



# St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 3

Week 6

2014

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

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Dear Families of St Oliver's,

Tomorrow we will gather together to celebrate the Farewell Mass for Fr Arthur Bridge and Deacon James Phelan. Fr Arthur and Deacon James have been a part of the parish of St Oliver Plunkett, Harris Park for six years. During their time they have made significant contributions to the school and parish community. These men do not seek public adulation for the work they do and most often their great work has gone unnoticed by the community. I look forward to joining you at Mass tomorrow to celebrate and give thanks for Fr Arthur and Deacon James.

Did you know? Rev Dr Arthur Bridge ...

- has been parish priest at St Oliver Plunkett, Harris Park since 2008
- was educated at Sydney, Perth and Oxford universities
- has spent over 20 years working in the fields of health and community service, education and the arts
- formed the Academy of St. Cecilia, which in 1996 developed into Arts Musica Australis, a charitable foundation supporting the creative arts.
- was awarded a Doctor of Music (honoris causa) for his outstanding contribution to Australian music, particularly his great support of early career artistic practice and audience development in Western Sydney
- is the patron of numerous organisations including the Sydney Omega Ensemble, Sydney Youth Orchestra, Sydney Youth Ballet and the Australian International Conservatorium of Music and High School
- is a Trustee of the Sydney Opera House
- was awarded a medal in the Order of Australia (OAM) for his services to young people in 1989
- was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to the arts particularly through his sponsorship of new Australian musical compositions
- loves a strong skim milk cappuccino

Did you know? Rev James Phelan...

- has assist deacon at St Oliver Plunkett, Harris Park since 2008
- is a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Parramatta
- works full-time in his ministry as a chaplain based at both Mt Druitt and Auburn hospitals, a role he has held for 15 years
- has worked part time in parish ministry at Winston Hills, Rooty Hill, Dundas Valley, Blacktown and Harris Park
- has been married to his wife Patricia for over 40 years and they have three married children, Mark, Justin and Anne Marie, and five grandchildren.
- in 2012 received the Papal Honour - Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (Cross of Honour)
- keeps Fr Arthur organised

Peace and best wishes,

Mr Anthony McElhone, Principal

## Dates to Remember!

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August  
Farewell Mass for Fr Arthur  
& Deacon James 09:15

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August  
18:00 – 21:00  
Wakakirri Performance

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August  
13:45 – 14:45  
Literacy & Numeracy  
Open Classrooms

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August  
Staff Development Day

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September  
13:00 – 20:00  
Captivate Choral Program  
Performance (Stage 2)

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
Father's Day Stall  
09:00 – 11:00

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September  
Father's Day BBQ  
07:30 – 09:00

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September  
Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser

## SCHOOL NEWS

### **Congratulations Mrs Renee Henebery!!!**

This week Mrs Henebery announced that she is expecting! I am sure you will join me in congratulating Renee and her husband, Scott, on this wonderful news! Renee is due around late February.



### **National Literacy & Numeracy Week (NLNW) – 25 August to 31 August**

Next week is the 16th NLNW and we are excited to celebrate learning with students, parents/carers and teachers. On Thursday, 28 August from 1:45pm there will be open classrooms for parents and carers. It will give you the opportunity to engage in both literacy and numeracy activities with your child.

### **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 5 September. This takes place in the school grounds and the teachers will cook the BBQ. BBQ starts at 7.30am.

### **Father's Day Stall Donations**

Father's Day is soon approaching and we are still accepting donations of new items that may be suitable for our Father's Day stall i.e. socks, handkerchiefs, chocolates, mugs etc. The Father's Day Stall is not possible without your generosity. Thank you for your support.

### **Bunnings BBQ – Saturday 13 September**

We will be running the Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, North Rocks Road, North Parramatta on the above date. This is our major fundraising event for the year and we need volunteers on the day to work on the stalls and help with the set up and dismantle at the either end of the day. If you are able to help us and have not already let us know, please contact the office staff. **Please note that we are not running a cake stall this year.**

### **Clothing Pool**

Due to the generosity of our community our clothing pool is overflowing. If you need a shirt, jacket, tunic, shorts or pants please see the ladies in the office. Most items are in good condition and are a fraction of the cost of new uniforms.

### **Wakakirri**

On 27 August a group of wonderful performers from St Oliver's will participate in Wakakirri at the Riverside Theatre. Thank you to Mrs Spyrou who has been the driving force behind this initiative. Tickets have gone home this week.

