

St Oliver's Primary Newsletter

Term 4

Week 9

2013

Dear Families of St Oliver's

Last weekend a number of our students were blessed to receive their First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation in our Parish. This is a special part of their faith journey and for each of them this was a significant moment in their young lives. Receiving the Eucharist and Confirmation for the first time is something that they will remember for a long time and it begins for them a beautiful opportunity to continue strengthening their relationship with Jesus in a very personal way.

A Sacramental Blessing

May you always feel as close to Jesus as you do today.

May you always count on Him to gently guide you on your way.

May you always trust in God to answer every single prayer.

May you always feel Him blessing you with tender, loving care.

On behalf of our students I would like to thank, Fr Arthur, Fr Chris and Deacon James for their time, energy and spiritual guidance.

It is with a touch of sadness that we will farewell Mr Simpson (Year 6 teacher) and Mrs Buedo (Stage 1) at the end of the year. Adam has been appointed to a school closer to home and Marjorie has secured a permanent appointment at St Patrick's Guilford, they go with our blessings and best wishes.

Thank you to those great mums who helped to wrap the Christmas raffle prizes and decorate the school. We greatly appreciate your continued support throughout this busy time of year. Also thank you for the donations for the Christmas hampers that keep being filled. Your generosity for each other in our community is very moving and overwhelming.

I look forward to welcoming many children and their families to the Christmas Concert tomorrow night – see you there!

Peace and best wishes,



Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal

Dates to Remember!

6th December
Christmas Concert - 6.00pm

13th December
Thanksgiving/Graduation Mass
– 9.15am
Parent Helper Brunch – 10.30am
Year 6 Farewell & Awards Assembly
– 11.30am

16th December
Year 6 Social Evening – 6.00-8.30pm

17th December
Year 6 Day Out

18th December
Students Last Day

29th January 2014
Year 1-6 return to school

3rd February 2014
Kindergarten start school



SCHOOL NEWS

Thanksgiving & Year 6 Graduation Mass

I warmly invite everyone to attend and celebrate our final 2013 Mass on Friday 13 December at 9:15am. We have many fond memories of this year and it is important to acknowledge and give thanks for all the grace God has given us.

Christmas Concert

Don't forget the Christmas Concert is on Friday, 6 December at 6pm. Please ensure your raffle tickets are returned by the start of the Concert.

School Reports

Next Wednesday, 11 December, the children's school reports will be sent home.

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.

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.

Of equal or if not more importance is your child's effort. This is where your child's attitude to learning is shown. This may mean that you need to have a discussion with your child about the effort shown if the grade is not good. Not everyone can be the best in a subject but we can all try to the best of our ability.

After reading and receiving your child's report and if you require further clarification or if you have questions please make an appointment for an interview with the class teacher.

Outstanding School Fees

Thank you to all those families that have finalised their School Fees.

If you have not already done so please settle your School Fees account now. Thank you.

Coffee n Chat

Coffee n Chat that was scheduled for Monday, 9 December has been cancelled. Please join us on Friday, 13 December for the Thanksgiving Mass which is followed by the Parent Helpers morning tea. If there is any matter of urgency that you wish to discuss, please make an appointment to speak with Mr McElhone.

Christmas Services at St Oliver's Catholic Church

December 24 th – Christmas Eve	December 25 th – Christmas Day
5:30pm – Vigil Mass	Midnight Mass
11:30pm – Carols in Church	8:00am – Mass
	10:00am – Mass



From The Bishop's Office

Diocese of Parramatta job vacancy

Sacramental Coordinator at Holy Trinity Parish, Granville, Casual position, commencing in February 2014. Applications close on Friday 6 December 2013. A role description and information about the application process are available on the Employment page of the Diocese of Parramatta's website:
www.parra.catholic.org.au

Seeking Mentors: Do you want to give something back to your community?

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta's Post School Options team provides one on one mentoring for secondary students. We are seeking new mentors who would like to give something back to their community and join this valuable and worthwhile program. The volunteer mentor hosts the student in the workplace for one day per week (May to September excluding school holidays). The mentor is both a personal and professional role model for the student. All mentors are offered free TAFE mentor training and receive a TAFE Certificate of Attainment 'Mentoring in the Community'. Mentors can be from any industry, an individual in any trade area: clerical and administration, hairdressing and beauty or a large company, e.g. Bunnings. Details: Leoni Jeavons-Fellows – Coordinator Post School Options 0424 750 583.

