



# St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 1

Week 8

2015

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Dear Families of St Oliver's,

With less than two weeks before the state election, I urge you to contact your local MPs and candidates to talk to them about the importance of capital works funding for Catholic schools in western Sydney. Without capital works funding for Catholic schools, it will be difficult to meet growing enrolment demands for Catholic schooling. This will place an even greater burden on the taxpayer if places for these children need to be found in government schools.

Recently, our Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whitby met with Minister Adrian Piccoli to urge him to consider the needs of the 25% of children and young people who attend Catholic schools in western Sydney. Although the meeting was positive, no commitment to capital works funding was made. I urge you to email your local STATE member and STATE opposition candidates, to tell them that capital works funding is an important issue for you in the upcoming election. You can find out who the local member and candidates are for the Legislative Assembly in your electorate at the following website

<http://candidates.elections.nsw.gov.au/default.aspx>

In 2014, NSW's 584 Catholic schools educated 21% of NSW students but received only 2% of NSW Government capital funding for schools. The NSW Government provides \$7.6 million in capital grants to Catholic schools – or \$30 per student. In 2012, the NSW Government capped its capital funding to non-government schools, but enrolments have continued to grow by 10,000 students – the equivalent of 12 new secondary schools or 400 new classrooms. The \$7.6 million provided by the NSW

Government in 2014 was only enough to part-fund seven of the 39 Catholic school building projects which sought funding that year.

NSW Catholic schools educate almost 254,000 students and will need to accommodate a further 58,000 students by 2031 – the equivalent of more than 2300 additional classrooms. Catholic school parents fund the bulk of capital works projects in their children's schools through school building levies and the repayment of loans. But the rising cost of land, construction and technology mean that parents cannot shoulder this burden to the same extent indefinitely.

Peace and best wishes

**Mr Anthony McElhone**  
Principal

## Dates to Remember!

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015**  
from 9am

**HELP** needed to wrap Easter Eggs  
for our Easter Raffle

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015**  
Holy Week Celebrations

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015**  
Last day of Term 1

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015**  
First day of Term 2

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015**  
Full winter's uniform



## 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.

### **Parent Calendar – Key Dates for Term 2**

The St. Oliver's Parent Calendar can be viewed online at our website. Click on the **News & Events link**. This is updated regularly and it will keep you in touch with upcoming events. The Parent Calendar can also be accessed on the **skoolbag app**

### **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)

### **Diocesan Education Mass**

Each year, the staff of all Catholic Schools across the Diocese are invited to attend a special Education Mass in one of the Parishes in the Diocese. Mass is scheduled for Thursday, 19 March at 5.30 p.m. at St Patrick's at Blacktown. Please pray for the staff of all the schools throughout the Diocese who bring the joy of the Gospel to the students of our schools through special and unique vocation.

### **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**



Every year St Oliver's has an Easter Egg Raffle as a school fundraiser. We ask that each family donate at least one Easter egg towards the raffle. Of course we would be delighted to receive more than one! These can be given to your child's class teacher or to the office. You can start bringing in Easter eggs now. If you require additional raffle tickets they can be collected from the office. We will require volunteers to assist with wrapping the Easter Egg Baskets on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 9am**. Many hands will make light work!



### **Catholic Schools Week**

A huge thank you to our community for supporting Catholic Schools Week! It was a wonderful week that included open classrooms for specialist teachers, celebration of learning session, community read aloud, reader's theatre presentation, Maths trivia, community morning tea, performance by the choir and the celebration of Mass with Fr Chris.

## RE NEWS

**Gospel** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent John 3:14-21

*God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'



### Reflection

The theme of last Sunday's Gospel is 'Choose life and light'. Jesus' speech after his conversation with Nicodemus sums up the heart of the Gospel message: God's love is so great that he sent his Son to save humankind. Jesus came into the world, says John, to save all who believe and to invite them to walk in the light. But we have a free will and we can choose darkness or the light that is Jesus.

#### In Brief

- Never lose sight of God.
- Repent before it's too late.
- No one earns salvation.
- God's mercy gave us his Son.
- Choose light over darkness.

In our day to day relationships, it is true that we often seek to test the limits of the love that is expressed. Young people in particular often test the boundaries of their parents' love and the boundaries of others who care for them. It is often a test to reassure themselves of this love – will you still love me, even if I do this? Today's readings portray the people of God as adolescents constantly testing out the limits of God's love. In a remarkable act, God's own Son is sent into the world to die as a sign of the lengths to which God will go to assure humanity of the love that is theirs for the taking.

### Answering Jesus' Call

We were created in Christ to do good works. What are some good works you have already participated in? What are some needs in your school, in your family, in your neighbourhood, in your country and in your world? What is one good work you can focus on doing in the near future?

**Project Compassion Caritas Update:** Thank you everyone for such a fantastic effort this week. We have raised \$590 so far! An outstanding effort! 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 at St Oliver's



Fourth Sunday  
of Lent

PROJECT  
COMPASSION



In Nepal, many farmers in rural communities struggle to grow enough food to feed their families. However, a highly successful fish raising program has changed life for one Nepalese community.

Mother of three, Sarita, could barely grow enough food for her family on her tiny farm plot. In 2007, she joined a program, run by Caritas Nepal, that gave a community group the training and support they needed to start a fish-raising business. Thanks to their hard work, Sarita and the group now have a thriving enterprise and a life-long source of food and income.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2015 and help people in rural Nepal create a life-long source of food and income to benefit entire communities.**

### **First Reconciliation**

Please keep in your prayers, the Year 3 and Year 4 students who will be receiving the Sacrament of Penance after having prepared for many weeks at St Oliver's Church, on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

*Mrs Franca Bonserio*  
Religious Education Coordinator

# InfoZone

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

## PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE



1. All St Oliver's children are registered to participate in the Challenge. The **MOST IMPORTANT** thing is to **READ** and **ENJOY** the books. The entering of data does not have to be completed till August.
2. Existing online records are now available and paper recording sheets have been sent home.
3. Please continue to use existing PRC passwords as they continue from year to year.
4. Children in Years 3 – 6 enter their own data.
5. Children in Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2 can have their data entered at school by Library staff or parents may choose to do it.
6. Kindergarten passwords are not yet available, but will be as soon as they are released.
7. All booklists are available at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html>

## KID'S LIT QUIZ

Congratulations to St Oliver's first competitors in this challenging team competition for the sport of **READING** – Rishab, Henry, Miranda and Prisha. Our team did a wonderful job and we are very proud of them. We have been invited to enter this competition again next year - so keep reading widely!

Further details are available at <http://www.kidslitquiz.com/>



Mrs Lesley Quinn  
Teacher Librarian

# St Oliver's Cross Country 2015

On Wednesday, 60 students from Years 3 – 6 participated in our school Cross Country. It was an exciting day! All students competing had fun and pushed themselves to do their very best!

Our 11 and 12 year old students had to complete a 3km circuit and our 8, 9 and 10 year old students ran 2km. It was a hot day but some of our students managed to run these distances in very impressive times.

Congratulations to the following students will be representing St Oliver's at the Diocesan Cross Country at Eastern Creek early in Term Two;

3km - Adriano Guajardo

2km - Derek Doffour, Don Doumit, Christian Nehme, Joseph Sabbouh, Antonious Habib, Rashid Kabba, Dallo Sandy, Jaylen Fernandes, Nehal Singhal and Tsepiso Makura.

A special thank you to the wonderful parents who assisted on the track. Your help is really appreciated and makes fun days like this possible for our students.