### **Captivate**

The Stage 2 children have been participating in the Captivate Choral Program this year. This culminates with a showcase performance on 1 September at St Dominic's College, Kingswood.



### **VOY Semi-Final**

Good luck to Arthur Sadek who is participating in the Voice of Youth Diocesan semi-finals on 2 September at OLQP Greystanes. Arthur won the cluster final earlier in the month with his speech titled 'Bullying'.

### **School Fees Reminder**

A gentle reminder that Term 3 School fees are now due. Thank you to all families who have paid. Reminder letters will be sent home this week.

### **Catherine McAuley Westmead - Open Morning**

Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2016. Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Join us on our upcoming school tour and avoid the crowds in Term 1 next year. Our Open Morning is a great opportunity to tour around our school grounds, view our fantastic facilities and meet our students and teachers. You will have the opportunity to go into classrooms and see them in action. Both children and adults are most welcome. Please contact School Reception on 9849 9100 if you would like to attend.

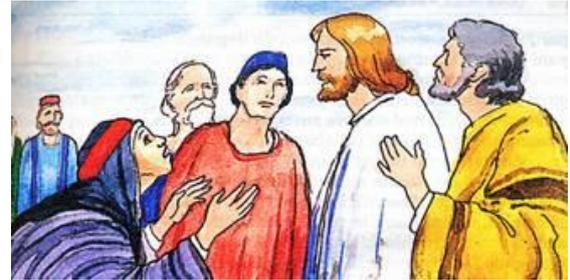
### **Discover OLMC Parramatta – Celebrating 125 years in 2014**

Discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life by joining an Open Morning Tour on September 1. Tour the College and enjoy a 'comfortable cup of tea' with the College Leadership Team. The College is now enrolling for 2015 and 2016. Visit [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.

Gospel Mt 15:21-28 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

# Woman, you have great faith

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.



## **Reflection**

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.

The pagan woman helped Jesus see that his liberating mission, his healing, saving mission, was not a careful two-stage affair, Jews first, pagans later. His saving mission was for *all* those who had faith in him – *wherever* and *whenever*. The biggest challenge facing the early church was relationships between Jewish Christians and possible pagan converts who wanted to be followers of Jesus. This story would have been told to show how Jesus extended his saving mission to non-Jews in pagan territory.

That is good news for us, for billions of non-Jewish people over the course of history since then and into the future. That is why we are truly 'Catholic', which is the Greek for 'universal', 'world-wide'. This woman is the one whose story was treasured as opening up the Church to being truly universal – a home for all people – a place where the 'whole' of humanity can be made 'whole' in every way. That is what it means to be 'Catholic'. Jesus came to save the world. Jesus challenges all to rise above our differences, the social boundaries, the divisions between people...to spread *caritas* and the saving Word of God. When we do, we may find that those self-imposed boundaries only keep us from fulfillment, both in Christ and in ourselves. Instead, We all have the potential to be true children of God, and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

## **Prayer**

Lord, just like the woman let us ask for your mercy. Help us to pray to you often especially when we have doubt or wrong things in our life. Help us to be humble and persistent in seeking to be healed by you. Amen.

# InfoZone

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

## ST OLIVER'S BOOK WEEK PARADE

Thank you everyone for a wonderful Book Parade! More photos are available on our website.



## BOOK WEEK COMPETITIONS

Congratulations to our winners: Xavier Chalise, Kaleah Woods, Adam Vella and Prisha Singhal. Thank you to all students and teachers for their fantastic entries!



## BOOK FAIR

Our Scholastic Book Fair was a great success! Thank you to all the children and parents who purchased books. A percentage of the sales will benefit our school.

## DELANY DEBATERS



Debating requires good thinking, listening and teamwork. The photo on the left shows our competing team hard at work. Our team was successful in winning their first debate against Holy Family School. They argued in the Affirmative "That We Should Play More Sport". The photo on the right shows our Chairperson Andrew Prasad, 1<sup>st</sup> Speaker Rishi Tripathy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker Prisha Singhal and 3<sup>rd</sup> Speaker Jedson Hermogenes.



## PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

All signed paper copies and online recording for students closes on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge/index.htm>

Mrs Lesley Quinn  
Teacher Librarian

