



# St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 4

Week 5

2015

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## Gospel Gospel Mt 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'



## Reflection

The Church celebrates all the saints in God's Kingdom. Some have been officially canonised by the Church, but many others lived saintly lives, perhaps quietly and without attention, and are also part of the communion of saints. There may be people in our own lives who we regard as saints. All these people are worthy of our honour. Saints we pray to asking them to intercede on our behalf, saints who are inspirational, saints who are role models. There are many saints who will never be officially canonised, in fact they may be in our very midst. Today's gospel, the beatitudes, highlights some of the attributes of saintly people.

There are people within our society who do everything possible to lift the poor out of poverty, to comfort those who are mourning, to make sure the gentle share in the earth's resources, to satisfy the craving for justice. These are 'saints' who are merciful, pure in heart, makers of peace.



## Answering Jesus' Call

Do you have a favourite saint? Someone who inspires/encourages/cheers you? What is it about that saint that resonates with you? Can you share that with your children? In this gospel Jesus blesses many people. Can you name some of these people? How am I a peacemaker? How can I be humble? How can I be gentle? How can I be merciful? How can I be happy? How can I be pure of heart? How can I be joyful and glad?

**During the month of November** we remember those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**Remembrance Day-** Many Australians stop what they are doing at exactly 11am in their local times on November 11 each year to dedicate a minute silence for those who died in war, especially soldiers from as far back as World War I. St Oliver's will be having a prayer service on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 10.45pm to observe the 1 minute silence. All welcome to attend.**

*Franca Bonserio*  
*Religious Education Coordinator*

## In Brief

- Saints intercede for us
- Saints are role models
- Beatitudes describe the character and attitude of people of the Kingdom of God.
- A saint is anybody whose soul is in heaven.

## Dates to Remember

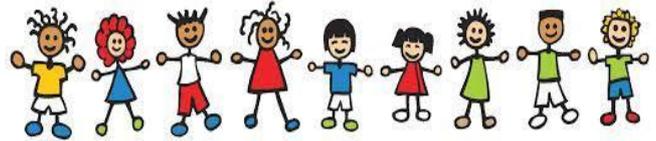
### November

- 6th Parish Mass Stage 3 & K
- 6th **School Disco – help needed**
- 11th Remembrance Day
- 13th Parish Mass Stage 2
- 20th Parish Mass Stage 1
- Assembly Stage 2 @ 2:30
- 27th Parish Mass Stage 3 & Kindy
- 28th **Bunnings BBQ – Fundraiser – help needed**
- 30th Swimming Program begins
- Every day for 2 weeks

### December

- 4th Parish Mass – Stage 2
- 11th Last day of the Swimming program
- 11th Parish Mass – Stage 1
- 16th Thanksgiving/Graduation Mass
- Last Day of School for 2015

# Focus On Learning



## Raising Mighty Boys

By Michael Grose

Raising and educating boys is a hot topic in Australia and other parts of the world. From my experience those adults who do best teaching and raising boys have a significant understanding of what makes boys tick.

Here are 5 key understandings that will help you regardless of your gender or family situation raise well-adjusted boys:

### **# 1: You must like them**

Approval is at the heart of raising boys. Most will walk over hot coals for you if they know you like them. In a sense, this need for approval holds many boys back in school, as they can shut off for a teacher who they perceive doesn't like them. If you can feel comfortable with their boisterousness, live with their lack of organisational skills, and not be confronted by their in-your-face ways then the chances are that they'll respond to you.

### **# 2: They are hierarchical by nature**

Boys need limits and boundaries as they make them feel safe and secure. They like to know someone is going to enforce those rules, so don't be afraid to take the lead with them.

### **# 3: Boys are just as sensitive as girls**

Despite the fact that research shows that boys are more easily stressed and more fragile than girls parents will ask daughters how they feel more often than they ask sons. Also when daughters get hurt, parents tend to comfort them more than they comfort sons. Boys are sensitive you just need to use different language to get them to open up than you do with girls. For instance, a boy will more than likely tell you how he feels if you ask him how he thinks about something. Also, he generally needs more time to process his feelings so bedrooms can become their caves that they'll retreat to when they need the space to work out what's going in their hearts.

### **# 4: Loyalty is a high-driver**

Understand that a boy's loyalty to his friends and family is a key driver and you'll unlock the key to the male psyche. They are incredibly influenced by their peers, which can hold them back, stopping many from getting too far ahead of the pack. Loyalty also gets many boys into strife with authority. Call a boy's sister or friend an insulting name and you're asking for trouble!

### **#5: Boys need a purpose to learn**

If you want to motivate a boy to learn then you need to offer him tangible, short-term goals. He'll learn to play a musical instrument if he wants to be in a band; but get him to practise a musical instrument without a purpose and you'll probably be locked in a continuous struggle.

There's no doubt that raising boys tends to be more of a challenge for parents than raising girls. Understanding and appreciating the differences is a great start. However I think parents who really connect well with boys somehow develop the wisdom to step as well as speak up at the right time, and the smarts to know when to stand back and allow their sons to work things out for themselves.