



St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 4

Week 7

2015

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Gospel Mk 13:24-32 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He shall gather his elect from the four winds.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

Reflection

A major theme of the Scripture readings is 'Be prepared for the day of the Lord'. It refers to the end time. Jesus' words and descriptions must have really shaken the disciples when they heard them. Jesus was talking about the end of this world as well as the events surrounding his death. Only God knows when the world will end, and God will save those who are faithful to the end. Today, as in Mark's time, many people approach the future and change with fear and apprehension. As Christian people we are called to be optimistic and hopeful as we approach the future. We know that God is good, that God loves us unconditionally and that God has a dream for us. That is the simple basis of Christian hope.

Answering Jesus' Call

Do you worry about the end of the world? If so, why? If not, why not? When you hear talk about predictions of the end of time, how do you feel? What do you say? What do you think about? Do you ever worry about dying? If so, why? If not, why not? Are you interested in cosmic happenings – planet alignments, comets, stars and the like? It asks us to look at their readiness to meet Jesus in light of our own mortality. Writing your own obituary can be an eye-opening experience. As the Gospel says, we do not know the day or the hour that God will come for us. Will we be ready?

How do you demonstrate hopefulness in your life?

Jump up and down for Kids

Last Friday students of St Oliver's jumped up and down to raise awareness of children living in appalling conditions in detention centers in Australia.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqj69vnhzkE>

<http://www.betterreading.com.au/news/aussie-authors-jump-up-down-about-kids-in-detention/>

Dates to Remember

November

- 20th Parish Mass Stage 1
Assembly Stage 2 @ 2:30
- 23rd Coffee and Chat @ 2:15
- 27th Parish Mass Stage 3 & Kindy
- 28th **Bunnings BBQ – Fundraiser**
- 30th Swimming Program begins
Every day for 2 weeks

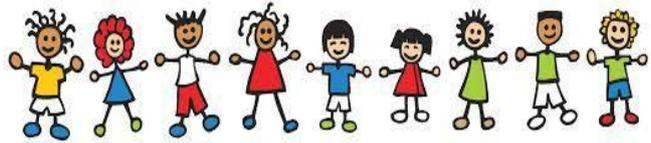
December

- 4th Parish Mass – Stage 2
- 4th St Oliver's Christmas Celebration @ 6pm
- 9th Christmas Raffle due back
- 11th Last day of the Swimming program
- 11th Parish Mass – Stage 1
- 11th Christmas Raffle drawn
- 16th Thanksgiving/Graduation Mass
Last Day of School for 2015

In Brief

- God keeps us safe.
- Show us the path of life.
- Jesus is our sacrifice.
- No one knows the hour God will come.
- Be prepared for God's coming.

Focus On Learning



Reading your child's report

By Michael Grose

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . .

Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child's report:

Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don't dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self- assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child's efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.