



St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 1

Week 2

2015

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Dear Families of St Oliver's,

Welcome back! I trust you all had a blessed Christmas followed by a chance to relax and enjoy some special times with family and friends.

I look forward to 2015 with great optimism and enthusiasm. We have a number of new members of staff and a highly professional and passionate team of educators working with the children this year.

We have had a very positive start to the new school year! The children have settled well into their new classes and are pleased to be back at school. As I have moved around to each of the classes this week I have been inspired by the positive attitude to learning the children are demonstrating. It is a truly wonderful thing!

At the beginning of a new school year we extend an extra special welcome to our new students and families. On Monday we welcomed our new Kinders. They've had a great start to their journey here at St Oliver's. It is a unique opportunity to be able to share the journey with them! The following children also started in other grades across the school. We're glad you are now members of our faith and learning community.

Yalzhini S (Year 1), Miguel T (Year 1), Anthony H (Year 3), Liam H (Year 3), Arnav A (Year 6) and Rishabh (Year 6)

A very warm welcome to these children and their families; we look forward to working with you.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the children and thank you all for ensuring that the children have returned to school looking very smart in their full school uniform. Along with the children's excellent behaviour, this is the most public and obvious symbol of their tremendous sense of pride in and belonging to our faith and learning community.

We have a number of special community events taking place over the next two weeks. Please note the following dates and times in your calendars.

6 February 9:30am Opening School Mass followed by the commissioning of our 2015 school leaders

5:30pm Welcome BBQ

9 February Coffee and Chat – in the hall

17 February 6:45pm Parent Information Evening

20 February Staff Development Day

It is a busy week ahead with many events taking place. I would particularly like to encourage all members of our community to join Fr Chris, the staff and the children at the Opening School Mass on Friday. After the Mass we will be commissioning our new student leaders. I pray that the Holy Spirit guides these children throughout their leadership journey this year.

Looking ahead there are many wonderful learning opportunities for the children! Please take the time to read each newsletter to stay 'up to date' with all the exciting learning opportunities!

"May the spirit of unity and love reign amongst us" *Mary MacKillop 1884*

Peace and best wishes

Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal

Dates to Remember!

Friday 6th February 2015

Beginning School Mass

All Welcome

9:30am

St Oliver's Church

Friday 6th February 2015

Welcome BBQ

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Monday 9th February 2015

Coffee and Chat with

Mr McElhone

9:00am

School Hall

All Welcome

Tuesday 17th February 2015

Parent Information Night

6:45pm in the hall

Friday 20th February 2015

Staff Development Day

COSHC is available on this day

Assembly Schedule

in the hall

Friday at 2:30pm

Week 4 and Week 8



SCHOOL NEWS

School Fees

School fees will be posted home in the next few weeks and are due by 6th March. BPAY forms have been included should you wish to use this method of payment.

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2016

Application forms are available for collection from the school office from 2 March 2015. When the application form has been fully completed it should be returned to the office with the required documentation by Friday 3 April 2015

School Zone Signs with Flashing Lights

Last year we requested Roads and Maritime Services to install flashing school zone signs to further improve pedestrian safety around the school. We have been advised that the signs will be installed outside St Oliver's Primary School on Allen St the week beginning Monday 9 February 2015 outside of 40km school zone hours. Partial lane closures may be in place while work is carried out to ensure safety of road users and workers.

Anaphylaxis Awareness

Some children in our school suffer the life threatening condition of anaphylaxis. Essentially anaphylaxis is an allergic reaction which is caused as a result of an intolerance to peanut-based food products. As well as this we do have a number of children in the school who suffer anaphylactic reactions when exposed to peanuts and eggs. In order to respond to this situation and provide safe, fair and responsible procedures for all in the school community we have taken advice from the Anaphylaxis Association and our own Diocesan Workplace Safety Officers. The following practices will be in place this year.

1. There will be no **peanut butter** sandwiches or peanut-based products available in the school canteen.
2. Parents are to avoid sending in peanut based products as part of their child's lunch. If anyone has any concerns over this, please do not hesitate to speak with Mr McElhone.
3. Some children in the school present with severe allergy to seafood products. If your child brings seafood products to school it is essential that they notify their class teachers, so that a risk assessment can take place and necessary precautions put in place. This is particularly important in those classes where students have been identified with this particular allergy.

Staff Development Day

This year a new Science syllabus will be implemented across all primary schools in Australia. The staff at St Oliver's will be engaging in professional learning focused on the new syllabus at our Staff Development Day on Friday, 20 February. Please note that children do not attend school on this day.

Parent Information Evening - Tuesday, 17 February

Our Parent Information Evening will be on Tuesday, 17 February. Attendance at this meeting is highly recommended, even for our 'experienced' parents and carers. The evening will have a new format commencing with a whole school presentation in the hall at 6:45pm. This will be followed by presentations by the Stage teams at 7:15pm and repeated at 7:45pm. This allows for a parent/carer to attend information sessions for more than one class on the same night. A detailed agenda will be sent home next week.



Canteen News – Making Healthier Options

This year a parent, Katrina Habib, has offered to lease the canteen from the school to ensure that we are able to keep it open. By doing this it enables the canteen to be open two days per week (Wednesday and Friday) which is a great service for our families. This arrangement will not have any significant impact on the affordability of the products. Any increase in prices is a result of increased costs of goods from the supplier. You would have received the price list earlier in the week and there have been some excellent additions to the menu. Also the canteen menu continues to meet the Healthy Canteen guidelines. If you have questions about the canteen they can be directed to Katrina via the school office.

