



# St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 1

Week 10

2015

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

www.stoliversharrisparc.catholic.edu.au

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Dear Families of St Oliver's,

Last Sunday we commenced Holy Week with Jesus' grand entry into Jerusalem where he is welcomed with such enthusiasm by a large crowd, who lay palm branches on the ground before him.

Holy Week is the most sacred time of the year, for it is now that we will commemorate and remember the last week of Jesus' life on this earth. These are the days leading up to the great Easter Feast. The Lenten season of sacrifice and self-denial is about to come to an end. The greatest focus of the week is the Passion (suffering) and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the events that led up to it.

As Christians we need to maintain our focus on these events of Holy Week and not allow the secularism of this sacred time to consume us. It is for this reason we have adapted our approach to commemorating Holy Week at St Oliver's. Most appropriately, the highlight of the week is the 'Way of the Cross' liturgy. An event, such as an Easter Hat parade distracts us from our focus on Holy Week.

The Easter Vigil on Saturday will mark the end of the paschal fast, the end of the celebration of Holy Week, and the end of repentance and conversion for which Lent prepared us. It is also the beginning of a new season of grace and a time of joy and thanksgiving. Easter is not one day - it is a fifty day celebration, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday.

Therefore when we return after the holidays we will celebrate Easter as a school community. It will include the conclusion of the 'Way of the Cross' liturgy and our Easter Raffle draw. These events will reflect the celebratory mood of the Easter season.

Finally, during Holy Week and Easter can I ask you to reflect on an invitation by Pope Francis. He calls us to '*Accept the risen Jesus into your life. Even if you have been far way. Take a small step towards him: he awaits you with open arms*'.  
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## Dates to Remember!

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015**

Holy Week Celebrations  
All Welcome @ 1:30pm  
Stage 2/3 learning space

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015**

Last day of Term 1

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

First day of Term 2

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

Kindergarten Excursion  
Golden Ridge Animal Farm, Dural

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

Stage 1 Incurion  
Fairy Tales with a Twist

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Full Winter Uniform

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Term 2 Staff Development Day**

our focus will be on Religious  
Education/Formation Goal



Peace and best wishes

**Mr Anthony McElhone**  
**Principal**

## SCHOOL NEWS

### **Enrolments for Kindergarten 2016**

Application forms are available for collection from the school office. When the application form has been fully completed it should be returned to the office.

### **NAPLAN**

In May 2015 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in **Years 3 and 5**. Aspects of Literacy and Numeracy will be assessed. Following are the dates for each aspect of the assessment.

- **Tuesday, 12 May** – Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Writing
- **Wednesday, 13 May** – Reading
- **Thursday, 14 May** – Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space)

### ***Staff Development Day (SDD) – Term 2***

Next term our Staff Development Day is on the final day of the term, **Friday, 26th June**. This will focus on our Religious Education/Formation Goal. Further information about SDD dates for terms three and four will be included in our newsletter next term.

### ***Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!***

St. Oliver's are blessed to have a parent community that gives generously (both donations and time). While the parents do not want public acclaim for their generosity it is important to acknowledge and thank them for their contributions. Recently a dedicated group gave up their time to wrap all our Easter Baskets for the raffle. Your support is greatly appreciated!

### **School Uniform**

After the school holiday break we will be in transition mode to winter uniform. All students are expected to be in full winter uniform from **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May** after Mother's Day until **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September** after Father's Day. **Note:** Students in this transition period must wear either **full** summer or **full** winter uniform – not a combination of both

### ***Easter Raffle***

Thank you to those families who have already returned their raffle tickets, please return all sold or unsold tickets by **Monday, 20 April** (first day of next term). The Easter Raffle will be drawn after our Easter liturgy on the first day of term two.

### ***St Oliver Plunkett's Church: 33 Wigram St, Harris Park***

<b>Holy Thursday 2 April - Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>	7.00pm
<b>Good Friday 3 April - Stations of the Cross</b>	10.00am
<b>Celebrations of the Lord's Passion – 3 April</b>	3.00pm
<b>Holy Saturday 4 April -Easter Vigil</b>	7.00pm
<b>Easter Sunday 5 April – Masses</b>	8.00am and 10.00am

## RE NEWS

**Gospel**     *Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year B*

Mk 11: 1-10

When they were approaching Jerusalem, in sight of Bethphage and Bethany, close by the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go off to the village facing you, and as soon as you enter it you will find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you, "What are you doing?" say, "The Master needs it and will send it back here directly."' They went off and found a colt tethered near a door in the open street. As they untied it, some men standing there said, 'What are you doing, untying that colt?' They gave the answer Jesus had told them, and the men let them go. Then they took the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on its back, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, others greenery which they had cut in the fields. And those who went in front and those who followed were all shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heavens!'



### **Reflection**

Mk 14:1 – 15:47 Is the Passion which describes the events in Holy week

In the reading of the Passion, we walk with Jesus through his suffering and death. It is draining, not so much because it is long, but more so because of the strong feelings it stirs within us.

