Dear Families of St Oliver’s,

As we launch into this term we have many wonderful learning opportunities and community events planned including Canteen Meal Deals, Coffee 'n' Chats, Mother’s Day Stall, Mother’s Day Liturgy, Diocesan Cross Country, Kindergarten Excursion, Naplan, Kindergarten 2014 Interviews, Stages 2 & 3 Soccer Gala Days, Sports Carnival, Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass, Movie Night, Principal's Morning Tea and, of course, MULTICULTURAL DAY! This week we have sent home a parent calendar that outlines the dates of these events and other important occasions. Please keep this in a prominent place at home. As events arise, the information (e.g. dates and times) will be published in the newsletter and I would encourage you to add them to this calendar. As advised last term the newsletter will now be published fortnightly.

A reminder that if you have access to a smart phone you can download the St Oliver’s app from the App Store (iPhones) or Google Play (other smart phones). If you download this app you will receive ‘push notifications’ that will give you reminders and updates about school events. We have already received positive feedback about this method of communication!

A big thank you to the parents who assisted with Mrs Borsato’s farewell last term. It was a wonderful tribute and fitting acknowledgement for a valued member of our community. If you haven’t had the opportunity to ‘call in’ to the office to meet our new administration staff (pictured on the right), Mrs Cathryn Robbins and Mrs Anna Small, I would encourage you to do so.

Finally, Mrs Spyrou’s precious gift arrived on the first Saturday of the holidays. A little earlier than planned but boys will be boys and Nathanael was obviously in a rush to meet his new family. Both Mrs Spyrou and Nathanael are doing well!

Peace and best wishes for the term ahead!

Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal
**SCHOOL NEWS**

**Mother’s Day Stall**

If you haven’t already done so we are still accepting donations for our Mother’s Day Stall. Gift wrapping will take place after Coffee n Chat on Monday, 6th May. If you have some time we would love you to come and help out.

**Winter Uniform**

As the weather is getting colder, you can send your child to school in their winter uniform as you see necessary. All children should be in full winter uniform by Monday, 13th May.

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**St Oliver’s Primary - Dates to Remember!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, 6th May</th>
<th>Coffee’n’Chat / Gift Wrapping for Mother’s Day Stall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 7th May</td>
<td>Diocesan Cross Country at Eastern Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 8th May</td>
<td>Kindergarten excursion to Golden Ridge Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 9th May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<td>Friday, 10th May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Liturgy @ 9.30am in the Church</td>
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<td>Monday, 13th May</td>
<td>Full winter school uniform from today</td>
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<td>14th – 16th May</td>
<td>NAPLAN – Years 3 &amp; 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 3rd June</td>
<td>Sports Carnival at Holroyd Sports Ground</td>
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<td>Thursday, 27th June</td>
<td>Multicultural Day</td>
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Gospel Jn 13:31-35  5th Sunday of Easter - Liturgical colour is white

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

When Judas had gone Jesus said: ‘Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified.

If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon.

My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another;

just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another,

everyone will know that you are my disciples.’

Reflection: Have you ever said, I love my dog! I love your hair! I love that new song! I absolutely love chocolate! We throw around the word ‘love’ so casually today that it has almost lost its meaning. The decision whether or not to say ‘I love you’ in a relationship has become a major dilemma – or alternatively, just the formula that has to be said to get what you want! Jesus did not use the word so casually or so inappropriately. He spoke of love very deliberately and very specifically. Jesus calls us to share in the selfless love that he modelled and to follow his example.

Jesus said, “Love one another as I have loved you”. The new commandment that Jesus announces is more than tolerance or mutual respect. It requires self-sacrificing love. It is hard enough to love those who are like us; how can we possibly love those who are different? And how can we love those who do not love us? It is no wonder that the commandment is called new. It calls for something completely different. The love Jesus poured out to all was an expression of God’s love that has been poured out to all creation since the very beginning and continues to be poured out today. God’s love doesn’t keep score. When humans turned its back on God, God’s love continued to call them back to faithful relationship. God’s love is not conditional – whatever we do, God continues to love us. There is no barrier that we can construct that God’s love cannot get around. It is this sort of love that the new commandment demands of us. As Christians, the challenge that faces us is to imbue these expressions with a richer, deeper notion of love. It is an obligation if we are to be Jesus’ disciples. It is based on servant giving. It demands that we make sacrifices beyond just meeting our own needs. It is through prayer that we are able to draw strength from God to put others first. We rely on God to help us with the challenge to love always.

Prayer: Dear God, Thank you for the times we love others. Help us to not be selfish and love especially those who have not shown their love for us. Help us to keep our relationship with you strong through your son Jesus. Help us to be patient, kind, not to be rude or arrogant, irritable or resentful but to care for others by putting others first.

Mother’s Day Liturgy: On Sunday the 12th May is Mother’s day. On Friday the 10th May there will be a Mother’s day liturgy at St Oliver’s Church at 9.30 am. Hope to see you there! All welcome! On this day it is Ascension of the Lord. This is when Jesus went up to heaven.

Mrs Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator
PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE
Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 must read 20 books to complete the Challenge. They may read 20 books on the Challenge Lists - or they may read 15 on the List and up to 5 books of their own choice. Books must be of a similar level. Children should have these books approved at school. 

TEACHERS READING CHALLENGE
This term the St Oliver’s Teachers are participating in their own St Oliver’s Reading Challenge! They will read 20 books from a selection of all the Challenge Lists. Teachers love to read too!

BORROWING
All holiday books should now be returned. Congratulations to the many children who progressed with their Challenge lists in the holidays.

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA
http://www.generationnext.com.au
Research from a statistically representative national survey of almost 2000 16- to 30-year-olds has discovered that youth “skim the surface of life” with constant use of social media. FOMO (the fear of missing out) and FONK (the fear of not knowing) drove young people to constantly check their phones for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter feeds and new emails and texts. Social media has a firm place in today’s world, but it should not take over from face to face relationships. Primary children can develop skills to build self-esteem, confidence and real social relationships both at home and at school.

Lesley Quinn
Teacher Librarian