



# St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 4

Week 1

2015

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## Gospel

Mk 10:2-12 *Shorter form 'What God has joined together, no one must divide.'*

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'



## Reflection

This Gospel passage is often read at weddings. It is one of the few times in the Scriptures that Jesus talks about marriage. The Pharisees want to trap Jesus, so they decide to quiz him on issues of divorce, which their law allowed. Jesus puts a new perspective on that law – a perspective that restores woman as a partner with man in marriage, and restores marriage to its status as a sacred covenant. Jesus speaks of marriage as a union joined by God, which no person is to dissolve. It is a covenant between God and two people.

## In Brief

- May the Lord bless you always.
- Jesus is our brother.
- Marriage is sacred.
- The two became one.
- Make time for children.

In the long form of this Gospel reading, Jesus also talks about the importance of making time for children. He holds them up as models for accepting the Kingdom of God. Children are to be welcomed and celebrated in the Christian community.

These readings celebrate a covenant between God and creation, a covenant shared with us through Jesus and a

covenant of love between a husband and a wife that is passed on to their children in the Christian community. Unlike the Pharisees who are preoccupied with the letter of the Law, Jesus encourages his disciples to get beyond that and understand the spirit of the Law – God's dream for humankind. The shift in the passage to the focus on children seems a little disconnected but the whole passage is about living in the kingdom with the right attitude.

**Answering Jesus' Call** Jesus is enjoying the presence of the children coming to him for hugs and blessings. He makes it clear that we must imitate children and become like them in order to enter the Reign of God. Obviously Jesus is calling us to not be childish but to be childlike. How do you see the difference between being childish and being childlike? What exactly are we being called to?

Not all characteristics of children are good for older people to imitate, but many are. What are some children's habits we should not try to pick up? What are some ways of children that we should try to remember and imitate?

**October is the Month for The Rosary** - Parents are invited to pray with their child. All classes will pray a decade of the Rosary daily at 2.50pm in the month of October.

**Mission Month** - For Mission Month this year St Oliver's will focus our efforts helping the Jesuit Refugee Service. They address a lack of asylum seeker services in Western Sydney and have launched a drop-in centre in Parramatta. We can demonstrate the Mercy Value of hospitality by raising funds to help these people in need.

**Sacraments of Initiation** - All students who are eligible to receive the sacraments (Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation) in 2015 and 2016 are asked to attend an information session on **Wednesday 14th October, 7:30pm** at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Hall, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. The preparation will take place at St Patrick's Cathedral and the celebration of the Sacraments will take place at St Oliver's Catholic Church. If you need more information please contact St Patrick's Cathedral **Phone:** (02) 8839 8460

Franca Bonserio  
Religious Education Coordinator

## Dates to Remember

### October

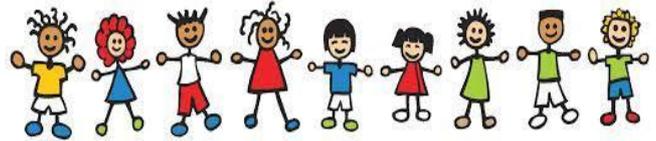
- 9th Parish Mass – Stage 1 @ 9:15
- 12th Coffee n Chat @ 9:15
- 14th Kindergarten Transition begins
- 14th Sacrament information night @ St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Hall 7:30 pm
- 16th Parish Mass – K & Stage 3
- 19th Pizza Meal Deal
- 20th Basketball Gala Day Stage 2 & 3
- 21st Kindergarten Transition
- 23rd Parish Mass – Stage 2
- 28th Kindergarten Transition
- 30th Parish Mass – Stage 1  
Assembly – Stage 1 @ 2:30

**Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta** will be hosting a Facebook Question and Answer session as part of the initiative #Good Question.

The topic will be **'How do I talk to my teacher about my child's progress?'**. Tim Hardy, Mary Creenaune and Lisa-Maree-Browning will be available to answer parents' questions.

Details are as follows: **Date:** Thursday 15 October 2015 **Time:** 7pm-7:45pm  
**Topic:** 'How do I talk to my teacher about my child's progress?'

# Focus On Learning



## Spelling

This week we continue to look at the spelling skills and strategies to be taught in each Stage as outlined in The NSW English Syllabus.

*The following are the expectations for Stage 3 (Year 5 & Year 6):*

### Integrated strategy use

- Use word meanings and base words when spelling unknown words, eg heal, healthy; sign, signature
- Use knowledge of suffixes and prefixes to spell new words:
  - Prefixes are added to the beginning of a word to make a new word, eg mis+take. Common prefixes are 'mis', 'dis', 're', 'for', 'anti', 'ante', 'sub', 'un', 'pre', 'inter', 'semi' and 'in'. The prefixes of 'im', 'ir', 'il', 'in' and 'un' can be added to the beginning of words to make them into a negative.
  - Letters added to the end of a main word are called suffixes. Common suffixes are: 'ed', 'ful', 'ly', 'ing', 'able', 'ance', 'ence', 'ness'.
- Develop knowledge of word origins, eg Greek and Latin roots (telephone, aquarium)
- Understand that the pronunciation, spelling and meaning of words have histories and change over time

### Proofreading

- Recognise most misspelt words in their own writing and use a variety of resources for correction, eg spell check, dictionary
- Take responsibility for editing own work
- Use competent visual and phonological strategies (sounds of words) for attempting and checking spelling, eg correcting words that do not 'look or sound right'
- Competently use various spelling resources, eg spell check, dictionary

### *Important points to remember for all students working in all stages of the curriculum*

- Although the curriculum identifies the skills and strategies to be achieved at each stage level, this should be used as a guide only. Individual student need should always be the primary focus for determining which skills and strategies students are working towards
- All students will work at a different pace and achieve at a different rate. It is important that students be given opportunities to work with the skills and strategies in the stage required to meet their individual needs regardless of whether these are the skills and strategies of their grade level or of those above or below
- It is very important that students achieve competency in the skills and strategies of previous stages before working on those of the next as the skills and strategies of each stage are developmental and each stage builds on those of the previous stage
- It is important that the skills and strategies of previous stages are continually reviewed and revised to ensure students have reached and maintained competency in these areas

As always, if you have any questions or require further clarification you are most welcome to make a time to discuss this further.

Natalie Mifsud  
Assistant Principal