Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had an enjoyable break from the school routine and that students are rested and ready for another term of wonderful learning.

At the end of Term 2, the staff of St Oliver’s deepened their understanding of our school’s Mercy Tradition. We had great conversations with the Mercy Sisters who came and shared their story of our school and parish. We saw many great photos from yester year and were able to gain a historical perspective on how our school came to be what it is today. Part of the Mercy Tradition is that strong sense of hospitality. This reminded me of our great Multicultural Day which celebrated St Oliver but was also in its action rich in the Mercy tradition of Hospitality, sharing a meal together in our school community.

*Hospitality is our theme in the Sunday readings this week: as the letter to the Hebrews says: “Remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this some people have entertained angels without knowing it.” True hospitality lies in two things: first the welcome, encouraging the stranger to enter the house and be at home there; secondly, the gift – not just of food or drink, but of time: listening to the stranger, and giving of ourselves to them. This is what makes hospitality costly, but holy, and a true service of Jesus Christ.* Fr Stan Kluk CSMA (PP)

This hospitality will be hopefully be extended to and experienced by the World Youth Day (WYD) Pilgrims. Our Parramatta Diocese celebrated a commissioning Mass with Bishop Anthony in the holidays at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral. Our Diocese, through our collective support and giving were able to send 250 people (teachers and students etc.) to attend and it was lovely for me to see some of our families from our school there to celebrate. Whilst the WYD in Rio has not officially commenced, many of our representatives are engaging in social justice activities to help local communities such as Lima.

Let us take time, as a family, this week to pray for all of the WYD pilgrims but also for our faith to be enriched by this sense of hospitality and journey into the love and knowledge of God.

Pilgrim God,
Those whose feet will tread the path,
May be blistered and their bodies tired.
We pray they are moved by their encounters with the poor and the needy.
We pray that in their building, painting and teaching they make a difference to those we all serve.

Though we are here at home, we journey with them, may we all know your presence, in the experiences shared then talked about, in the walking, the working and the laughter.
We pray especially for those they left behind.
For family, friends and colleagues who have enabled the pilgrims.
May they also receive the blessings of our Pilgrim God.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.
I invite you all to read and see if you would like to attend our local World Youth Day event held at St Patrick’s Cathedral, please see the flyer for details and RSVP for catering purposes.

Peace and Joy

*Anita Knezevic*
Anita Knezevic
Assistant Principal
St Oliver’s Primary - Dates to Remember!

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

Discover OLMC Parramatta

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites you to discover contemporary learning, academic excellence in the Mercy tradition at OLMC and enjoy a ‘comfortable cup of tea’ with the College Executive at the Open Morning Tour on Monday, July 22, 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.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Alert

There are suspected cases of hand, foot and mouth in the community, symptoms include blisters that start as small red dots which later become ulcers. Blisters appear inside the cheeks, gums, and on the sides of the tongue, as well as on the hands and feet. The blisters usually last for seven to 10 days. Children can sometimes also have a low fever, irritability, sore throat, tiredness, feel off colour and may be off their food for a day or two. Further information is located on the NSW Department of Health website (www.health.nsw.gov.au) and remember to consult your Doctor. Your continued care and help in notifying the school of any confirmed cases is greatly appreciated.

Scholastic Book Club

Please return all orders for this month’s book club by Friday 26th July.

Faith in Marriage Conference

A Conference about Marriage for couples. The gifts and graces of marriage give us great hope and strength for ourselves and our society.

Sunday, 15th September, 2013 – 8.45am – 5.00pm.  Cost $25 single, $50 couple, includes light lunch.  Where: Our Lady of Mercy College Hall, Ross Street, Parramatta (free parking surrounding Streets only)  Guest Speakers: Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP; Professor Greg Craven, Vice-Chancellor, Australian Catholic University; Dr Ryan Messmore, President of Campion College and Robyn Moore.

Book early to avoid disappointment: By email marriage@ccss.org.au or telephone 9933 0222.
Gospel Luke10:25-37 Who is my neighbour?

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, ‘Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? What do you read there?’ He replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with your entire mind, and your neighbour as yourself.’ ‘You have answered right,’ said Jesus, ‘do this and life is yours.’

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. “Look after him,” he said, “and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have.” Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands’ hands?’ ‘The one, who took pity on him,’ he replied. Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do the same yourself.’

Reflection

There are a great deal of reality shows on television which we all love watching. We may talk about it and it is very much a spectator sport. We are part of it safely from a distance in our home. It is safe to look at others and speculate. This can be also true about love we can dream about it watch it, but not really get involved.

The lawyer in the Gospel asks Jesus a question that he already knew the answer to. Jesus recognises that while the lawyer knew the answer, he did not have any depth of understanding so Jesus tells if the parable of the good Samaritan. We demonstrate who we are not by our words but by our actions. The priest and the Levite were not bad people, they didn’t cause any harm to the man left on the side of the road and they were not hostile him, rather they showed complete indifference. They did not want to get involved. By doing nothing we can do a great deal of evil. We lose the opportunity to do good. We keep at a safe distance. Sometimes at a party someone may make fun of our faith or speak badly because you go to church. We keep a safe difference and we don’t day anything to defend our faith or values and morals. We are called to live our commandments and we are to apply this to everyone. Sometimes we justify our behaviour and let others live how they want to live. It is not up to us how to judge but who is defending our faith and moral values? We shy away and keep a safe distance, we do not get involved. Those who are ‘lost’, perhaps someone who has lost their job, or someone who is not looking after themselves and living a way of life that has resulted in loss of morals, values or dignity, that someone who lives in a volatile way. We are called to get involved, through praying for them, supporting them, through loving them and being there for them. Not just watching at a safe distance with indifference.

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

First Holy Communion and Confirmation

A reminder that preparation classes for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation will start in Term 3 and continue in Term 4. All children in year 3,4,5,6 who have been Baptised are eligible to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Children in Year 6 are eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please send your forms into the office a week prior to attending the preparation classes, 7th of August. Enrolment is on 11th August at 10 am Mass. The reconciliation classes will commence on 14th August.

Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator
Welcome to the Library and Technology section of the St Oliver’s Newsletter

**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE**

Only 1 month to go! Children are able to borrow from the school library each day except Friday – just as long as they return their books beforehand. Each class has a Returns system in place for this.  

**LIBRARY EVENTS**

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<td>Book Week competitions released</td>
<td>Competitions for all Classes</td>
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<td>Book Fair</td>
<td>Book Fair - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 12th – 14th August</td>
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<td>Competitions close</td>
<td>Competition entries close Thursday 15th August</td>
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<td>PRC entries due</td>
<td>Paper copies of PRC due in at school if you need us to enter the online details for you. CBCA announces Book Awards</td>
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<td>Book Week</td>
<td>We celebrate Australian children’s literature</td>
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<td>Book Character Parade Thursday 22nd August</td>
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<td>Competition Winners announced</td>
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<td>Space Jump!</td>
<td>Performance at school, Thursday 29th August</td>
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**CLASSM8**

ClassM8 is a “classroom in the cloud” collaborative learning space. Soon your children will be talking about this!

Mrs Lesley Quinn  
Teacher Librarian