



# St Oliver's Mini Newsletter

Term 4

Week 6

2013

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GOSPEL Luke 20:27-38 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**He is not a God of the dead but of the living**



Some Sadducees – those who say that there is no resurrection – approached Jesus and they put a question to him.

Jesus replied, 'The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are sons of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all men are in fact alive.'

## Reflection

Life after death, in one form or another, is a common belief of most of the major faiths of the world. It is certainly a basic tenet of Christian faith, because the gospels record Jesus as speaking about an afterlife, we tend to assume that this was a common belief of his time. However, within the different groups of Judaism, there was significant diversity of belief about this point. While the Pharisees believed in resurrection, the Sadducees did not. The Sadducees, whose name means 'righteous ones' were an elite group within the Jewish faith. They were purists in their adherence to the Torah and their rejection of any later teachings or writings – this actually put them in conflict with the Pharisees, although the two groups are often portrayed in the gospels as being united against Jesus. Today's gospel passage depicts an attempt by the Sadducees to ridicule belief in an afterlife by questioning Jesus about an extremely exaggerated scenario.

Rather, Jesus makes clear that the resurrected life is not merely an extension of the earthly life. The things that are of concern in this world are not an issue in the next. Through death and resurrection, life is changed; not ended. This idea can be challenging at a time when we are mourning the loss of a loved one, yet we are called to respond to that challenge with a genuine hope and trust in the life that goes on in a different way. Jesus, in fact, dismisses the whole idea of death as an ending by saying that to God all people are alive, whether on earth or in the resurrection. Nothing can end our relationship with God – not even death. Thus we live future lives, but we live them in the present. As difficult as this may be, we have the promise that the Lord will strengthen us and guard us. We have the instruction of our religious tradition that directs our minds and hearts.

## Prayer

God of the living, we, your children of this age, come to you in faith and hope. Hear our prayers and keep our feet walking firmly in your paths without faltering. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Typhoon Haiyan Aid Response

Millions of people are now in need of emergency aid in the Philippines. The hardest-hit areas have no water, no food, no electricity or other supplies.

Please give generously to the **Caritas Australia Typhoon Haiyan Appeal**. Call 1800 024 413, donate online at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or send your donation to GPO Box 9830 in your Capital City.

## First Holy Communion and Confirmation

Please pray for the children who are preparing to receive their **Sacrament of First Eucharist or Confirmation**. These are Sacraments of Initiation along with the Sacrament at Baptism. First Eucharist is about reminding children of their relationship with Jesus and being the body and blood of Jesus by being Christ to others. Confirmation is about renewing baptismal promises of living a life like Jesus and confirming that they are ready to be witnesses to the world. Thank you, *Mrs Franca Bonserio*, Religious Education Coordinator.

## Dates to Remember!

15<sup>th</sup> November  
Year 2 Assembly – 2.30pm

22<sup>nd</sup> November  
Year 6 Fundraising Day

29<sup>th</sup> November  
Year 5 Assembly – 2.30pm  
Subway Meal Deal

6<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Concert -6pm

13<sup>th</sup> December  
Thanksgiving/Graduation Mass – 9.15am  
Parent Helper Brunch – 10.30am  
Year 6 Farewell Assembly – 2pm

16<sup>th</sup> December  
Year 6 Social Evening – 6-8.30pm

17<sup>th</sup> December  
Year 6 Day Out

18<sup>th</sup> December  
Students Last Day



## Book Club

Orders for Issue 8 (November 2013) should be returned to school by Wednesday 20th November. Please return whole complete order forms, not cut up scraps of the magazines.

## Catholic Education Office

An invitation from the Bishop of Parramatta, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, to participate in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta's survey for the Extraordinary Synod on the Family 2014.

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

You may have heard that Pope Francis has called for an Extraordinary Synod (meeting of Bishops) to consider the Pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelisation. This Synod will be held in Rome in October 2014.

On behalf of the Pope, the Vatican has asked every Bishop around the world to consult within his Diocese and ensure input to this Synod is received from as many members of the Church as possible.

I ask you, therefore, prayerfully and purposefully to consider the questions prepared by the Vatican. It is important that we respond to these questions after a suitable time in prayer so that our responses may be guided by the Holy Spirit and will properly inform me, the Holy See, the Synod and, ultimately, His Holiness.

Complete the survey by 6 December - visit <http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/news---events/latest-news/latest-news.aspx/family-synod-2014-survey--an-invitation-from-bishop-anthony.aspx>

## Oli's Café News

Canteen open on Wednesdays this term, more volunteers needed to enable us to increase our opening times next year.

Subway meal deal coming on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November, more information to follow next week.

