It seems that no one has returned to give thanks to God except this foreigner.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, ‘Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.’ When he saw them he said, ‘Go and show yourselves to the priests.’ Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, ‘Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.’ And he said to the man, ‘Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.’

Reflection
Have you noticed how the words 'please' and 'thank you' are less frequently used these days? Many people seem to act and speak as though anything done for them is entirely their due; no recognition, no please and no thank you. In ancient times, a wide variety of skin diseases were loosely labelled as ‘leprosy’. Because of Jewish purity laws, people with skin diseases were automatically regarded as ‘unclean’ and were forced to live away from others. The assumption was that such disfigurement must be a punishment from God for sinful behaviour.

The story of the ten lepers is not just about asking for what we need and being grateful when we get it, as important as that is. In this rich and multi-layered story, Jesus does three things: he reaches out to the untouchables of his day; he heals them and enables them to be welcomed back into the community; he draws attention to the fact that the poorest of the lepers, a Samaritan, is the only one who can recognise the source of the healing and has the humility to return and praise God for it. We are challenged to get our hands dirty with the most unclean groups of our society, confront the assumptions that marginalise and oppress them, and defend their rights to dignity and participation. Not surprisingly Christians who do this often report the same experience as Jesus: they are staggered at the gratitude and faith of the people society has rejected.

If there is some part of my personality which needs healing, some disease, something which makes me ill-at-ease with myself, other people, creation, or God, Jesus is only too willing to reach out to that part of me and start the process of ‘salvation’: integrating, making whole, the bodily, social and spiritual dimensions of my personality. This may take a lifetime. And during the course of that lifetime, one may become an agent or accomplice of Jesus Christ in ‘saving’ others. It happens when one reaches out towards someone who desperately needs the touch of my hand, the sound of my voice, a gesture of friendship to reassure them of their humanity.

Faith in Action
We can compile a list of all the things in your life for which we are grateful to God. Write a litany of thanks and use it as part of your prayer time this week.

Prayer
Loving God, Please help me to be grateful for everything I have. May those who live in hopelessness meet God’s grace in new and unexpected ways. Thank you for those special people who work to heal and comfort the sick may they be strengthened, and blessed for their compassion and care. We pray for those who endure separation may they know the presence of Christ.

First Holy Communion Classes are being held each Wednesday. We pray for those children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. This is part of the Sacrament of Initiation which began at Baptism. It is recognizing that through the Eucharist we are part of Jesus and that Jesus is within us. Each time we receive the Eucharist we are reminded of living like Jesus.

Thank you,
Mrs Franca Bonserio, Religious Education Coordinator
**Dates to Remember!**

18th October  
Year 3 Assembly – 2.15pm  

22nd October  
Kindergarten 2014 transition morning  
Delany Enrichment Day – Year 5  

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

25th October  
World Teacher’s Day  
Ladies Bingo Night  

29th October  
Kindergarten 2014 transition morning  

31st October  
Mission Month Fundraiser  

1st November  
All Saints Day Mass – 9.15am  
Year 4 Assembly – 2.30pm  
School Disco – 5.30-7.00pm  

13th November  
COSHC Parent Information Evening  
6.30pm  

15th November  
Year 2 Assembly – 2.30pm  

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**Book Club**  
Orders for Issue 7 (October 2013) of the Scholastic Book Club close on Monday 21st October.  

**Parent Information and Orientation Evening**  
COSHC has been approved to open a service at St Oliver’s Primary School from the start of Term 1, 2014. A Parent Information and Orientation meeting will be held at St Oliver’s Primary School on **13 November 2013 at 6:30pm**. Further details will be provided in next week’s newsletter. For any current enquiries, please contact Kerry Maike (COSHC Operations Supervisor) on 9407 7082.  

**St Oliver’s Numeracy Afternoon**  
On Wednesday 9th of November, many St Oliver’s Parents and Students came along to our Numeracy afternoon. The students showed their parents the types of numeracy questions that they work on in the classroom during Maths time. Lots of learning and fun was had by all who attended and here is what some of our parents said about their time in the classrooms!  

"This workshop helps us to know how Maths being open-ended is very good and helpful. It makes children independent and confident thinkers"  

"Today was a good learning experience about using various mathematical tools to find solutions to a given situation"  

"It's lovely to enjoy Maths sitting with the kids in their classrooms"