Fertility Educators Needed

Natural Fertility Services is looking for suitable applicants in the Parramatta and greater Sydney area to train as Fertility Educators. Thorough, in-depth training over a 12-month period is provided to successful applicants. Some prior experience of Natural Family Planning is desirable but not essential. Sessional work is available to those who complete the training and become accredited educators. The 2014 training will commence in March. For more information and application forms call The Manager NFS(02) 9390 5156.

Mass in Igbo language: 8 December

Mass celebrated in Nigerian at 11.30am in St Oliver Plunkett's Church, 35 Wigram St, Harris Park. Details: Austin Okereafor: 0421 928 116, Evaton Onton: 0469 627 218 or Stella Nwosu tel 0405 478 472, 8678 2118, stellanwosu@msn.com

Christmas Lights Tour of Sydney: 7 December

Enjoy the spectacular lights of Christmas with the social group from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. Stop at Mrs Macquarie's Chair for a picnic dinner (BYO) while we wait till it gets dark. We will then tour the suburbs searching out the best Christmas lights. Cost:\$30. Bus departs 5.15pm at 20 Virgil St and 5.20pm opposite OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes. Deposit of \$20 required when booking with Marie (02) 9896 7046, 0414 782 358 or Frances (02) 9636 5548, 0421 027 119, francesgrima@optusnet.com.au

Noël! Noël! Concert: 9 December

Noël! Noël! with the Brandenburg Choir and Australian Brandenburg Orchestra features Gregorian chant, medieval carols, French and German hymns, English Christmas songs and many favourites such as *Christmas Night; O Come All Ye Faithful; Once in Royal David's City; and Stille Nacht*. Starts 7.30pm. Inquiries (02) 9328 7581. Tickets: Adults \$68, Pensioner \$50, Under 30 \$45, Student \$40, Child under 16 \$20. Transaction fees apply. Bookings: www.brandenburg.com.au

St Finbar's Christmas Concert: 15 December

Mark your diary for St Finbar's annual spectacular Christmas Concert with massed choir, Penrith Symphony Brass, harp, handbells, children's choir and solo artists. Join in congregational carols and experience the thrill of singing Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* with organ, choir, brass and timpani on this night of Christmas joy. Starts 7.30pm in St Finbar's Church, 46 Levy St, Glenbrook. There will be a leaving collection – suggested donation: families \$25, individuals \$10. Inquiries tel 4754 1780.



Stay awake, you must be ready.

Gospel Mt 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.



'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come; he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Reflection

The first Sunday of Advent sees the commencement of the new liturgical year. This new liturgical cycle is referred to as Year A and features the gospel of Matthew. Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world that is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas. The gospel passage chosen for today's reading richly expresses that anticipation and need for preparation. The readings also ask us to think about our own journey to God. We see this most clearly in this first Sunday with readings that tell us the identity of the pilgrims, the destination toward which they travel, and the way of life that is required of them on their journey. As the Vatican Council has proclaimed: We are a pilgrim people. Matthew points out the need for alertness, attentiveness, a disposition that is open to a change of heart. If we don't know when he is coming, how can we be prepared? If we want to be prepared for Jesus' coming, we must always be busy doing the things that he told us to do. We must be loving God and loving one another. It is fun and exciting to prepare for Christmas, but we must also be prepared for that day when Jesus comes again.

What are some things you look forward to? How do you get ready to prepare for them? Jesus asks us to live properly. How can we live properly? How can we make Advent a time of preparation so that we are ready to receive Jesus in our hearts? We could Pray for the needs of others and naming them using the Advent prayer "*Maranatha*" *Come Lord, Jesus to*" Begin by starting with your good self!"

Prayer

Dear God, Please help us not be indifferent. Help us to stand up for what we believe in and answer the call to be a true follower of Jesus. Amen.

Advent

Thank you to those parents who attended the Advent liturgy last Monday. There will be a liturgy in the hall on Monday 9th December. Please come and join in prayer.

Thanksgiving & Farewell Mass This is to be thankful for a wonderful year at school and also to farewell all our students, families and teachers who are leaving St Oliver's on Friday 13th at 9.15. All are welcome.

Hampers

Thank you for your generosity so far with your donations for the Christmas Hampers. Wednesday the 18th is the last day you can contribute to the hampers, non-perishable items only please. Thank you, I am sure the needy families in our community will appreciate your generosity!

Franca Bonserio

Religious Education Coordinator