



UNITY IN DIVERSITY

St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 3

Week 9

2014

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Gospel Mt 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered lost in heaven.

I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Facing the issue

It can be very difficult when we feel that someone has hurt us to actually go and speak to them about how we are feeling. It is so much easier to revel in our hurt or seek payback for the hurt. Sometimes we feel that we might ruin a friendship by speaking to our friend about a way in which they have hurt us. But a hurt that goes unaddressed will continue to hurt and will probably be repeated. This week's gospel reminds us of the need to challenge our friends when they hurt us but it also reminds us that when we have hurt others we need to be challenged about it and called to account for our actions.



We all know that Jesus was ahead of his time. Today's gospel reading is just more proof of that. It is often said 'There is strength in numbers'. Could that have come from today's reading? For Jesus said 'Wherever two or three people are gathered together in my name, I am there with them.'

Lord God,

No one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war, those separated from their loved ones, young people who are lost, and those who have left home or who have run away from home. Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Some useful websites you may like to have a look at -

<http://cathfamily.org/for-kids/>

<http://cathfamily.org/activities/>

<http://cathfamily.org/prayer-on-the-run/>

Franca Bonserio

Religious Education Coordinator



Staff Development Day - Writing

Our recent Staff Development Day was spent further exploring the area of Writing.

The teachers took time to discuss our beliefs about literacy and how children learn. We also participated in some hands on activities exploring Persuasive and Imaginative texts.

By putting ourselves in the role of the student we were able to better identify the types of support and scaffolds students may require. These include:

- A specific purpose for writing
- An authentic (real) audience to write to/for
- A clear understanding of what makes a successful piece of writing
- Access to appropriate supports (e.g. dictionaries, sight word lists, alphabet charts, access to factual information)
- Opportunities to receive feedback on how they are going (i.e. what they are doing well, what they need to work on)
- An appropriate work environment (free from distraction)
- A realistic timeframe for completing their writing (a writing task may be completed in 1 session however, most often it will take several weeks to compose a text)

At Home:

- **Encourage your child to write around the home** - write signs, poems, favourite recipes and instructions, or to label things that they design and make
- **Encourage your child to use technology** to help with their writing - use online dictionaries or help them to research on the internet
- **Help develop spelling strategies**– play word games like scrabble, complete word searches and crosswords
- **Read every day** - reading at home is one of the most effective ways to help your child develop and improve as a writer

Make reading and writing part of your everyday life