



St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 3

Week 6

2015

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

www.stoliversharrisparc.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 9682 1244

Dear Families of St Oliver's,

As many of you are aware earlier this term I had the opportunity to participate in a pilgrimage with principal colleagues, staff from the Catholic Education Office and Fr Walter Fogarty. The pilgrimage ventured into the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop across three regions of Australia (Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory).

The pilgrimage was an opportunity to learn more about an iconic Australian and take time out for self-reflection. It is difficult to summarise into a few words my insights, learnings, awakenings and experiences, however here are a few!

To use a cliché 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going' encapsulates Mary MacKillop and her life. She experienced hardships in her life that today we couldn't begin to imagine. But what helped her rise above every hurdle; every hardship was her love of God. Mary trusted completely in the providence of God. I would encourage everyone to take some time to learn a little more about St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's story, as it is a great narrative but also inspirational.

To pray where she prayed, to walk where she walked, to celebrate Mass in the places where she worshiped, to drink from the chalice she drank from, is a life giving experience.

Whilst Mary did not spend time in the Northern Territory I found this leg of the pilgrimage equally life giving. It was a part of this country I had never visited and was in awe of its great diversity, beauty and remoteness. The 'territory' will forever live in my heart and mind for these reasons.

To gather in prayer and reflection in the shadows of places like Uluru and Kata Tjuta is beyond words and images. All I can encourage you to do is experience it for yourself.

My final reflection from this pilgrimage is that I am truly blessed to be surrounded by a wonderful family, amazing colleagues and a great community in which I work. As they say (another cliché), absence makes the heart grow fonder! So it's great to be back and I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with this great community.

Peace and best wishes

Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal

Dates to Remember

AUGUST

- 20th School Photos
- 20th Book week competitions close
- 21st Diocesan Athletics, Blacktown
- 25th Netball Gala Day, Penrith
- 26th Book Week Parade @ 9am
- 27th Stage 3 Camp
- 28th Stage 3 Camp
- 31st Father's Day wrapping @1:30pm
- 31st Coffee n Chat @ 2:15pm

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd Author Visit – Libby Gleeson
- 3rd Father's Day Stall
- 4th Father's Day Breakfast
- 4th Stage 1 @ Parish Mass
- 4th Kindy Assembly @ 2:30pm
- 7th ASPA Choral Performance – St Dominic's College, Kingswood - Stage 2
- 11th Stage 2 @ Parish Mass
- 14th Voice of Youth – Grand Final
- 18th Last day of Term 3

October

- 5th **Public Holiday**
- 6th First day of Term 4

School Uniform - Lowes, Parramatta has our sports uniform on sale with 60% off regular prices. Our new sports uniform will be available from early September. However all students can wear our current sports uniform through the 12 month transition phase.

Bake Sale – postponed until the end of term. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Skoolbag App for Windows Phones & Devices

We are pleased to announce that Skoolbag is now available for Windows Phones running version 8.1 of Windows, and Windows devices running Windows 8.1 or 10 (eg Surface tablet, Laptop, PC etc).

This makes the app even more accessible then before to your parent and student community, with the ability to receive messages directly to a PC, Laptop, or Surface Tablet running Windows 8.1 or 10.

To install Skoolbag on your Windows device, look up "Skoolbag" in the Windows Store, and install it. Once installed you can find your school, and pin it to your Windows Home Screen.

Please note: You must be running at least Windows 8.1 on your device for the app to function.

Reminder

Payment is now due for the author visit on Thursday 3rd September 2015. Thank you

Our School is part of the Woolworths Earn & learn program. St Oliver's have an earn and learn box at Woolworths, Westfield Parramatta. Please encourage your family and friends to support us on their next shopping trip.



