

NEWS from the HEART...

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

8 April 2026



Archbishop Tony Ireland 2026 Easter Message - Jesus Christ our Hope

At Easter, Christians (and others) are invited to reflect on a simple searching injunction posed in the First Letter of St Peter: *"always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have."*

It is a timely proposition. We are living through a period marked by war, death and dislocation in the Middle East and other places. The human cost is immense and ongoing. At home, many people are feeling the steady pressure of rising living expenses, uncertainty, and the strain that comes with it. These realities shape the way people look at the world and at the future.

In this context, hope can seem fragile or out of reach. Yet Easter points to a form of hope that is not dependent on circumstances alone. For Christians, hope is grounded in the person of Jesus Christ and in the belief that his life, death and resurrection continue to speak into every age.

To offer a reason for hope is not about slogans or easy answers. It is given in the way people live: in patience, in generosity, in care for neighbours, and in a willingness to remain engaged with the world rather than withdraw from it. It is seen in those who continue to work for peace, who support those in need, and who carry responsibility with integrity.

Easter invites us, quietly, to consider what sustains us and what we offer to others. The hope of which St Peter speaks is not abstract. It is something lived, shared, and made visible in the ordinary decisions of each day.

May the blessings of Easter renew your hope.

Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland

Archbishop of Hobart



Dear Families,

I hope all our families enjoyed a wonderful Easter break. As we move toward the end of Term 1, there is much to celebrate across our school community. This term brings a significant step up for students as they settle into new expectations and routines, and they have embraced it with purpose. Their engagement across classrooms, playgrounds, camps, and sporting events has been impressive, with clear growth and progress throughout the term.

Congratulations to Mr Jackson Cracknell on his appointment as Acting Principal of St Therese's School for the remainder of the 2026 school year. This is a significant achievement, and while we know how incredibly blessed we have been to have Jackson at IHMS, St Therese's will be equally fortunate.

We also say goodbye to Miss Madelyn Halouvas. Maddy, it has been a blessing to have you with us over the past few years. We thank you for the care and commitment you have shown our students and community, and we wish you and Marc every happiness as you begin your next chapter beyond IHMS and Tasmania.

We will have the opportunity to say goodbye to Jackson and Maddy at our End of Term 1 Assembly on Tuesday 14 April at 1.45pm.

A reminder that our last day of Term 1 for students is Thursday 16 April and Term 2 commences on Monday 4 May.

Transformation of The Heart

Our Capital Building Project has transformed Immaculate Heart of Mary, and next term we will once again be able to access the school from McCann Crescent with the completion of our new entrance. Kiss-and-drop and our bus arrival and departures will return to the top entrance.

It has been incredibly challenging for everyone in our community to park and access IHMS throughout the project. I offer my sincere gratitude for your patience, flexibility, and vigilance in ensuring the safety of our students at all times.

Soft Toys, Pokémon Cards & Fidgets – Reminder for Families

We ask that toys, fidgets, trading cards (including Pokémon cards) and similar personal items not be brought to school. We've noticed a few slipping in, and they can create unnecessary distractions or worries when items go missing. Some students do use approved sensory items as part of their learning plan, and these are arranged in consultation with the class teacher. We appreciate your support in keeping our learning spaces focused, calm, and fair for everyone.

Winter Uniform

With the colder months ahead, our Grade 3 – Grade 6 students are required to wear their formal winter uniform in Term 2 and Term 3. The first week of Term 2 will be a transition week. Hats can stay home, as they are not required for Kinder – Grade 6 students again until Term 4.

- Our uniform shop is open every Tuesday from 2.30pm – 3.30pm (during term time).
- Our school uniform policy is available on our website:
<https://ihms.tas.edu.au/enrolments/uniforms/>

Anzac Day



The Lenah Valley ANZAC Day Service will be held on Saturday April 25 (the middle weekend of the school holidays).

Families are welcome to attend. Students are invited to represent Immaculate Heart of Mary by wearing their school uniform Grades 3-6 (formal uniform) Kinder - Grade 2 (PE uniform).

- We will be gathering at the the Lenah Valley Primary School car park at 8.45am and “marching” to the 9.00am Main Service at the Lenah Valley RSL Cenotaph.
- Our School Leaders will be laying a wreath on behalf of the school.
- After the 9.00am service, families are welcome to the free BBQ and children’s events in the John Turnbull Park.

More information will be provided on Compass before the end of Term 1 and a reminder will be sent during the holidays.

Soccer Registrations

If your child has registered an interest to play soccer this season, please now complete the registration online. An email was sent to parents last week detailing the process. Please contact Jane via jane.sargent@catholic.tas.edu.au with any registration queries.

Swimming Program

Our Prep - Grade 6 swimming program will be held in the first week of Term 2.

Focus From the Heart

Celebrating Holy Week and Easter

Our school community recently gathered to mark the special events of Holy Week and Easter.

Our Prep students began the week by leading a beautiful Palm Sunday prayer service, helping us remember Jesus' joyful welcome into Jerusalem. Grade 4 then led us through the Stations of the Cross, guiding our community in reflecting on Jesus' journey to the cross. Finally, our Grade 3 class led our Easter Resurrection service, reminding us of the hope and joy of Jesus' rising.



