



St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 3

Week 3

2015

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Gospel Jn 6:1-15

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover. Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, ‘Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?’ He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, ‘Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.’ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said, ‘There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Make the people sit down.’ There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, ‘Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.’ So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, ‘This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.’ Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

Reflection

Who has the courage to bring forth those five barley loaves and two fish? A young person! It is a young person who makes the decision to share personal food with a crowd of people. That young person gives us an example of how we should be. That one young person makes a difference.

Jesus multiplies the loaves and fishes. Jesus begins the day by preaching and teaching – nourishing people’s spiritual hunger for the word of God. Later, he fills their physical needs. The amount of food in the beginning is minimal, but no one goes hungry.

They have more than enough to eat – a symbol of the abundance of spiritual food. Before feeding the hungry people, Jesus blesses the bread and shares it – anticipating what is celebrated as the Eucharist today. At the table of the Eucharist, we receive nourishment for our body and our spirit.

Answering Jesus’ Call

Quite simply, there is sufficient food in our world to ensure that no one should ever be hungry. Sadly, the distribution of that food is such that there are some in our world whose bellies are expanding from an excess of food while others’ are distended from the lack of it. We can easily feed the entire world. It is the responsibility of those of us in the developed world with more than we need to bring about a more equitable distribution with those who don’t even have enough to live.

In Brief

- God gives us what we need.
- When we are hungry, God feeds us.
- Our God is number one.
- Hunger for the Lord.
- We are all part of the Body of Christ.

St Joachim and St Anne feast day 26th July

By tradition Joachim and Anne are considered to be the names of the parents of Mary, the Mother of God.

It was their example of parenting that Mary must have followed as she brought up her own son, Jesus. It was their faith that laid the foundation of courage and strength that allowed her to stand by the cross as her son was crucified and still believe. For more information please go to this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1Mo3_grK6M#t=32

We pray and think of all grandparents and their valuable role for all grandchildren.

Sacraments of Initiation All students who are eligible to receive the sacraments in 2016 are asked to contact one of these parishes: (Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation)

St Patrick’s Cathedral
Phone: (02) 8839 8460

Holy Trinity Granville
Phone: (02) 9637 1904

Holy Family Parish
Phone: (02) 9543 2614

Focus On Learning



Do you let your kids amaze you?

By Michael Grose

"I'm amazed at what children CAN do when given the opportunity and encouragement. I love the pride, confidence and sense of purpose/ pleasure in contributing, each new skill achieved brings. The smiles are awesome too."

A mother left this comment on our Facebook page recently in response to our post: *"What would be the impact if you did less, not more for your children?"*

It got me thinking that the joy that this mother took from watching her children develop independence was no accident. Her parenting style played a large role in her children's independence. All power to her and her parenting style!

I've long believed that **adults are the gatekeepers for children's independence.**

We open the gate to independence when we give children opportunities to develop **self-help skills** (*carry their own schoolbags, get themselves up in the morning, tidy their own rooms*); provide them with **real responsibility** (*feeding pets, setting the meal table and preparing meals*) and give them **autonomy** to make some of their own decisions (*choosing clothes within limits, following own interests, making choices about pocket-money spending*).

We close the independence gate when we **do too much** for children (*tidy their toys away, pack their schoolbags, make simple snacks*); **rescue** them from learning opportunities (*take forgotten lunches to school, sort out their friendship problems, pay their library fines*) and **neglect** to build scaffolds to independence (*such as help them make their bed, walk half way to school, teach them to ride public transport*).

It's a quirk of parenting that many children think they are older than they are, and parents think their children are younger than they are. We underestimate children's abilities to the detriment of their development.

Are you an opener or closer of the gate to children's independence?

Think of independence as a continuum with opening the gate and closing the gate at either end. If your parenting is more at the closing end then look for ways to move down the continuum towards independence building. My advice is to make small adaptations to your parenting. For instance, start with a child making their own snacks before moving to helping you to prepare a meal. But first you need to develop a mindset for independence building. That means, be on the lookout for opportunities for children to do things for themselves.

I firmly believe that the job of parents is to make ourselves **redundant** from the earliest possible age of a child's life. That means, that our interactions with kids have an endgame in mind – we want our kids to be able to stand on their own two feet **physically** (*Don't we get a kick out of them walking for the first time!*), **emotionally** (*with support, of course*) and to **navigate their world** without being reliant on others.

There is no better feeling as a parent than watching your child beam with joy and pride when they've mastered a new skill, overcome a challenge or conquered a fear. It's those times that make parenting so worthwhile. Those awesome smiles won't happen by accident. They require a parenting style that gives kids a chance to be independent; that encourages them to be brave and offers them the safety net of emotional support when life throws them curve balls. Why not try it? Give your kids a chance to amaze you.

Multicultural Day

A very big thank you to our wonderful parent community who helped, provided, organise and serve such a delicious lunch on Friday. Your support and generosity is very much appreciated. Special thanks to Melba who put a lot of time and energy into co-ordinating the lunch and making sure it ran smoothly.

Voice of Youth

Good luck to Henry, Jedson and Leila who will represent St Oliver's at the Voice of Youth Cluster Final on Friday. These students have been practicing very hard to make sure their speeches are the best they can be. We wish them well