Here is a brief outline of the chain of events: Jesus breaks the bread of his body and shares the wine of his blood at his last Passover meal with his friends. He struggles with his fate as he prays in the garden and then is abandoned by the disciples closest to him. One of them betrays Jesus to the authorities. Another one of his closest friends, Peter, saves himself by denying Jesus not once, but three times. Although earlier a crowd had followed Jesus through the streets with palms, singing his praises, now another crowd rejects him in favour of a criminal. When charged with being the King of the Jews, Jesus gives no defence and is sentenced to death. After Jesus has suffered terrible beatings, Simon of Cyrene carries Jesus' cross to the place of death. Jesus is nailed to the cross like a common criminal. After the agony of his death, he is buried in someone else's tomb.

**Answering Jesus' Call** Holy week is a time we can fully participate in the events by attending the 'washing of the feet' service in the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday Stations of the Cross and the Lord's Passion. Jesus felt so alone, he even thought God had forsaken him. Have you ever been so upset and in such pain, that you, like Jesus, felt as if God had forgotten you? The Good News is that the passion of Jesus dying on the cross doesn't end there. We have the joy of Jesus bringing us to new life at Easter!

#### **In Brief**

- The Lord is my help.
- God will not abandon us.
- Jesus Christ is Lord.
- Jesus sacrificed himself for us.
- We stand by the cross.

#### **Project Compassion Caritas Update:**

Thank you everyone for such a fantastic effort in contributing to this fundraiser. We have raised **\$866**, an outstanding effort. We have such great generous hearts of compassion at St Oliver's. Thank you to all children and families who have contributed. This money is being used to help those who were struck by the devastating cyclones in Vanuatu recently.



**Thank you!**

**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) to make your donation online.

Thank you for supporting programs around the world that provide vulnerable people with the skills and opportunities they need to establish sustainable food sources for life.

# InfoZone

Welcome to the Library and Technology section of the St Oliver's Newsletter

## HOLIDAY BORROWING

All children have been able to borrow extra books for the school holidays. Please encourage the children to read and enjoy their books. All books are due back in Week 1, Term 2.

## LOCAL LIBRARIES

The local library is a great free activity for the whole family! Books can be read in the library or borrowed to take home. The Premier's reading Challenge books are also available.

Parramatta Library and its branches also offer free activities in the school holidays, including Easter egg hunts, storytime and homework help. Some activities need to be pre-booked. Translation services are available.

<http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/play/facilities/library>

## PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE



The school holidays are a great opportunity to get ahead with reading the Challenge books. Books read may be recorded on the Challenge paper copy or on-line. Children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 may “experience” the book – this means that a parent may read the Challenge book to their child. They may also share the reading with their child.

Children in Years 3 – 6 must read the books themselves. Parents may be involved by asking the children to tell them about their story, by getting the children to read to them or by having a discussion.

All booklists are available at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html>

## ART GALLERY OF NSW

Art Gallery Rd, The Domain Sydney

Info line 1800 679 27

There are free performances every day of the school holidays. There are also many activities for children.

Please visit <http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/calendar/type/school-holidays/>

## WOULD YOU LIKE A COPY OF PHOTOS TAKEN AT SCHOOL?

Please visit the St Oliver's website and select Multimedia galleries from the News and Events menu.

<http://www.stoliversharrisparlcatholic.edu.au/>

Mrs Lesley Quinn  
Teacher Librarian

# TERM ONE NEWS FROM STAGE 3

## A JOURNEY TO ANTARCTICA

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, Stage 3 went on an incursion to Antarctica. During the incursion to Antarctica Chris Olsen came in and taught us many things about the continent. He also told us about his expedition to Antarctica and showed us equipment like the ice-pick axe for breaking ice, a piece of ice over 2000 years old from Antarctica, clothes you need in Antarctica and wood from Mason's Hut. He also showed us how to break ice with the ice-pick axe. It was a fun incursion.

By Joaquin and Joseph



## Ben & Leslie's Personal Narratives

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, Stage 3 had a visit from two special people named Ben and Leslie. Together they shared their personal narratives. Ben's story was about when he went to South Africa to protect Great White Sharks. To do this he tags them and takes photos of them to identify them. Leslie's story was about where she works which is at an aquarium. At the aquarium she takes care of animals such as turtles and sharks. Then Ben and Leslie shared a joint narrative about the time they organised a clean-up club to clean the beach. We were so inspired we then decided to write and present our own personal narratives.

By Layla and Naina



# Year 6 Day Out

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On the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, Year 6 went to Darling Harbour as part of our leadership development. The first thing we did when we got to school was walk to the train station. Soon after we arrived at Town Hall station and we were roaming around Darling Harbour when we decided to take a morning tea break at Starbucks!!!! We had a wonderful and new experience at Starbucks, drinking and eating new foods.

After our new experience at Starbucks we then went to the park for a break to rest after a long walk. Then it was lunch time so we walked to the food court and everyone had a chance to pick their own food. Then unfortunately we had to go back to the train station to go back.

It was a great day and we learnt new leadership skills such as being responsible with our money and looking after our valuables. We learnt how to work out train timetables and find directions to get around the city.

By Michael and Aaysha

