Dear Families of St Oliver’s,

Following is a message from our Executive Director, Greg Whitby, about a wonderful new prayer resource that will be distributed to each family next term.

When Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI announced the Year of Faith, which the Church is currently celebrating, he said that the ‘door of faith’ always remains open to us. Next term you will receive a copy of God is with us, a prayer book for families. It is my hope that this prayer book may be a door of faith for your family in this Year of Faith.

God is with us is a book of prayers for use in the family home. Along with traditional and daily prayers, there are prayers for special occasions, which provide an opportunity to recognise God’s presence at important moments of family life. Special reference is made to the devotion of The Angelus, which is prayed daily in every Catholic school in the diocese.

You will also note that the back cover provides links to Bishop Anthony Fisher’s OP Facebook page and to YouCat, which is short for youth catechism. Each of these resources may be used to deepen our understanding of the Gospel.

Your child/ren’s teachers will also lead prayer at school using God is with us from time to time. Let us keep each other in our prayers, and mark the Year of Faith by putting God at the heart of our homes.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to Catholic Education.

We look forward to sharing this resource with our families. When you receive your copy next term, please take the time to familiarise yourself and your child/ren with the prayers in God is with us as they will form an important part of our prayer life at the school as well as at home.

Peace and best wishes,

Mr Anthony McElhone
Principal

St Oliver’s Awards
School Fees/Resource Fee
To align our school with others in the Diocese we will now invoice the Resource Fee at the beginning of the school year. Therefore, the 2014 Resource Fee will be invoiced at the beginning of next year (not in Term 4 of this year).

Staff Development Days
A reminder that there is a Staff Development Day this Friday, 28th June. The last day for children will be Thursday, 27th June.
To assist in planning ahead, the Staff Development Day for Term 3 is on Friday, 9th August.

Choir Performance
Recently the choir performed at our assembly. The song they presented was called "Jesus, you are the Light" by Matthew Shawcross. Soloists were Miranda and Hannah. The crowd were amazed by their wonderful performance.

Family Holidays
All families are asked to be mindful of the disruption caused to student learning when they are removed from school for extended family holidays. Where possible; extended trips should be limited to the school holiday periods. The NSW Government, and Catholic Education Office, require families to complete an Exemption from School Form and submit this for the Principal’s approval at least two weeks before the scheduled absence. If the absence is for overseas travel, or for a period longer than 20 days, copies of travel tickets must be attached. This form is available from the Office.

Enrolments 2014
Kindergarten 2014 enrolments are being finalised. Please ensure your family and friends have submitted their forms. If you know of anyone wishing to enrol please tell them now is the time!

Canteen Notice
The canteen will be closed on Tuesday 16th July (first Tuesday after the holidays). Homemade soup will be available on a Tuesday starting in week 2 of the new term.

St Oliver’s Primary - Dates to Remember!
27th June - Multicultural Day - (students last day of term)
28th June - Staff Development Day
15th July - First day of Term 3
22nd July - 9:15am - Coffee n Chat
24th July - School Photo Day
26th July - 5:30 – 7:00pm - ‘Christmas in July’ disco
9th August - Staff Development Day
20th August - St Nicholas Netball Gala Day
28th August - Father’s Day Stall
30th August - 7:30am - Father’s Day BBQ followed by a liturgy
14th September - Bunning BBQ & Cake Stall Fundraiser
**Gospel Lk 9:18-24** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*You are the Messiah sent by God. It is necessary for the Son of Man to suffer much.*

One day when Jesus was praying alone in the presence of his disciples he put this question to them, ‘Who do the crowds say I am?’ And they answered, ‘John the Baptist; others Elijah; and others say one of the ancient prophets come back to life.’ ‘But you,’ he said, ‘who do you say I am?’ It was Peter who spoke up. ‘The Christ of God’ he said. But he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone anything about this. ‘The Son of Man’ he said, ‘is destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and to be put to death, and to be raised up on the third day.’ Then to all he said, ‘If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, that man will save it.’

**Reflection**

The question is who do people say I am? Many ask this question particularly those who are in the public eye. Most are concerned with how they appear to others. Jesus had no doubt about whom he was. He knew his mission well. When we look around we see people have a hunger for approval. Perhaps they feel ignored, unappreciated, self-doubt, constantly looking for affirmations. People have a loss of identity and need to find their identity. Then we don’t need to be propped up by others, rather on the inner flame within us. The inner flame is not dependent on what others think of us. To see ourselves as others see us can be useful for our own growth and improvement.

Alfred Noble was a man who invented dynamite. In 1888, Nobel was astonished to read his own obituary, titled *The merchant of death is dead*, in a French newspaper. As it was Alfred's brother Ludvig who had died, the obituary was eight years premature. The article disconcerted Nobel and made him apprehensive about how he would be remembered. This inspired him to change his will. In the obituary, he was named the dynamite king. There was no mention of his desire to make a difference in people’s life. His true self was hidden from others and they really did not know who he really was. He felt that he was really misunderstood and he really wasn’t like that. So he took action. He became a man who would recognise the good in other people.

This story clearly demonstrates how the judgments of people can be incorrect. This is also true in Jesus’ time. Jesus was judged by others unfairly as he was crucified. We are in trouble when our only concern is to project good image of ourselves that is not really our true self. We must be true of our in ourselves, in the values of Jesus and our faith. We should not be happy with ourselves just living. Our life journey is about being the best that we can be to all people.

**Prayer** Dear Jesus, help us to see that we are made in the image and likeness of God. Help us to be the change we want to see in the world. Help us not to judge others but to be the best we can be. Amen

**St Oliver’s Multicultural Day**

Thank you for all your support with St Oliver’s multicultural day celebrations. The children wore their cultural costume with pride and all the food and activities were fantastic. Thank you parents, because without your support these days would not be successful.

**St Oliver Plunkett**

The children have been learning about St Oliver Plunkett. He lived in a time when it was dangerous to be a Catholic. He built schools that invited people of all faiths to attend. Oliver became a Martyr because he died for his love for God. He was a priest and continued practicing his faith and spreading the news of Jesus even though it was dangerous to do so. Children were awarded St Oliver awards for displaying Values like St Oliver, such as forgiveness, being a peacemaker, courage, determination and love of God. The foyer by the front office is displaying Year 1 work about St Oliver. St Oliver’s feast day is 11th July. He forgave those that were condemning him to a gruesome death.

**Mrs Franca Bonserio**

Religious Education Coordinator
BORROWING
All children have had the opportunity to borrow extra books for the holidays. These are due back on the first day of Term 3.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE
Only 9 weeks to go! Remember to keep reading over the holidays. Any login issues with the PRC site can be sorted next term – in the meantime, just keep a paper copy of the books read.

LIBRARY DATES FOR TERM 3

The Children’s Book Council of Australia celebrates children’s literature throughout Australia next term. At St Oliver’s our events include a Book Fair in Week 5, Book Week in Week 6 and a visiting performance in Week 7. Our children’s Book Parade will be held on Thursday, 22nd August.

ORAL LANGUAGE

**Voice of Youth** – Congratulations to the three Year 6 children who have been selected to represent us at the Cluster Final next term: Andrea Daileg, Joseph Maroun and Jonathan Perumal. Jaeden Bowers was Highly Commended.

**Delany Cup** – Congratulations to the children who will represent us in the Delany Debating Cup next term: Aydin Kilciler, Katrina Perea, Tram Nguyen and Stephanie Vella.

Mrs Lesley Quinn
Teacher Librarian