



UNITY IN DIVERSITY

St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 4

Week 9

2014

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1st Sunday of Advent Year B Gospel Mk 13:33-37

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

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Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Reflection

In this modern life, we often lead busy lives. We get distracted with other things that gain our attention. Often we are so busy we don't have time to reflect or think about whether these distracters are helpful or harmful in our

lives. This week's Gospel is a kind of warning. It is like a parent who cautions a child to guide the child to make good choices for better behaviour.

This Gospel is reminding us to be attentive, make ourselves ready for when Jesus comes. However as humans it is in our nature to become tempted to do the wrong thing. Just like little red riding hood who was tempted to stop and pick flowers before going to grandmas, we are often tempted to put other things in our life first. Often we lose sight of God, and we don't put God first or follow in Jesus' way.

It is a reminder for us to prepare ourselves, God wanted to help us to live and keep on the right path so he came down as a man, Jesus (incarnate) the word made flesh and dwelt among us to show us how to live. This is what the Angelus prayer is about. We must now choose to follow in Jesus' way.

The Gospel in Action

Am I hurtful to those around me? Do I gossip about people and am I respectful of others? Do I pray daily and think about my relationship with Jesus? Do I encourage my children to pray? Do I talk about God with them?

It is never too late to repent and change our bad habits and turn them into good habits. Perhaps really going out of our way, using our God given gifts and talents, we can step out of our comfort zone to be extra kind or loving to all people that we encounter every day.

Prayer

Loving God,

Help me to make you first in my life from the moment I wake up to the moment I close my eyes for sleep. Help me to prepare myself so that I may be awake and ready for when Jesus comes to me. Amen.

Christmas Hampers

A big thank you for the generosity of people so far for donating items for the needy in our community, this truly demonstrates people being ready for Jesus by helping others.

Christmas Celebration Concert – Friday 5th December

Looking forward to our St Oliver's Christmas Celebration Concert at 6.30pm. Children are report to their class teachers by 6.25 or earlier. Christmas raffle will be drawn after the concert!

Franca Bonserio, Religious Education Coordinator

Understanding Your Child's Report

Reporting time has come around once again. Before you look over your child's report, we would like to explain the grading scale that constitutes a part of our reporting. As you know, your child's achievement for each Key Learning Area is reported using a five point scale. This five point scale is from Year 1 to Year 6. Kindergarten uses a similar three point scale.

A – Excellent Achievement

B – High Achievement

C – Sound Achievement

D – Basic Achievement

E – Elementary Achievement

You may already have heard the phrase – “**C is for Celebrate**”- and that is certainly the case! Your child's progress is tracked by the teachers using various methods of assessment including informal observations, practical activities and specific assessment tasks. These are then matched to the expected outcomes for that particular grade. **Students who are achieving as expected for their grade are then awarded the overall grade of “C”.** This is indeed something to celebrate!

The scale is designed to be broad so that it is able to reflect even the most capable student who is in actual fact working well beyond the expected grade level. To explain it further:

A – The student would be working and achieving **well beyond** the grade level. They may be part of an accelerated learning program or working on an individual “project – based” learning contract.

B – The student would be working and achieving at a level beyond that which would be expected at that time for that grade. They may be in an extension group or work occasionally on independent tasks.

C – The student is working and achieving at the level expected for their grade.

D – The student is working with some assistance to achieve at the level expected and may participate in small group focus lessons with a teacher or on individualised programs. Students who do not apply themselves and fail to complete tasks due to this lack of application may also find themselves here.

E – The student is not yet working at the grade level and requires support and intervention to achieve. Their learning tasks are modified and they receive small-group or individual learning support structured to meet their needs.

We hope that this clarifies the grading scale for you.
Now, open that report to see how your child has done and remember . . .

C means Celebrate!

Canteen News

The canteen will be open before and after the Christmas Concert on Friday 5th December selling ice blocks and drinks from \$1.