



UNITY IN DIVERSITY

St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 4

Week 11

2014

33 Wigram Street, Harris Park 2150

www.stoliversharrisark.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 9682 1244

Gospel - Gospel Jn1:6-8.19-28 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me. A man came, sent by God.

His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



Reflection

Last Sunday was *Gaudete* Sunday, the Sunday of Joy. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths. In our world people tend to complain. We are all guilty of complaining about something. Usually these complaints come about because we are judging ourselves against others, thinking that others are better off than us which stems from jealousy. We are challenged to be happy and give thanks for all things, rather than focus on what we don't have and focus on what we do have. A man was complaining that they had no shoes then he met a man with no feet.

The Messiah is the one infused with the spirit and with the power of the prophet, the one who will fulfill the promises of God. It becomes obvious in the Gospel that the Messiah is the one proclaimed by the Baptist. John cleared a path for the coming of the anointed one, and from that time on the lives of believers have been the pathway through which the Messiah has entered the world. In the Gospel reading, John the Baptist makes it clear that his role is to prepare for the coming of Jesus, the light of the world. John isn't the light. His job is to reflect the light of Jesus. He is only a voice crying out in the desert that the Lord is coming.

John the Baptist did not focus attention on himself but rather on others. We could learn from John the Baptist's example. No matter his open suffering, ordeals or disappointments, he focused on Jesus. We need to focus on Jesus and build our lives on him. Let's rejoice as we focus on Jesus being present among us, especially in the Eucharist.

Gospel in Action

When Jesus came, he fulfilled these Scriptures of Isaiah. Jesus comes for us again and again every year at Christmas time. During Advent we do our best to prepare for Jesus in our hearts – to get ourselves ready to help Jesus make this year, a year of favour. How can you help make this a year of favour in your school? In your community? In your family?

Prayer

Lord God, the coming of your Son is near. Hear our prayers, and guide us in faith as we wait in joyful hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Year 6 Graduation Mass

All invited to the Year 6 Graduation Mass, 17th December at 6.30 pm at St Oliver's Church.

Merry Christmas!

This coming Sunday is the last Sunday of Advent. Wishing you all a happy and Holy Christmas as you celebrate with your family and friends!

Franca Bonserio, Religious Education Coordinator



School News

Christmas Masses at St Oliver's

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 5:30pm & midnight

Christmas Day – 8am & 10am

End of Year Awards

Congratulations to the following children who received an award at our Awards Ceremony last Friday.

Christian Living - Joya Tooma Acho Usho Jasmine Velasco, Rashid Kabba, Teresa Raffoul, Benia Usho, Katrina Perea

Academic - Alexa Suello, Xavier Chalise, Nehal Singhal, Dhairya Bheda, Dhoon Patel, Prisha Singhal, Tram Nguyen

Achievement - Annette Liz Ajay, Karthik Ananthanarayanan , Antonio Youssif, MaryTreesa Gonsalves, Eloise Aubert, Henry Cheng, Alyssa Messner



Farewell & Thank You -Tania Freesanges

Last week the parents had an opportunity to farewell Tania at a morning tea. It was a great celebration for a parent who has given countless hours of her time to assist in many ways around the school, most notably the canteen. As Tania rightfully shared she is part of a great team of parents who help out our school in so many ways.



Staffing Update

Mrs Spyrou will not be returning in 2015. She has been offered a Creative Arts position at another school in the diocese. As many of you would know Mrs Spyrou is passionate about the Creative Arts and this position will allow her to pursue that interest next year. Mrs Spyrou plans on returning to St Oliver's in 2016. I am sure you will join me in wishing her the best of luck with this new role.

Staff Development Day – Term 1 2015

To assist with forward planning our staff development day for Term 1 next year will be on Friday, 20 February. The staff will be engaging in professional learning focused on the new Science syllabus.