# Our Journey as Pilgrims of Hope

**Words to inspire**

"Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words." — Pope Leo XIV, May 16, 2025.

**Reminder!**

This Jubilee Year of Hope only ends on the Feast of the Epiphany (6th January 2026) .

## Welcome to our final edition for 2025

As we reach this point in our school year, we are invited to pause, reflect, and give thanks. The journey of education is never without its challenges—days of hardship, moments of grief, and the weight of setbacks. Yet, in the midst of it all, we are reminded that God's love surpasses every struggle, and His grace carries us through even the darkest valleys. Loss and difficulty are part of life, but they never have the final word. In Christ, we discover strength, renewal, and the promise of hope.

This issue of our newsletter reflects on the life of our school community: the events that have brought us joy, the milestones that mark our growth, and the faith-filled moments that remind us of our true identity as a family of believers. As we celebrate the successes of the year, we recognize that even where we may have faltered, those setbacks are overshadowed by the resilience, courage, and commitment we share as staff, learners, and parents united in faith.

To our staff, may you see in these pages the light of your own strength—the daily sacrifices, the inspiration you bring, and the seeds of faith you plant in every lesson. To our learners, may you feel empowered, knowing that you are equipped to face the coming year with confidence, wisdom, and trust in God's providence.

Above all, let us remember that the ethos of our school is not only our guiding principle but also our greatest gift. It is in living out this ethos—grounded in faith, service, and love—that we truly grow, not just as individuals, but as a community, as a family, and as disciples of Christ.

A special word of thanks is extended to Father Andrew for his faithful commitment to drawing us ever closer to God. His leadership and pastoral care remain a source of strength and inspiration to us all.

May this newsletter be both a record of where we have been and a beacon for where we are going, with God's love leading us forward.

# Feedback: Sofa Quiz 2025

Taking part in the SOFA Quiz this September, was truly memorable! There were people from other schools there too but I cannot really remember their school names. I felt so nervous because it was my first time at this event.

All the participants were separated into groups of ten at a round table. I felt very awkward the whole time because the group I had been in contained only females ( I am not very good at talking to ladies). I have to admit that though it was extremely terrifying - since I have a problem with talking to strangers - I am grateful that I grew in my relationship with God and it felt nice sharing my love for Him with others that I don't even know.

It helped me realize that I'll always meet new people along my journey with God that will want to join me for a moment even in small things. I will miss this school and the religious factor in our curriculum as well. Thank you, Star for making this experience so worthwhile.

- Ntand'entle Marosha Gr 7H

It was my first experience at the SOFA quiz at St Anne school. I was nervous at first and thought that I wasn't going to be able to contribute in a positive way,. It turned out to be so much fun. I met so many learners from other schools and ended up having a amazing time it was a definite confidence booster!

_Palyton de Beer Gr 4B

## Talk To Us

**ETHOS COMMITTEE**

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- Office: 021 788 5910
- head@staroftheseа.co.za
- 74 Main Road, St James

**Bible Studies Extra-mural Group**

**We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2:45 - 3:25pm in Miss Mpungose's (Gr1M) Classroom.**

Our faith becomes stronger as we express it; a growing faith is a sharing faith

Billy Graham

PICTUREQUOTES.com

# The Angelus Prayer - At noon on Wednesdays

**How it's done in some classes – the learners tell all...**

**Today, I was asked to lead the Angelus. It was not easy. I was nervous. Then I knew that I was talking to God and I felt better. I said the prayer – it was nice. I am thankful for doing this.**
**When I was saying it to myself it was hard, I told myself, "I am going to be talking to God," so I got stronger. I am so proud of myself. I am still thanking God forever. I thank Miss so much for giving this opportunity to me and the Holy Spirit for looking over me as it was not easy doing this.**
**Amen – Ashor : 3W**

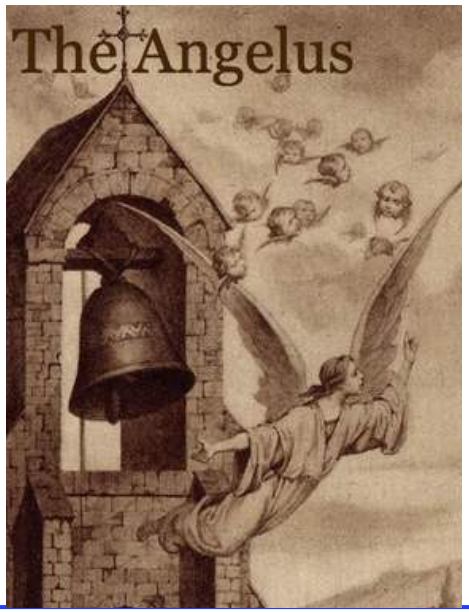
In our class we do The Angelus every Wednesday so this is how we do it: The pray monitors says the (v) part then we say the other part. So, Ms Booth changes the monitors every two weeks – yesterday it was Ngobile and Samke that did it.
– Ndalo: 4B

