



St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 4

Week 4

2013

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The publican returned to his home justified; the pharisee did not.

Gospel Lk 18:9-14 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else, 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'



"Jesus spoke a parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector."
Luke 18:9-14

Reflection

One of the pitfalls of personal success is the arrogance that sometimes comes with it. The Pharisee was, no doubt, a very good-living, devout man, but he made himself feel important by putting others down. He even did this in his prayer, reminding God of just how good he was in comparison to others. It's a wonder he went to the Temple at all because he does not seem to need God. The Pharisee is representative of those who are assured of their own rightness but who rely on comparison with others to make themselves feel righteous and justified. The actions of this man were not limited to Pharisees alone, nor are they limited to a particular time and place. This man's attitude of asserting his own faithfulness and religious observance by comparison with others can be easily seen in the world today. All faiths seem to be afflicted with these characters who assure themselves of their own 'goodness' by railing against those who are different. But, as the parable assures us, it is the humble who are exalted by God. Humility is at the heart of this parable. For far too long we have thought humility meant putting ourselves down, pretending we were nobodies, worthy of nothing. This is not Christian humility. Being humble does not mean we hide or minimise our God-given gifts, talents or resources. It means we honour others by sharing them, enabling them to benefit from the goodness of God. Humility comes from the Latin word, *humus*, meaning 'close to the earth'. The tax collector lived close to the earth and so he was open to conversion, to being lifted up by God. The Pharisee was so successful at being religious he was closed to it. He had altitude sickness from taking the high moral ground. Most of us find ourselves in between these extremes.

Receiving the Eucharist each week keeps us grounded enough that we open ourselves to being converted again to put all our gifts and talents at the service of Christ's Kingdom. In doing so, we can go home justified that we are truly humble and that after we die we can see the abundant life that awaits us on the other side. Pope John XXIII once wrote: *See everything, overlook a great deal; correct a little*. It might mean we let go of fixed ideas and positions and give others space and time to grow. If we are changed in our prayer by God, we might also make it possible for others to change. What power! What responsibility! I'd like to think the tax collector left the temple not only justified, but resolved to do something different and the Pharisee left feeling lonely, not sure of himself and soul searching.

Prayer

Dear God please help me refrain from: Negative thoughts, negative words and negative behaviour.

Please give me the grace to be: The encouragement someone needs and a blessing everywhere I go.

Please free me from: Complaining, drama, sadness, gloom and doom gossip and criticism.

I ask for your grace to show up with: Something good to say, something good to give, something good to do for somebody, let me be the good news today.

Socktober- Thank you for attending the liturgy and for your generous donations for the poor in Mongolia for the Catholic Mission.

All Saint's Mass - Friday 1st November at 9.15 in St Oliver's Church. All Welcome!

Franca Bonserio, Religious Education Coordinator

Dates to Remember!

1st November

All Saints Day Mass – 9.15am
Year 4 Assembly – 2.30pm
School Disco – 5.30-7.00pm

15th November

Year 2 Assembly – 2.30pm

22nd November

Year 6 Fundraising Day

29th November

Year 5 Assembly – 2.30pm

6th December

Christmas Concert -6pm

13th December

Thanksgiving/Graduation Mass – 9.15am
Parent Helper Brunch – 10.30am
Year 6 Farewell Assembly – 2pm

16th December

Year 6 Social Evening – 6-8.30pm

17th December

Year 6 Day Out

18th December

Students Last Day

Coffee and Chat

Monday 11th November- please come along after assembly to have a coffee and discuss the events happening in Term 4 and plan for next year. Everyone is welcome and if you haven't been before please don't feel shy – we are always grateful for parent interest and support and new ideas.



Discover OLMC Parramatta

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta would like to invite you to discover the College's rich tradition and cutting edge education and enjoy a 'comfortable cup of tea' with the College Executive at our final Open Morning Tour for this year on Monday, November 11, 2013.

The College is now enrolling for 2014 and 2015.

Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.

Swimming Program

The program will begin on Monday and run every day during Week 5 and Week 6 at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre. Students in Year 4, 5 and 6 will need to ensure that they are at school no later than 8:45am because they will be leaving on the bus at 8:50am.

Please ensure that your child brings a separate swimming bag to school each day containing their towel, thongs or sandals, underwear to change into after swimming and any toiletries that they may need. Each of these items must be clearly labeled, as swimming is a time when many personal items seem to go missing. Your child's swimming cap will be given to them on day one of the program and will remain at school until the program finishes.

Swimming is a compulsory requirement of the NSW Board of Studies Curriculum and it is expected that all children will participate fully. Please see Mrs Allison if you have any questions or concerns.

St Oliver's School Disco

Friday 1st November 5.30-7pm

Entry- \$3 (includes a cup of fruit punch)



sausage sandwiches, chips, drinks, ice blocks, glow sticks - all from 50c