



St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 2

Week 8

2015

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Dear Families of St Oliver's,

With the end of a busy and fulfilling term fast approaching I would like to advise that next term I have the opportunity to participate in a Principal's Pilgrimage. The two week 'Into the Desert' pilgrimage that follows in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop commences on 22 July. I have also taken the opportunity to have some long service leave in the lead up to the pilgrimage. Therefore, I will be away from St Oliver's from 13 July until 4 August. In my absence our Assistant Principal, Mrs Natalie Mifsud, will be in the acting Principal role. I am truly looking forward to this time of mental and spiritual renewal. I will keep our community up to date with the pilgrimage via our school app.

So what is a pilgrimage and why is it important?

A pilgrimage is a journey a person makes to a sacred place for the purpose of venerating it or to ask for heavenly aid, and ultimately to come to know God better. Christian pilgrimages were first made to sites connected with the birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Shortly after, pilgrimages started being made to Rome and other sites associated with the Apostles, Saints and Christian martyrs, as well as places where there had been apparitions of the Virgin Mary. In the past, pilgrims would leave their homes, families, and comforts to walk for hundreds of miles with nothing but what they could carry on their backs. Just as the pilgrims from the early centuries, the modern pilgrims also leave their homes, families and comforts in order to journey to sacred places.

Reflection is an important part of the pilgrimage. The experience one has on a pilgrimage can be fantastic and deeply meaningful. Extra graces are given to pilgrims who open their hearts to God. Pilgrims are also called to be witnesses for Christ on their journey. As a Christian and a visitor, pilgrims are ambassadors for Christ and who they represent. In this pilgrimage I will be representing the Diocese of Parramatta.

A pilgrimage can also be defined as the course of life here on earth. The physical pilgrimage we take to a sacred shrine is a symbol of the spiritual pilgrimage we are on throughout our lives. Each day we have the opportunity to encounter Christ through suffering, joys, interactions with others, and through every aspect of our human experience. By taking what you learn from a pilgrimage you can put it into practice in your daily life and come to a better knowledge of God.

Peace and best wishes

Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal

Dates to Remember

JUNE

- 12th Sacred Heart Mass @ 9:15
whole school attending
- 12th Assembly, Stage 2 @ 2:30 in
the hall
- 18th Reports sent home
- 19th Stage 3 & Kindy @ Parish
Mass 9:15am all welcomed
- 21st First Eucharist @ St Oliver's
Church 10am
- 22nd Parent/teacher interviews
- 23rd Parent/teacher interviews
- 24th Parent/teacher interviews
- 25th Parent/teacher interviews
- 25th Boys Soccer Gala Day, Stage 2
- 25th School disco
- 26th **STAFF DEVELOPMENT
DAY, Pupil Free Day**
- 29th First day of holidays

JULY

- 13th **First day of Term 3**
- 24th Multicultural Day

AUGUST

- 4th Zone Athletics
- 15th Feast of the Assumption
- 25th Netball Gala Day, Penrith

SCHOOL NEWS

Parent, Teacher and Student Interviews

This is another opportunity for you and your child/children to meet with their classroom teacher. This is an important part of the mid-year reporting process and we expect all parents to make a time to discuss their child/children's progress. Interviews will be approximately 10 – 15 minutes. The students will help explain their learning, achievements, learning behaviours and goals for future learning. If you require some of this time to meet with the teacher, without your child present this can occur after your child has shared their learning. The online booking system will be used to make appointments. Detailed instructions have been provided. Your child's report will be sent home on **Thursday, 18 June**.

Lost Property

Unlabelled clothing is being handed into lost property on a daily basis. Please ensure your child's clothing is properly labelled, otherwise we have no way of returning it to them. If any clothing is handed into lost property that cannot be identified it will automatically be placed into our second hand clothing pool for purchase.

Kindergarten 2016 Enrolments

Kindergarten 2016 enrolments are now being finalised. Please ensure your family and friends have submitted their forms. If you know of anyone wishing to enrol please tell them now is the time! Any applications received after 15 June will be placed on the waiting list.

Save the Date – Multicultural Day Friday 24 July 2015

Every school has its 'big day' of celebration; usually it's the feast day. As the St Oliver Plunkett feast day falls in the mid-year holidays each year, our significant celebration is our Multicultural Day. This is a day where we recognise and celebrate our school motto – 'Unity in Diversity'. Further details about the day will be provided early next term.

School
Disco
Thursday
25th June



COMMUNITY NEWS

Seminar - Dealing With The Legal System

CCSS Solo Parent Services is holding an Information night for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding on how to choose the best lawyer for your situation, how best to deal with Lawyers to minimize your legal fees, protecting your rights regarding family assets and other topics. This night will be held on Wednesday 24th June from 7.30pm-9.30pm at CCSS, 2A Villiers St, Parramatta. Registration essential: Eileen or Rita Ph.9933 0205 email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

Younger Widowed Support Group

CCSS Solo Parent Services' Younger Widowed Support Group is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The Support group is for men and women widowed at a younger age with or without children. **Next gathering: Tuesday 16th June.**

Venue: CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown. **Time:** 7pm – 9pm **Cost:** \$5.00. **Registration:** Eileen or Rita Ph. 9933 0205 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au



School Holiday Program. Full details at www.kidsinthepark.com.au

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ - (Corpus Christi) - Year B

Gospel

Mk 14:12-16, 22-26 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is my body. This is my blood.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.' The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it,' he said 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.' After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives



Reflection

In Brief

- Jesus is the new covenant.
- Drink the cup of salvation.
- We will do what God asks.
- 'This is my body; this is my blood.'