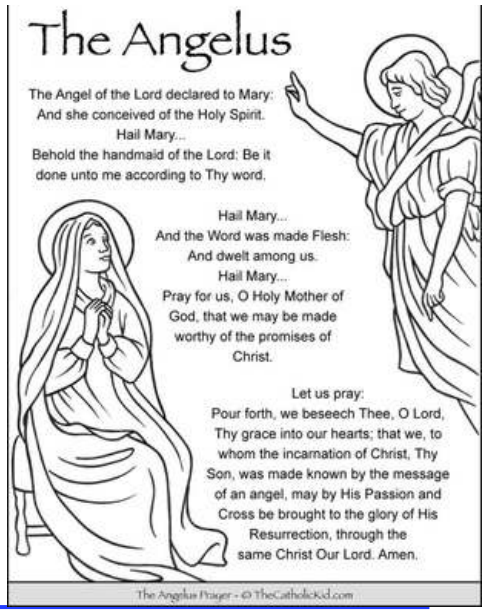
Every Wednesday when the church bell rings, Mr. Williams put's the Angelus on the board for the people who don't now the Angelus off by heart. When the prayer starts one person will say the Hail Mary and everyone else says the response but at the end everyone must say the response and after the prayer, everyone goes back to the work they were doing. What I will miss mostly is our classroom praying together, our school coming together to worship God and I thank all my teachers for teaching us the word of the lord and Christianity, I am forever grateful for that because I will not learn about this in high school. - Selecia:7W

## History and meaning of The Angelus Prayer

**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BehBMHuiOD0**

**Pope Leo XIV sees the Angelus prayer as a means to connect with God and each other through reflections on faith, love, and peace. He views it as a call to live out Christian values, urging believers to act with compassion and to strive for justice and peace.**



# Reflections:
# Coming back for a prac

By Zoe Mostert

When I was given the opportunity to do my first ever teaching practice in the first place, I realised I had a passion for teaching as an old student of Star, I simply couldn't let the opportunity passme by. I was so nervous and unsure of what to expect but to my comfort the staff and learners at Star made me feel as though I was back and had never left.

I spent 8 weeks with the grade 4s, and they made my experience what it was, their excitement for my lessons encouraged me to always do my absolute best. The connections I formed with each learner were so special and it went beyond the grade 4s as I spent some time at aftercare as well, a place I also spent my time after school when I was a learner at Star. I wouldn't trade this experience for the world.

Star is such a special school and will always have a special place in my heart. The school and its teachers have seen me grow up into who I am today, and their support and guidance are things I will never take for granted. Time really flew by, and I had been dreading saying goodbye to the grade 4s and their amazing teachers Mrs. Emandien and Ms. Booth who both shared such good advice with me that I will carry for years to come as I develop as an educator, however I was reminded that it was not a goodbye rather a see you later.

I am currently halfway through my degree which is hard to believe but I look forward to what the future has in store for me. To the grade 4s I promise not to be a stranger, and I cannot wait to see you all grow as you continue your journey at Star. Make the most of every moment and always do your best!

Lots of Love

# Ethos Quarterly Outreach

**Ms. Wessels explains**

**The ethos of outreach at Star of the Sea Convent refers to the values, spirit, and attitudes that encourage compassion, generosity, and social responsibility within the school community. It reflects a commitment to caring for others—especially those in need—and living out values such as kindness, empathy, and service.**

## TERM 1

**Marshmallow egg drive - April 2025**

**Our marshmallow eggs were donated to the Lions Easter Egg Project, which distributed the marshmallow treats to schools in underprivileged communities. This initiative helped bring joy to children who might not otherwise experience the happiness of receiving Easter treats during this special time of year.**

## TERM 2

**Mandela day:**

**Food drive, Tom Ro Haven, Storybooks - June/July 2025**

**For our Mandela Day initiative, we collected non-perishable items worth R67 (Foundation Phase) to donate to Butterfly Crèche, an underdeveloped early learning centre in our local community. We also collected R67 in cash per family (InterSen Phase) for the Tom Ro Haven Organisation, which supports women and animals. In addition, our staff members generously donated new storybooks to help promote learning and future growth at Butterfly Crèche.**

# TERM 3

## Winter Clothing drive - August 2025 (St. Dominic's Day)

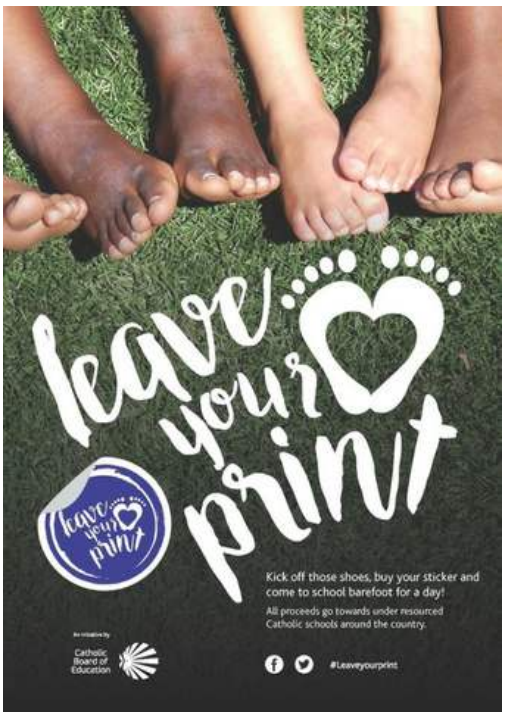
**In August, for St Dominic's Day, we collected gently worn winter clothing items to support the local Haven Night Shelter in Kalk Bay. Donations included gloves, scarves, blankets, socks, jerseys, and beanies. The generous support shown during this special time truly warmed our hearts—and the hearts of those who received these thoughtful and**

