school as soon as possible to assist with enrolment and staffing preparations.

## Calendar

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Please click here for our school calendar: [School Calendar](#)

## Key Dates

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# CALENDAR EVENTS

TERM 4, 2025

**28 OCT**

GRANDPARENTS & GRANDFRIENDS DAY @ 9.45am

**11 NOV**

ASSEMBLY (GRADE 6) @ 1.45pm

**02 DEC**

ASSEMBLY (GRADE 6) @ 1.45pm

**02 DEC**

STEP UP DAY - 2026 CLASSES @ 9.30am

**09 DEC**

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION MASS @ 9.30 am  
(St Mary's Cathedral)

**10 DEC**

END OF YEAR ASSEMBLY @ 9.15am

**12 DEC**

END OF YEAR REPORTS LIVE TO PARENTS

**16 DEC**

GRADE 6 GRADUATION CEREMONY @ 9.15am

**16 DEC**

GRADE 6 LEAVERS DINNER @ 5.00pm

**17 DEC**

LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS - FAMILY BBQ @ 12 noon

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## Calendar of Events

Thu 4 Dec	Whole School Photo
Thu 4 Dec	Canteen Day
Fri 5 Dec	Grade 6 Excursion to Parliament House
Fri 5 Dec	Canteen Day
Fri 5 Dec	Nurturing Hearts 9.00am – 10.30am
Tue 9 Dec	End of Year Mass 9.30am St Mary's Cathedral
Tue 9 Dec	Uniform Shop open 2.30 – 4.00pm
Wed 10 Dec	End of Year Assembly 9.15am
Wed 10 Dec	Canteen Day
Thu 11 Dec	Kinder Nativity & Portfolios
Thu 11 Dec	Canteen Day
Fri 12 Dec	Grade 6 Big Day Out
Fri 12 Dec	Canteen Day
Mon 15 Dec	House Singing Competition
Tue 16 Dec	Grade 6 Graduation 9.15am
Tue 16 Dec	Grade 6 Leavers Dinner 5.00pm
Wed 16 Dec	Family BBQ 12.00 noon
<b>Wed 17 Dec</b>	<b>Final Day of Term 4 &amp; 2026</b>

# Nature Holiday Program



January  
20 - 22  
27 - 29

Get outside with Kara and her team of nature play specialists.

**Trusted by Hobart families since 2018**

- Whittle with real knives!
- Camp cooking + hot chocolate
- Cubbies & swing building

- Potions, clay & paints
- Fire-making with flint & steel plus much more!

Scan the code to learn more.

[naturebeinit.com/bookings](https://naturebeinit.com/bookings)



Bookings Essential!

Nature.  
Be in It.



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School is located in Nipaluna on the Traditional Lands of the Muwinina people of the South East Nation who lived with and cared for this Land for many generations.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Palawa people, and the deep connection they have to Country and Culture. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community and to Elders past and present.

We are committed to learning as a part of this community, and to supporting the continued sharing of knowledge and culture.