



St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 1

Week 3

2015

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

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Gospel Mk 1:29-39 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.



Reflection

In the time of Jesus almost everything they couldn't understand was put down to a demon or an evil spirit. While most people don't blame evil for their ailments, they can think God has a direct hand in sending an illness or an injury. The New Testament demonstrates that the Scripture readings demonstrate that there is 'Hope in the Gospel of Jesus'. The Gospel of Mark offers hope in the face of human illnesses, as Jesus heals sick people and expels demons. Proclaiming the Gospel in word and action exhausts the body and spirit, so Jesus takes time to spend time in prayer. In doing so, he finds new energy and strength to continue his mission of proclaiming the Good News. There is not a single instance where Jesus inflicts pain and suffering on others. He regularly tells us we have to carry our cross and bear our burdens, but this is vastly different from personally laying a cross on our shoulders or giving us the burdens in the first place. By contrast, every time that Jesus encounters suffering and pain he works to heal it and restore the person to new life.

As Catholics we believe in the power of miracles and that comes from the grace of God. But we do not have to see them as something done to us from "without". Rather, we can see them as unlocking something from "within". For some people Jesus' word or touch set free the healing power God had placed in them. For others it came through another person's intercession. Being anointed, celebrating Reconciliation or Eucharist, going to a place of pilgrimage, fasting, being prayed over or meditating can have a similar effect. Looked at in this way we can see why some people are healed and others are not. If a personal encounter with Jesus did not always lead to healing, then why should it surprise us that some other encounters these days do not always unlock God's healing within us. Jesus takes time to go aside to a lonely place and pray. The passage tells us that it was 'long before dawn' that he did this. Jesus provides us with a model of using prayer to reflect on events and to prepare ourselves for the day ahead.

Answering Jesus' Call In what ways have you shared the Gospel? Have you ever turned away from the message of Jesus? Who proclaimed the Gospel to you and how have you responded to it? What blessings have come when you have shared the Gospel? Thank you for your presence at the opening school Mass. It is truly a blessing to see parents and friends attend these masses as you are an integral part of our school community.

In Brief

- Bad things can happen to good people.
- God can fix broken hearts.
- It is everyone's job to share the Gospel.
- Jesus can cure what ails you.
- You've got to pray just to make it today

Mrs Franca Bonserio

Religious Education Coordinator

SCHOOL NEWS

**DATES TO
REMEMBER:**

**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



Focus on Learning

DRAMA LITERACY: Learning for the 21st century

This year at St Oliver's the teachers and children have the opportunity to work with Natasha Beaumont. Natasha is an outstanding educator who will work on a program called Drama Literacy.

Drama Literacy develops deep learning (transference of skills and understandings) in:

- § Communication
- § Collaboration
- § Critical thinking
- § Creative thinking
- § Problem solving
- § Combining cognition with intra and inter personal competencies

The anticipated outcomes in drama literacy include:

- § Inference and interpretation of texts or topics beyond surface meaning.
- § Empathy and understanding with characters and ideas in texts or topics through embodiment and imagination.
- § Use of language (visual, oral, gestural) for different social purposes.
- § Engagement with and development of multi-literacy learning.
- § Confidence and collaborative skills for learning.
- § Creativity, critical thinking, problem solving.

This is an extremely exciting opportunity for our community of learners. Over the course of the year there will be opportunities for parents and carers to observe drama literacy lessons and it will culminate in a performance in the second half of the year.

CENSUS DAY – TOMORROW FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2015

Friday 13th February is our Census Day. We are asking that all children be at school on this day to make our student count easier.

If your child will be away, please ensure that you send in a note on Monday to explain their absence.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

The next Session of CCSS Solo Parent Services Bereavement Support Program for those whose spouse or long term partner has died is on

Tuesday 17th February 2015, from 10.00am – 12.00pm

Venue: 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown.

Topic: *"Images and Frameworks for Understanding Grief."*

Registration: Eileen or Rita Ph. 99330205 or soloparentservices@ccss.org.au Cost \$5.00.

YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP

CCSS Solo Parent Services monthly Bereavement Support Group for men and women widowed at a younger age with or without children will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Next gathering:

Tuesday 17th February 2015. Time: 7pm – 9pm

Venue: CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown.

Registration: Eileen or Rita Ph. 9933 0205 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au cost \$5.00