



# St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 2

Week 3

2015

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

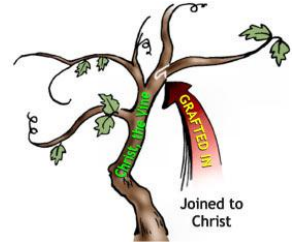
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## Gospel John 15:1-8

**All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away— he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'



## Reflection

Jesus uses the image of the vine and branches to show how important it is to stay connected to him, to keep growing in faith. God is the vine grower. Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. The vine also represents the Christian community. The Christian community is fruitful if it proclaims and witnesses the Gospel to others. In the early Church, people would meet each other at their homes and spend time with one another. They spent time with like-minded people and talked about their witness to faith and gave support to each other. Today when we go to Mass we spend time with like-minded people, support one another. We receive Sacraments such as Eucharist and Reconciliation to strengthen and support us. When we strive to reach our fullest potential in whatever we do, we bear fruit. When we act out of motivation for the other person rather than ourselves, we bear fruit. When we strive to bring about the reign of God in our small part of the world, we bear fruit. Sometimes we too need to have some of our thoughts and actions pruned so that we might better bear the fruit that we are truly capable of producing.

### In Brief

- Jesus can change hearts.
- Pass on the faith.
- Praise God.
- Jesus is the vine; we are the branches.
- How do you bear fruit?
- The Sacraments strengthen us to bear fruit

## Answering Jesus' Call

How does our faith get nourished? How are our families, our friends, the church, the Scriptures and the sacraments like vines that provide nourishment for our faith growth? What branches must I prune from my life in order to bear more fruit? What changes could I make that would allow me to grow and thrive?



Last Friday was the **Feast day of St Joseph the worker**. Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew disagree about some of the details of Joseph's genealogy but they both mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel. We know Joseph was a compassionate, man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him without knowing the outcome. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him and set out to provide for Jesus as this is what God wanted him to do.

**Mother's Day Liturgy**- Please come and celebrate Mother's Day by attending a **Mother's Day Liturgy Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 9.15 in the St Oliver's Church** followed by morning tea with a special guest Ms Anne Ferguson. We welcome Anne who has worked with the staff and students over the past few years. Anne is looking forward to meeting the parent community of our school to share her knowledge of Catherine McAuley, the founder of Sisters of Mercy and the St Oliver's Mercy values. Ms Anne Ferguson is employed by the Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta.

A Mother's Day Prayer



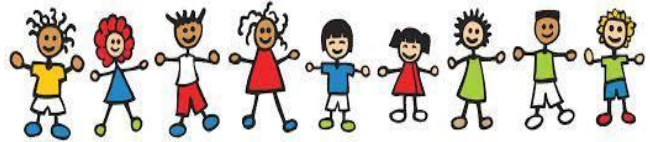
## *Catherine McAuley Suscipe*



My God, I am yours for time and eternity. Teach me to cast myself entirely into the arms of your loving Providence with a lively, unlimited confidence in your compassionate, tender pity. Grant, O most merciful Redeemer that whatever you ordain or permit may be acceptable to me. Take from my heart all painful anxiety; let nothing sadden me but sin, nothing delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of You my God and my all, in your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

*Mrs Franca Bonserio*  
*Religious Education Coordinator*

# Focus On Learning



This year at St Oliver's we are continuing to focus on the Literacy Goal formulated in 2014. This goal is to develop our students writing. One of the ways we believe we can achieve this goal is by focussing on improving our students 'Word Consciousness.' Word consciousness refers to vocabulary knowledge and the way words work.

To assess that our students are working towards this goal we have developed a continuum of vocabulary skills that track the **range** and **precision** of language choices student's use. The following are the targets set for student achievement by the end of each grade:

## End of Kindergarten:

- Knows and uses a range of everyday words, e.g. colours, familiar objects, places, names
- Knows the meaning of words that are likely to be encountered in easy reading texts, e.g. big, little and begins to use these when writing
- Begins to use topic words when speaking and writing
- Knows the meaning of commonly used words in reading and uses these when writing and speaking
- Uses simple pronoun references e.g. his/her, he/she

## End of Year 1:

- Uses knowledge and understanding of topic words when writing
- Uses a range of adjectives to provide more information about nouns e.g. The *big, red* ball.
- Demonstrates the use of more precise vocab to describe feelings and experiences when writing
- Shows beginning understanding of the effect of different words and phrases, e.g. to create humour, to persuade, to inform
- Applies knowledge of base words to build word families, e.g. move, moving, remove

## End of Year 2:

- Knows the meaning of commonly used words in increasingly challenging texts and can demonstrate this knowledge when writing
- Includes different types of verbs (words to describe an action e.g. run, walk, words to describe an occurrence e.g. happen, become or words to describe a state of being e.g. be, exist)
- Uses words and phrases for effect, e.g. to create images, to add emphasis, to create atmosphere

## End of Year 3:

- Uses simple content specific vocabulary when creating texts
- Chooses appropriate words to express specific ideas and details

## End of Year 4:

- Demonstrates understanding that words can have different meanings in different contexts

## End of Year 5:

- Makes effective word choices in response to purpose and audience when creating texts and editing and reviewing own writing
- Demonstrates understanding of new words for new concepts
- Selects appropriate language for purpose, e.g. descriptive, persuasive, topic, technical, evaluative, emotive and colloquial

## End of Year 6:

- Uses new words for known concepts, e.g. blissful for happy
- Increasingly uses appropriate content vocabulary when creating written texts about specific topics
- Draws on knowledge of word origins to work out meaning of new words