Our Kindergarten class also visited the chapel for the first time, where they listened to the Easter story.



Thank you to the students and teachers who prepared and led these meaningful celebrations. Easter is a special time for our community to reflect on hope, love and new life.



Classroom Heartbeat

Grade 6 Camp at Spring Beach

Just before Easter, our Grade 6 students headed off to Spring Beach for an unforgettable three-day camp filled with adventure, teamwork and fun. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to challenge themselves, support one another and create lasting memories.

A standout activity was the flying fox, where students cheered each other on as they faced their fears. While many felt nervous at first, it was fantastic to see every single student, and even the staff, take on the challenge with courage and determination.

The commando course proved to be another favourite, offering a series of fun yet demanding obstacles. Students worked together, encouraged one another and showed great perseverance, with some even choosing to complete the course multiple times!

Teamwork was also on full display during the catapult-building activity. Students collaborated to design and build their own catapults, aiming to launch tennis balls as far as 50 metres, reaching all the way to the shed!

Archery brought out both focus and excitement, with all students giving it a go. It was especially thrilling to see several students hit the target, with Poppy and Lewis achieving impressive bullseyes. Staff members also joined in the fun, adding to the shared experience.



One of the most challenging yet rewarding activities was the 13km bushwalk to Orford and back. Along the way, students enjoyed stunning coastal views, crossed beautiful beaches and stopped for a well-earned lunch and play at a local park. The walk also provided a valuable opportunity for students to connect, chat and learn more about one another.

Overall, the camp was a fantastic experience that strengthened friendships, built resilience and created many special memories.

A big thank you to all the parents who sent along some wonderful snacks, and to the adults who came along to help for the three days.

Nurturing Hearts Birth-4 Years

Our Nurturing Hearts Program is a wonderful opportunity to learn with your child and connect with our families.

Mrs Brook and Mrs Wall can't wait to see you this Friday!



Welcome to Nurturing Hearts for 2026!
We are very excited to begin our Term One Program on Friday 20th February.

The focus for this term's learning experiences is 'FOOD':

- Friday 20th February: Exploring Fruits and Veggies
- Friday 27th February: Exploring Baking
- Friday 6th March: Exploring Food from around the World
- Friday 13th March: Exploring 'Sometimes' Foods
- Friday 20th March: Easter Fun! 🐰
- Friday 27th March: Gross Motor Play in the Hall
- Friday 3rd April: NO SESSION - GOOD FRIDAY
- Friday 10th April: Excursion (Location TBC)
- Friday 17th April: NO SESSION - STUDENT FREE DAY

Kinder Enrolment

Kindergarten 2027 enrolments are now open and close on the 15 May.

 **GROW WITH US**

Enrolments for KINDERGARTEN 2027 are now open

If your child was born in 2022,
we would love to welcome them to
Immaculate Heart in 2027!

Current Immaculate Heart Families, with a child born in 2022, are reminded to submit an Enrolment Form to secure a Kindergarten place for their child in 2027.

For more information, please visit our website www.ihms.tas.edu.au or call 6228 3335 to request an Enrolment Pack and arrange a Principal Tour of our school.

Key Dates

Please see the following school dates from Catholic Education Tasmania.

2026	
Term One Concludes (Students)	Thursday 16 April 2026
Term One Concludes (Teaching Staff)	Friday 17 April 2026
Term One Student (Non-Attendance Time)	Monday 20 April 2026 – Friday 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)	Monday 04 May 2026
Term Two (Concludes)	Friday 10 July 2026
Term Two Student Non-Attendance Time	Monday 13 July 2026 – Monday 27 July 2026
Term Three Resume (Teaching Staff)	Monday 27 July 2026
Term Three Resume (Students)	Tuesday 28 July 2026
Term Three Concludes	Friday 02 October 2026
Term Three Student Non-Attendance Time	Monday 05 October 2026 – Friday 16 October 2026
Term Four Resume (Students and Teaching Staff)	Monday 19 October 2026
Student Free Day	Friday 23 October 2026
Year 10 Students Conclude	Friday 11 December 2026
Students Conclude	Thursday 17 December 2026*
Teaching Staff Conclude	Friday 18 December 2026*

Calendar of Events

Fri 10 Apr	Grade 1 Bush School 11.35am
Fri 10 Apr	Canteen Day
Fri 10 Apr	Nurturing Hearts 9.00am – 10.30am
Sat 11 Apr – Sun 12 Apr	Regional Primary Basketball Comp
Tue 14 Apr	Assembly 1.40pm
Tue 14 Apr	Uniform Shop open 2.30pm – 3.30pm
Wed 15 Apr	Canteen Day
Thu 16 Apr	Last Day of Term 1 (for students)
Thu 16 Apr	Canteen Day
Fri 17 Apr	Student Free Day (teachers only)
Mon 4 May	First Day of Term 2
Mon 4 May – Fri 8 May	Learn to Swim Program – Collegiate Pool
Sat 9 May	First Soccer Games



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.