



UNITY IN DIVERSITY

# St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 1

Week 7

2015

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**Gospel** Jn 2:13-25 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.**

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

## Reflection

No matter what the rule or law is, some people can find a way around it. Sometimes they obey the 'letter' of the law, but they disregard the 'spirit' of the law. Sometimes they pretend to misunderstand the meaning of the law. And sometimes they actually get away with breaking a law by paying off someone who is supposed to be guarding the law.

### In Brief

- Keep the commandments.
- God's word brings life.
- God is wiser than us.
- Keep God's space holy.
- Jesus is the sign of the times.

Jesus gets upset with the disrespect of God and God's Commandments that is taking place through all the wheeling and dealing in the Temple. This usually gentle man knocks over tables, uses strong language, and drives out the money changers. Jesus demands the respect for God and God's designated house that the Commandments call for, even to the point of risking his life.

Jesus tells the people gathered that if they destroy the Temple of God he will rebuild it in three days. As usual, the disciples take Jesus literally. They know how long it takes to build a temple. What they don't realise is that Jesus is talking about the temple of his body, and his own death and Resurrection.

We are the body of Jesus. When we receive Eucharist at Mass we are being Jesus to others.

## Answering Jesus' Call

When we clean our cupboards, we get rid of the old and make space for the new things. During Lent we can get rid of our old habits of jealousy, envy, the pain of self hate and make room to realize we are made in God's image. During Lent we are called to answer God's call to let go of our childlike understanding of God and grow and mature in our faith. Fill it with Jesus Christ.



3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent  
Project Compassion:  
Karen from Australia



### Choosing food for life



The Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes 'Manage Your Income, Manage Your Life' program (supported by Caritas Australia) is helping First Australians, like Karen, to take control of their money, and choose and prepare nutritious food to ensure a healthier future for their families.

Your donation to Project Compassion 2015 helps First Australians in remote communities gain the skills to make healthier food choices, building a better future for their families.

[www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) 1800 024 413

**Project Compassion Caritas Update:** What a fantastic effort this week. We have raised \$300 so far! This week Years 3, 4 and 6 have each collected over \$50! An outstanding attempt for all who have contributed! This is a great way of showing the Mercy value of compassion. Thinking of someone else particularly those who are even more needy than ourselves. Such Generous hearts St Oliver's

Mrs Franca Bonserio  
Religious Education Coordinator

# Focus On Learning



## Catholic Schools Week

### Did you know?

- More than 272 737 students attend a Catholic school in NSW and the ACT

This week Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT have been celebrating Catholic Schools Week. Catholic schools provide a valuable contribution to Australian communities. Students are encouraged to learn and develop their skills, develop strong positive relationships, explore their own values and focus on how they can support those most in need.

Religious Education is an important component of the curriculum in Catholic schools. All Catholic schools are required by the Bishop of their diocese to implement a Religious Education program, which is based on the teachings of the Catholic Church.

In the Parramatta diocese Catholic schools implement the 'Sharing Our Story' Religious Education program with a focus on scripture. At St Oliver's teachers have been working with an educator from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta to deepen our understanding of the scriptures in order to be better able to communicate the message of God to our students.

### In the Learning Space

As a result of our work new strategies are being implemented in our Learning Spaces when reading a Scripture passage. These include:

- Studying unfamiliar vocabulary
- Understanding the history and background of the bible stories
- Understanding church teachings
- Locating places mentioned in the scriptures on a map
- Viewing photos and/or images (both ancient and modern) of places and things referred to in the scriptures

### At Home

You can support this learning at home by reading scripture stories with your child/ren and following up with simple discussions. Things to discuss include:

- Retell what happened
- What is God's message?
- How does this link to church teachings and the sacraments

## SCHOOL NEWS

**School fees are now due.** Thank you if you have already paid.  
A reminder letter will be sent home this week.

**HELP NEEDED:**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 9am**  
Easter Egg Wrapping for our Easter Raffle , we also need your unwanted baskets.

**RAFFLE TICKETS:** Raffle tickets are being sent home today with families who have returned their 'raffle ticket permission form'

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Assembly  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015**  
at 2:30 in the hall  
Choir is performing

A Journey to Antarctica  
Incursion – Stage 3  
**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Cross Country  
Robin Thomas Reserve  
Stage 2 and 3  
all students to wear sport uniform  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015**