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

College Open Morning Tour
Monday
August 31, 2015

School Fees – school fees are now due you can make payment at the office at your earliest convenience. Reminder statement will be sent home this Friday. Thank you to all families who

Father's Day Stall

Please send in your donations. Some ideas; socks, chocolates, key rings, cooler bags, mugs



We Need Help with wrapping the gifts. Please come and lend a hand on **Monday 31st August @ 1:30pm**

Father's Day Stall – Thursday 3rd September all gifts will be priced between \$1 and \$5. We will be holding a raffle at the stall, tickets \$1 each

Save the Date

Father's Day BBQ

Fathers, grandfathers and carers, please make sure that you are here at St Oliver's for our special Father's Day BBQ on **Friday 4 September**. This takes place in the school grounds and the teachers will cook the BBQ. BBQ starts at 7.30am.

Coffee and Chat
Monday 31st August @
2:15pm in the hall.



Diocesan Athletics

Congratulations to the following St Oliver's students, Brodie, Mayana, Antonious, Dallo, Jaylen, Rashid and Derek, who are representing the Cumberland Zone on **Friday 21st August**.

St Oliver's is a
NUT FREE zone.

Gospel Jn 6:51-58

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Jesus said to the crowd:
'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give
is my flesh, for the life of the world.'



Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

Reflection

A major theme of the Scripture readings is 'Making wise choices. These readings communicate that the choices we make in life are often difficult.

Jesus' words, understood for their deeper meaning, reflect the Catholic conviction that the bread and wine shared by the parish community in the Eucharist are the real body and blood of Christ. And when the bread and wine are taken, the parish community is nourished, strengthened and bonded together more deeply together in the Lord. Those who participate in the Eucharist become one with the Lord, both as individuals and as a community. When the gospel writer has Jesus speaking about eating his flesh and drinking his blood he is drawing on a very old image of eating and drinking as representing 'absorbing'; or 'comprehending'; or 'understanding' the message of the speaker. In this ancient understanding, to 'eat the flesh' of Jesus is to take into yourself and accept everything that Jesus stands for; everything that Jesus teaches; everything that Jesus believes. It is an act of faith. When we received Christ in the Eucharist, is this the depth of significance and purpose with which we take communion? Unmistakably, this passage points us to the Christian sacrament of Eucharist. The practice of sharing Eucharist as a memorial of Jesus was already well established in the Christian communities by the time this gospel was written and throughout this extended discourse on the 'Bread of Life' the author provides a direct link between the practice of Eucharist and the teachings of Jesus.

Answering Jesus' Call

When Jesus speaks of being the bread of life from heaven, the people listening probably don't understand what he is talking about. At least we understand what he did at the Last Supper, and how his real presence comes to us in the form of bread and wine at Mass. If you could ask Jesus to explain the sacrament of the Eucharist in terms that a teenager could relate to, what do you think Jesus would tell you? What is it like for you to go to Mass? Do you find Mass to be a spiritual experience and an important form of community prayer in your life? If you could give special training to priests on how to help the community celebrate Mass in a way that would involve and engage young people, what suggestions or advice would you give?

In Brief

- Don't be a fool; wise up.
- Wise up; follow Christ.
- Turn away from the foolishness of evil.
- Attend Mass; become one with Christ.
- Jesus feeds us with his body and blood.

Sacraments of Initiation

All students who are eligible to receive the sacraments in 2016 are asked to contact one of these parishes: (Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation)\

St Patrick's Cathedral
Phone: (02) 8839 8460

Holy Trinity Granville
Phone: (02) 9637 1904

Holy Family Parish
Phone: (02) 9543 2614

Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator

InfoZone

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

Next week is Book Week!

ST OLIVER'S BOOK PARADE!

Wednesday, 26th August at 9am in the Stage 2 area. Parents are warmly invited to attend.

All children are to wear their outfit and their **character label** (below) to school. Children will remain in their outfits for the day.

I am dressed as

Book:

because

SOME IDEAS TO HELP YOU!



REMINDER

The Premier's Reading Challenge and the St Oliver's Book Week Competitions close this week. Winners of the St Oliver's competitions will receive their prizes at our Book Parade.

Mrs Lesly Quinn
School Librarian