



St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 3

Week 8

2014

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

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Dear Families of St Oliver's,

This weekend, across the nation, many young boys and girls will bounce out of bed armed with a parcel containing a valued treasure to present as a special gift to their dad to acknowledge the important role they play in their lives. As a parent on the receiving end of such gifts, there is great joy in witnessing the excitement and broad smiles of a child who cannot wait for you to open their surprise gift. The quality of the gift is never an issue. I recall one occasion where a father of three children received 3 of exactly the same gifts from his children even though each child shopped for his gift at different times (one can never have too many pairs of plastic safety goggles).

The greatest gift we can give in return is the gift of time. Today I love the time I get to spend with my Dad, especially watching him with my children. He loves to spend time with them, taking an active interest in all they do.

I hope that Father's Day is filled with much joy and happiness in your own households and that the quality of the day is judged on the time you have available to invest in your relationship with your spouse and children. Happy Father's Day!

With Father's Day approaching it is most appropriate that this week we welcome our new 'parish father', Father Chris D'Souza. In the coming weeks there will be a number of opportunities for the families and children to meet Fr Chris.

Peace and best wishes,

Mr Anthony McElhone, Principal

Dates to Remember!

Friday 5th September
Father's Day BBQ
07:30 – 09:00

Saturday 13th September
Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser

Friday 19th September
Last day of term

Tuesday 7th October
Term 4 commences

Monday 13th October
09:30
Coffee n Chat

Wednesday 15th October
School Photos



SCHOOL NEWS

What a week!

In the past week we have had children participate in Wakakirri, Captivate Choral Performance and the Voice of Youth semi-final. We are proud to report we received many positive comments about the behaviour of the children at each of these events. They are a real credit to the school and their families! Congratulations to Arthur Sadek who will be progressing to the Voice of Youth grand-final on Thursday, 18 September!



Thank you letter from St Vincent de Paul

St Oliver's Parish St Vincent de Paul Conference
C/O 12 Harvey St
Parramatta 2150

The Principal
St Oliver's Catholic Primary School
Wigram St
Harris Park 2150

Dear Mr. McElhone.

The Harris Park St Vincent de Paul Conference thanks you, your staff, students the whole school community for the very generous response to the winter appeal. The quality and the variety of the donations were excellent and very appropriate.

Many of the items were distributed to men, women and children who seek food and comfort at the Vinnies Diocesan food vans. The assistance provide by your school was invaluable.

With kind regards,

Adrienne Hannan on behalf of the St Vincent de Paul members

Father's Day BBQ – TOMORROW!

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

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 over flowing. 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.

Thank You!

Thank you to Sam, Lisa, Caroline, Mercy, Dania and Claire who helped with our fantastic meal deal last week. Without the support of parents these special treats could not be possible.

RE NEWS

Gospel

Mt 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders, chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Reflection

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option.

We are invited, by Jesus, to see the burden of suffering in our lives as an opportunity to be faithful to his example. It also gives us an opportunity to be in solidarity with all those who suffer in our world. This is easier said than done. When we suffer in our daily lives, thoughts of others rarely come to mind easily, but it can be consoling to keep our suffering in context and know that we are not facing it alone.

We are encouraged to see that suffering can be an opportunity to grow in love. If we understand our crosses as our particular schools of love, then we learn more about ourselves and God and are able to help others carry their crosses as well.

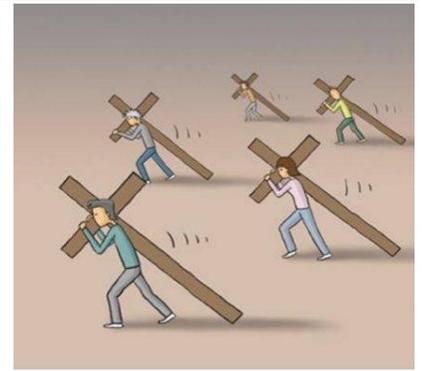
Carrying our cross, however, is not just about bearing physical, personal, sexual, spiritual or emotional pain; it can also be in the sharing of our gifts and talents, our love and compassion. In every gift there is a burden. Following Christ's example, we are called to share our gifts heroically with anyone in need, even to the end.

Prayer

Dear God,

Give me the strength of being a good disciple of Jesus'. With a world filled with all kinds of temptations and negative messages, is not easy, but with your help I will experience the support and the positive messages of those who carry your cross. Amen.

Mrs Franca Bonserio, Religious Education Coordinator



InfoZone

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

ST OLIVER'S IN DIOCESAN GRAND FINAL!



We are very proud of Arthur Sadek who has now progressed to the Diocesan Grand Final in the Voice of Youth public speaking competition. Arthur's speech on **Bullying** was delivered with a flair and maturity far beyond his years. This is the first time a St Oliver's student has achieved this level in the 28 year history of the Voice of Youth. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will attend the Grand Final to support Arthur.



DEBATING NEWS



1. St Oliver's Debating Competition!

All Stage 3 children are invited to enter the very first St Oliver's Debating Competition! Students should organise their own teams this week as the knock-out competition will begin next week, Week 9.

2. Delany Cup

Congratulations to Henry Cheng who joined our Delany Debaters as 1st Speaker last week.



PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

The Challenge has now closed. Thank you to everyone who participated. Congratulations to the many St Oliver's children who will receive a certificate from the Premier towards the end of Term 4. Well done!

LIBRARY BORROWING

All children are able to borrow extra books for the school holidays if they have no overdue books in Week 10.

Mrs Lesley Quinn
Teacher Librarian