## Soap of Hope Project: - September 2025

**We joined the Soap of Hope Project, collecting used soap bars. These bits and bars of soap were then donated to the Baphumelele Foundation of Hope. The foundation teaches local youth how to recycle used soaps into brand-new bars, empowering the youth with valuable skills while providing essential soap products to underprivileged children. It must be said at this point, that your act of kindness helped restore dignity and comfort to those in need!**

# TERM 4

## Leave your print – November 2025




**This term, we aligned our focus with the CSO's annual Leave Your Print campaign.**
**Learners were encouraged to bring a monetary donation (whether R2 or R20) with the objective being to give what you can from the heart. The money goes to the Catholic Schools' Office, which allocates funds towards building safe ablution facilities for under-resourced Catholic schools in South Africa.**
**Our learners came to school in slippers and walked around barefoot. By doing this, we remember the many children who walk long distances to school, some without shoes.**
**This year we managed to raise just over R3500.**
**Many thanks to all who participated.**

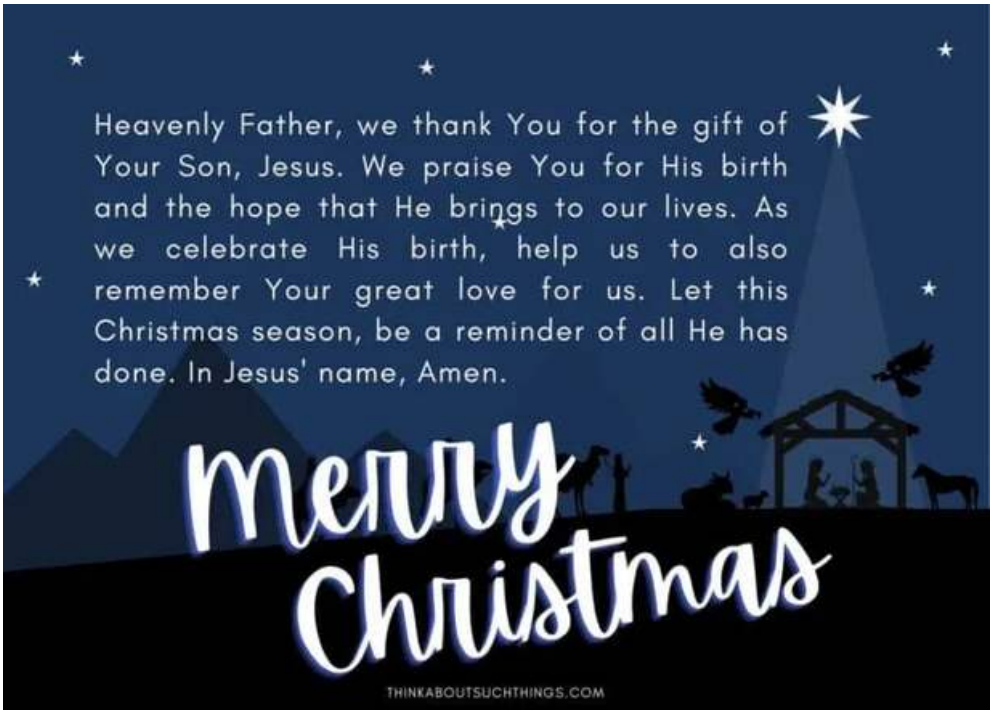
## Carols Service: Carols of Kindness and Compassion – December 2025

**To end off our year, we will be collecting soft toys and tinned or dry food items during Our Annual Carol Service on Monday December 8th. All soft toy donations will be given towards The Knights of Da Gama Toy Drive. They will then bless those children ( in the communities they serve) who may not receive anything special at this time of year. The tinned food and dry goods will be offered to Butterfly Crèche to support the young children in our nearby community.**

## A Final Word of Thanks: Heartfelt Gratitude

**To our wonderful parents, guardians, staff, stakeholders, and Star family, thank you for your continuous generosity and support throughout the year. You have helped make every project, donation, and contribution both magical and successful. Although we don't always get to see the smiles on the children's faces or the full impact of our efforts, please know that when you give with a grateful heart, you make a difference in more ways than you can imagine.**

**From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!**

**We wish you a joyful holiday season and a blessed Christmas.**

**May God bless you and your families!**