In the Jewish tradition, blood plays a very interesting double role – being both sacred and impure. As we see from this week's first reading, blood was used as a sign of sealing a covenant and so took on a very sacred significance. Blood was held to be sacred due to its relationship with life and thus God. However, in other circumstances, blood was regarded as forbidden and impure. The Torah forbids the eating of blood and so for meat to be regarded as kosher (ritually proper) it must be drained of all blood at the time of slaughter. This prohibition has to do with an ancient pagan practice of eating blood and was designed to distinguish the Jews from such pagan practices. In the parable of the Good Samaritan we see the two Temple officials avoiding the beaten and bloodied man because to touch him would have made them ritually impure and unable to perform their duties. So we have this interesting contrast that blood was regarded as being both very sacred as well as impure.

It is in the sealing of a covenant that Jesus used blood at the Last Supper. Jews would have been very familiar with the notion that a covenant with God was sealed with blood and so for Jesus to describe his blood as being 'the blood of the covenant' would have been immediately significant to his disciples and the first audience of the Gospel. Jesus is marking a new covenant between God and God's people – a covenant in blood like the covenants of old. He is making it clear that God is prepared to start over again with the people – a new covenant for a new phase of the ever developing relationship. When we come to Mass, and we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, it strengthens us in our lives. Jesus made a promise that no matter what, we are always called to eat and drink and to take part in this meal. The promise of Jesus is that he is always with us and will always be our friend.

Answering Jesus' Call what in our lives calls us to live this covenant – to be bread broken and to be wine poured forth for each other? When we go to communion, we are saying that we agree with the promises of Christ. When we say 'Amen' we are saying 'Yes' to God. We try to follow the promise of God – to love ourselves and to love other people.

St Vinnies Winter Appeal Thank you!  for your generosity of your donations for the St Vinnies Winter Appeal. It is still not too late to make donations. This is truly a sign that we show are love for others.



These will brought forward during the Offertory Procession at the Sacred Heart Mass on Friday 12th June @ 9:15



We pray for all children who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion this Month. All are welcome to celebrate the Children's first Eucharist on the **21st June at St Oliver's Church at 10am.**



Mrs Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator

InfoZone

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

School Holiday Fun at Parramatta Library and Branches

Parramatta City Library Address: Civic Place, Parramatta Phone number: 9806 5159	Constitution Hill Library Address: 20 Hollis Street, Constitution Hill Phone number: 9806 5500
Dundas Library Address: 21 Sturt Street, Telopea Phone number: 9806 5960	Ermington Library Address: River Road, Ermington Phone number: 9806 5869
Granville Library Address: 8 Carlton Street, Granville Phone number: 9806 5851	Guildford Library Address: Railway Terrace, Guildford Phone number: 98069856

Zumba Fun and Fitness Location: Guildford Library Date: Tuesday 30 June Time: 11:00am to 12:30pm Ages: 4 years and older Cost: Free	Cartooning Workshop Location: Constitution Hill Library Date: Wednesday 1 July Time: 10:30am to 11:30am Ages: 8 to 16 years Cost: \$5.00	Kaleidoscope Craft Location: Granville Library Date: Friday 3 July Time: 11:00am to 12:00pm Ages: 5 to 12 years Cost: Free
Clearing the Cupboard Make an assortment of crafts including masks and bugs craft Location: Ermington Library Date: Wednesday 1 July Time: 11:00am to 12:00pm Ages: 5 to 12 years Cost: Free	3D Puzzle Building Construct an iconic landmark Location: Parramatta Library Date: Thursday 2 July Time: 11:00am to 12:00pm Ages: 7 to 11 years Cost: Free	Anime Movie Screening Snacks and Drinks provided Location: Parramatta Library Date: Friday 3 July Time: 11:00am to 1:00pm Ages: 11 to 18 years Cost: Free
Aboriginal Dot Painting Location: Constitution Hill Branch Library Date: Tuesday 7 July Time: 11:00am to 12:00pm Ages: 5 to 14 years Cost: Free	Aboriginal Craft – Boomerangs & Dot Paintings Location: Dundas Library Date: Tuesday 7 July Time: 11:00am to 12:00pm Ages: 5 to 12 years Cost: Free	Rocket to the Stars Mobile Location: Guildford Library Date: Thursday 9 July Time: 2:00pm to 3:00pm Ages: 4 to 14 years Cost: Free

eBooks and eResources Hands-On Session at Parramatta City Library

20th June 2015 12:00pm-1:00pm Parramatta City Library FREE

Want help borrowing eBooks or using eReaders? Need a hand getting eBooks on your smartphone or tablet? Not sure how to find that one piece of trustworthy information for a project or assignment? We'll show you how!

Bring along your smartphone/tablet/eReader or laptop (together with your Apple ID or Google Play Store ID for smartphone/tablet users), and we'll help you get set up on the spot to use eBooks. You'll need your library card, or sign up for a free membership on the day – and you'll walk away with an eBook to read, as well as finding out how to use the library 24/7, whenever you need it.

Free, bookings not required.

Mrs Lesley Quinn
 Teacher Librarian