Lk 15:1-10 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them: ‘What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? “Rejoice with me,” he would say “I have found my sheep that was lost.” In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance. ‘Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? “Rejoice with me,” she would say “I have found the drachma I lost.” In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.’

Reflection
A Cardinal once said “The world permits everything but forgives nothing; the Church does not permit everything but forgives everything.” This can be seen in the media when famous people who fall out of grace are brought out into the open and judged with vengeance, revenge and retribution. Catholic people are people who show mercy, compassion, forgiveness and even rehabilitation. Catholic people are people who show mercy, compassion, forgiveness and even rehabilitation. In the full version of this Gospel reading it also has the parable of ‘The Prodigal Son’ or what I like to call the Forgiving Father. The son had ‘world values’ where he acted with great disrespect as if his father was dead. When he went back to his father, he went back because he was hungry and wanted to be treated like a slave because slaves got treated better than he was, not because he was really sorry. The father accepted him in compassion, mercy and forgiveness, even though the son was at fault.

As Catholics we are called to be like the forgiving father. We are known to be people of forgiveness. In the past we put emphasis on sinning and that we need to say sorry. While this is still the case, we also need to forgive even when people are disrespectful, rude and have really hurt you. This is not easy, it is hard to forgive. We kid ourselves that when seek revenge or have resentment that it makes us feel better and gives us comfort. This comfort is short-lived. We must forgive and be the first to forgive otherwise we become wrapped up in bitterness and are never free to love and show mercy to others.

Prayer
God of Mercy,
You love us even though we let you down constantly. Please help us to remember that when people wrong us to forgive freely even though we are hurt and feel they are not deserving of forgiveness. Please Jesus help us to be more like you to remind us how to live as merciful, compassionate, loving and forgiving people.
Amen.

Mercy Day
On the 24th September every year, around the world, Mercy Day is celebrated. This is the day on which Catherine McAuley first opened the House of Mercy in Baggot Street, Dublin, Ireland and dedicated it to Our Lady of Mercy. She generated in her sisters a deep concern for the sick and dying, the poor, for those at risk in society and for the spiritual needs of people around her. St Oliver's is a Mercy school as it was established by the Sisters of Mercy and first opened its doors in 1930 in the midst of the Great Depression. The school was founded on the Mercy traditions of compassion, mercy and justice, and continues to provide quality schooling based on these values.

Praying the Rosary
During the month of October, we will be praying a decade of the Rosary each day starting on Tuesday the 8th of October at 2.50 pm. Parents you are warmly invited to pray with your child in the learning spaces.
Thank you,
Mrs Franca Bonserio, Religious Education Coordinator
Dates to Remember!

20th September
Term 3 Ends

23rd September – 4th October
School Holidays

7th October
Public Holiday - School Closed
Labour Day

8th October
Term 4 Commences

9th October
Maths open afternoon for parents
3.15pm

14th October
Coffee n Chat – 9.15am

22nd October
Kindergarten 2014 transition morning

23rd October
Basketball Gala Day
@ Penrith Yr 3-6

25th October
World Teacher’s Day
Mother’s Bingo Night

Congratulations to Ms Anita Knezevic who has been appointed as the Principal of St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Primary School, Penrith, commencing at the beginning of 2014. We wish her the best of luck in her new role.

Principal’s Morning Tea

Congratulations to the children who joined Mr McElhone at the Principal's Morning Tea last Friday.

School Zones

A reminder to all our parents ahead of the break at the end of Term 3 that school zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families.

School zones operate on all gazetted schools days, which are all days the school is open, even pupil free days.

School zones for our school will end on Friday, 20 September and resume on Tuesday, 8 October.

Bunnings BBQ & Cake Stall

A huge thank you to all the families who supported the Bunnings BBQ & Cake Stall Fundraiser. Whether it was volunteering to assist on the day, organising the food, donating food, coming along to buy the delicious cakes or sausages or all of the above, we appreciate your contribution! We raised over $1500, which is a fantastic result.

Mercy Summit

Last Wednesday we participated in the first ever Mercy Summit at St Kevin’s Primary School in Eastwood. We made an interactive stall where we showed twenty other schools about how mercy is shown at St Oliver’s.

We made a mercy tree on which we asked the other students to place their ideas and actions from their school. We talked to lots of students, teachers and some Sisters of Mercy about all the mercy actions that are happening.

They were very impressed with our ideas and actions and even made reference to our presentation in the reflection. Even though it was a busy day with lots of preparation we learnt lots and are very proud of our schools achievements in Mercy. Karla, Jaeden and Josephine.