Pope Francis New Year's Resolution List

A parent shared this gem with me last week! The following is Pope Francis' New Year's list of resolutions.

1. Do not gossip
2. Finish your meals
3. Make time for others
4. Make the more 'humble' purchase
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh'
6. Stop judging others
7. Befriend those who disagree
8. Make commitments such as marriage
9. Make it a habit to ask the Lord
10. Be happy!

Pope Francis provides a more detailed explanation of this list at <http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/46933-new-year-resolutions-pope-francis-quotes>

InfoZone

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

LIBRARY BORROWING

St Oliver's children love to read! Children should bring their Library bags on Monday (Years 1 – 6) and Thursday for Kindergarten children. Kindergarten will start borrowing in the next few weeks.

Parents can encourage reading by taking an interest in the books that are borrowed and reading with or listening to the children.



ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 must return their signed AUP in order to access technology at the school. All forms should be returned promptly to school. Teachers have discussed the policy with their classes. Parents should also discuss these matters with their children.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE



All children at St Oliver's School participate in the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge as part of the reading programme. The students read books from an extensive list at their level; the younger children may have books read to them. Successful students receive a certificate from the Premier. The forms and on-line recording facilities will be operational in mid-March. Children will receive their Record Sheets over the next few weeks.

There is also a Premier's Reading Challenge app available for you to download. Please visit <https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> for instructions to download.

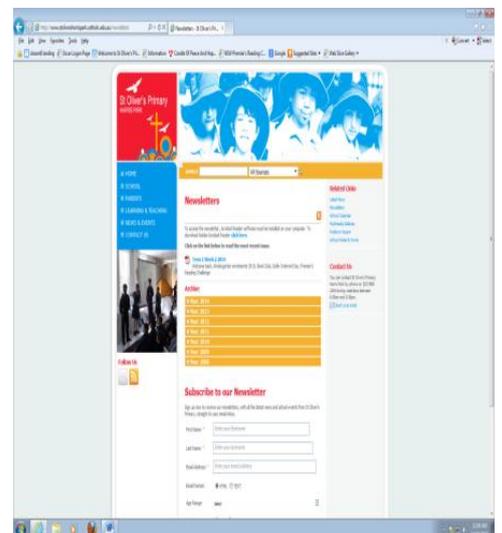
ST OLIVER'S WEBSITE

<http://www.stoliversharrispark.catholic.edu.au/>

Please subscribe to the St Oliver's newsletter under News and Events/Newsletters on the St Oliver's website. By signing up parents will be able to have all our latest news and events delivered straight to their email.

Parents can also keep up date with everything that is happening at St Oliver's via the School calendar which is also available on the website

Parents can also see lots of our school photos.



PUT THE ST OLIVER'S APP ON YOUR PHONE

Please visit the iTunes App Store for your free download of the St Oliver's app for iPhones – to find it type **Skoolbag St Oliver's**. This can also be downloaded to your iPad. At your first opening on the iPad 2x zoom to enlarge.

Android phone users please visit the Google Play Store.

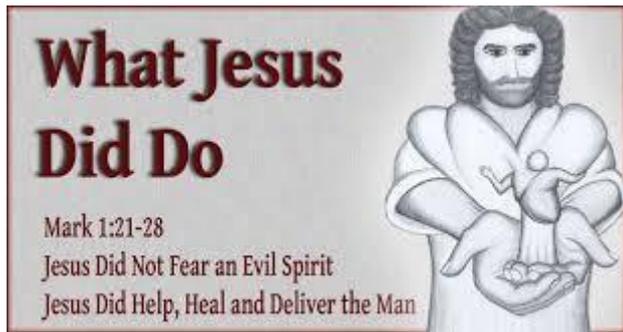


Skoolbag 

Lesley Quinn

Teacher Librarian

RE NEWS



This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority

Gospel Mk 1:21-28 4th Sunday in Ordinary time Year B

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep

impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Reflection

In Brief

- God speaks through prophets.
- Open your heart to God.
- Find room for the Lord.
- Make time for God.
- Good wins over evil.

In the passage from Mark's Gospel, Jesus expels a demon from a man. Jesus shows he has the authority to speak and act as a prophet sent by God. His exorcism of the demon demonstrates that good triumphs over evil. This miracle is the first of many Mark records to show both the authority and the compassion of Jesus. This passage also reveals the main work of Jesus – the work of forgiving, healing and teaching in the name of God. Discipleship requires a change in us. We want to change because in so many ways we are being strangled to death by demons. We are caught in dysfunction and sin; we live in the midst of the battle between good and evil, the struggle of human finitude and failure. We are plunged into the throes of human suffering and pain, and there seems to be no escape.

Sometimes we have prophets right inside us. We know what is God-centred behaviour, and we know when something is wrong. Sometimes we listen to that voice and sometime we tune it out.

Try to take some time this week to be in contact with that prophet and let it guide you in how you live. Our families and people around us look to us to be prophets, but we will only speak with authority if the way we conduct ourselves is consistent with the words we speak.

Answering Jesus' Call Who do we listen to? Can I think of some ways I can make more time to listen for God's voice. Do we make time as a family?



St Oliver's Mass and Welcome Barbeque

All welcome to attend St Oliver's Beginning School Mass and Commissioning of School Leaders on Friday 6th February 9:30 am. Celebrations will continue in the evening with a welcoming Barbeque at 5:30 pm on the school playground. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator

