The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

Jesus told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

During this season of Lent we are encouraged to reflect on our own lives and ask ourselves, ‘What type of fruit am I producing?’ and ‘How can I produce the fruit that God desires me to produce?’ being a Christian is not easy, it takes hard work. Just as the vinedresser asked for time to tend the soil under the fig tree and add fertilizer to the soil, we too have to tend to our spiritual life in order for it to flourish. This Lent find some time to be with God in prayer, sit with God and allow God to tend the soil of your spirit.

This year we have been given the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy to remind us that it is not just in Lent but all through the year that God calls us to be merciful like the Father. The first Friday of March (4 March) is the celebration of 24 Hours for the Lord. Pope Francis, and in turn, Bishop Peter, have asked parishes to have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance as we join in solidarity with the universal Church. On the same day across the globe we will all realign our compass for 24 Hours for the Lord.

Our parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, will host this sacred event with other parishes of our deanery coming for adoration here with us in our Church. There are many hours to be covered, beginning Friday afternoon at 5:30pm and continuing through the night and day until Saturday at 5:30pm. We need at least four people to be available for each of these hours. There is a timesheet available near the Holy Door to fill in your name. This would be a great opportunity to spend some time tending to our spiritual needs. Come along and join OUR parish and parishes around the world in prayer this weekend. Even a short visit can impact on our lives.
Catholic Schools Week

Next week is Catholic Schools’ Week, which is our opportunity to celebrate all the wonderful things that happen each day at OLR. The theme this year is ‘I Belong. You Belong. We Belong.’ which ties in nicely with our own school motto of “Celebrating Community.”

This year, here at OLR, we will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week with a special liturgy at 9:15 on Monday morning, Open Day and an Enrolment Information Evening.

Open Day

As we celebrate Catholic Schools’ Week, we will be holding an Open Day on Wednesday 9th March between 9:15 and 11:00am. This Open Day is for prospective parents and existing parents to come along and see some of the great things that happen in our OLR classroom. We will also be asking students to take some of their work home to share their learning with their parents. I would encourage parents to take this opportunity to visit classrooms and see their children engaged in their learning.

2017 Kinder Information Evening

Yes, the time has come where we once again start planning for next year. As part of Catholic Schools’ Week we will be holding a Kindergarten Information Evening for parents who hope to enrol their child at OLR in 2017.

Please spread the word about how great our school is and if you know of families who have children who are ready for school next year, please encourage them to come along to our Open Day and Information Evening.

Community BBQ and Picnic.

We were planning a ‘Welcome BBQ’ for Friday next week as part of Catholic Schools’ Week. However, a few parents were concerned about eating meat on Friday’s in Lent. We have decided to move the Community Dinner to Friday 1st April and rename it as a Halleluiah Dinner to celebrate the Risen Christ of Easter as well as giving thanks for all the wonderful things that have happened throughout this term.

Come along and share a meal (and maybe a game of cricket on the new grass) with us. The school will supply the BBQ but we would ask parents to bring a shared salad or dessert.

Kindergarten Teacher.

I am pleased to announce that Miss Nikki Owens has been appointed as the new Kindergarten teacher for Kinder Gold. Miss Owens comes to us from OLR Wyoming where she has been teaching Kindergarten for the past 4 terms. I believe that Miss Owens will be a great asset to our school and will carry on the wonderful learning that has been happening in Kinder Gold already this year. Miss Owens will commence full time on Monday 7th March.

As we welcome Miss Owens, I take the opportunity to thank Ms Jackie Little for stepping in and taking over the learning in Kinder Gold on short notice and for the great work she has done for that class and the wider school over the past couple of weeks.
St. Joseph’s Day

On Friday 18th March we will be celebrating St. Joseph’s Feast Day (19th March) this year St Joseph’s Day marks the 150th anniversary of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart which was founded in Penola by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr. Tenison Woods in 1866. The Sisters of St. Joseph, as they are known, have had a huge impact on the church in Australia as well as Catholic Education in Australia and New Zealand. St Mary of the Cross’ vision helped change the landscape of colonial Australia as well as the lives of many poor and destitute people.

Drawing on the strength and role model of St. Joseph (Jesus’ earthly father) the Sisters of St. Joseph quietly went about God’s work where ever they saw the need. Indeed our wonderful school of OLR was originally staffed with some of the Sisters of St. Joseph back in 1952.

In Celebrating St. Joseph’s Feast Day this year we would like to reconnect with our Josephite history and give thanks for the work of the Sisters of St. Joseph over the last 150 years.

As part of this celebration students will be allowed to come to school in mufti clothes and are encouraged to bring in a gold coin donation for project compassion.

“Never see an evil without seeing how you may remedy it.” (Mary MacKillop 1873)

Parent Community Network News

Our PCN Teams have commenced their meetings or will in the next week prior to our Coordination Team meeting on Wednesday 16th March at 7:00pm in the Viv Simnett Room. I have invited Carmel Hewitt (Parent Liaison Officer) to join us at this meeting to deepen our understanding of the role of parents within our diocesan Catholic schools.

Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Archie A and Lucy S who, following the Central Coast Catholic Swimming Carnival, will represent the school at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 8th March.

Both Archie and Lucy will compete in the 50m Breaststroke events. Congratulations also to all the students form OLR who represented our school at the CCC Swimming Carnival last week. I know that all our students who competed gave all they had with a number of them achieving personal best times for in their races.

God Bless

Gerard McGilvray
Principal, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School - The Entrance

From the Chaplain

There will be a Class Parent Meeting on Tuesday 8th March at 2.15-3pm in the VSR.

The Pastoral Care Team is invited to attend a Meeting on Wednesday, 9th March in the VSR from 2.15-3.00pm.

I look forward to working with you together on these teams.

Kay Taylor
Chaplain

Material in the newsletter is not to be reproduced without the permission of the School Principal.
Hi All

We have some great new products on sale in the canteen which the children are loving, Duffins (cross between a muffin and a donut) for 50 cents and the new Twisted Frozen Yoghurts (See attached flyer) for $1.50.

Please be aware that due to Food Handling and OHS regulations we no longer heat leftovers for the children nor do we prepare noodles cups.

I am in need of help on Friday 4th March if anyone is available to do a shift, it would be greatly appreciated!!

A new Canteen Volunteer Form is attached to this Newsletter, and will also be accessible on the website. Please complete the form and return to school (even if you have already filled one out previously), due to work commitments, no childcare etc, circumstances have changed for a few volunteers so thought it would be easier to just start again fresh with the new Term 2 Roster and work out everyone’s availability. Would love to see you all in the canteen, so please don’t be shy, the kids love having someone they know in the canteen!!!

Many thanks

Healthy Eating Amber Trench Canteen Co-Ordinator

OLR Sports News

Congratulations to Sienna Sawers who represented the Central Coast in the U11’s girls Central Coast team for the NSW Oztag State Cup at Coff’s Harbour last weekend. Her team won 8 out of their 9 games and were the winners of Pool A on overall for and against. They were beaten in the grand final 5-3 to be the runners up for 2016.
Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School
Canteen Volunteer Form

Dear Parents, Grandparents, Carers and Friends,

At OLR we provide a healthy canteen for our children, stocking and making food which comes under the Healthy Schools Guidelines.

In order to run the canteen we require the help of volunteers, this is an opportunity to meet new people, come see how the canteen and the school run, catch up with friends and delight your child by being “in the canteen”!!

Anyone can help out, its not hard…..promise!! Mums, Dads, Nans, Pops, Carers (we even have a beautiful great grandmother who volunteers fortnightly), everyone is welcome and no previous experience or cooking skills are required. You will be needed from 9am-2pm or if your time is short we can arranged a morning or afternoon shift to suit your circumstances.

Due to OHS regulations there are no children allowed in the canteen, so unfortunately no siblings can be brought to canteen for the day anymore.

Without the help of volunteers the canteen cannot run! We really need your help even just for one day a term and more importantly you are doing something for your children, they absolutely love seeing you at school, particularly in the canteen!!

Please fill out the below form and return it to school asap so that the Term 2 Roster can be completed.

Hope to see you soon in the canteen!!

Amber Trench
CANTEEN CO-ORDINATOR

Please circle your choices for the following:

1. MONDAY  TUESDAY  WEDNESDAY  THURSDAY  FRIDAY
2. FORTNIGHTLY  MONTHLY  TERMLY
3. FULL DAY 9am – 2pm  MORNING 9am-11.30  AFTERNOON 11.30am – 2pm
4. EMERGENCY BASIS – I am unable to be on the roster but would like to help out if I can in an emergency. This means people may phone me to fill in for them if they are unable to do their shift.

NAME:_________________________ PHONE NUMBER:________________

ELDEST CHILD'S NAME:_________________________ CLASS:_________
AUSTRALIA’S BEST
FROZEN YOGHURT
ENJOY

✓ 98% FAT FREE AND GLUTEN FREE
✓ NEVER, EVER, ANYTHING ARTIFICIAL
✓ MADE FROM ALL NATURAL INGREDIENTS

twisted
FROZEN YOGHURT

✓ 98% fat free and made with real Greek yoghurt
✓ Health benefits of yoghurt with live & active probiotics
✓ Gluten free
✓ Low in calories
✓ No artificial colourings or flavours
✓ Made with real fruit
✓ High in calcium, High in protein
✓ No artificial sweeteners
✓ Healthy Kids (Amber)
✓ Single serve tubs
OLR Parish News

**Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School, The Entrance**

**STUDENT ABSENTEE NOTE**

We are required by law to record all absences for children enrolled in our school with an accompanying note.

My child ___________________________ of class____________ was absent from school on the following date/s:

________________________________________________________

Please sign below to indicate that your permission was given for this/these days absent.

I ___________________________ verify that my child was absent from school with my permission on the dates above.

Reason:__________________________ Date:__________________

Signature:__________________________

**PLEASE DO ONE NOTE PER CHILD. EACH TEACHER NEEDS A COPY FOR THEIR FILES**

**St Edward’s College Open Day**

Families are invited to the College Open Day on Saturday 5 March, 2016 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Entry is via the main gate at 13 Frederick Street, East Gosford and here you will be met by current students of the College who will provide families with a 20 - 30 minute tour. At the end of the tour there will be a time to enjoy a sausage sizzle and also tea and coffee. Enrolment enquiries and packages will be available for all year groups.

**OLR Parish News**

**Our Lady of the Rosary GIFT CENTRE**

The Gift Centre has a wide variety of devotional items and gifts for Weddings, Birthdays, Baptisms, Holy Communion, or just plain thoughtful gifts. All are welcome to come in for a browse. We are open after the Sunday Masses for your convenience. You’ll find the Gift Centre behind the Church carpark, corner of Ashton and Copnor Avenues.

Open:
Sunday 9am-9:30am & 10:30-11am
Tuesday-Friday 9:30am-1:30pm
Phone/Fax 4332 5997

**Mass & Devotions in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday Masses**
- Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
- Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

**Weekday Masses**
- Monday - Thursday 9:00am & 11:45am
- Saturday 9:00am

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**
- Saturday 9:30am & 5:00pm

**Liturgy of the Hours**
- Saturday 8:40am

**Rosary**
- Monday-Thursday 8:35am & 11:20am
- Saturday 9:30am

**Cenacle**
- Wednesday 9:30am

**Christian Meditation Group**
- Friday 10:30am Muldoon Room
Parent Community Network

Celebrating Community

The minutes of the recent Parent Engagement Meeting have now been uploaded onto the OLR Parent Portal; please take a moment to read through the proposed community and fundraising events for this year. We encourage anyone and everyone that is a part of our wonderful school community to get involved in whatever small way they can. Please contact the office or event coordinator at your earliest convenience if you are able to assist with any upcoming events.

To bring the whole School Community together to celebrate Catholic Schools Week and to welcome everyone to the new school year; we were organising a Welcome BBQ Friday afternoon, 11th March. Due to this event being held in Lent, we are now rescheduling our Welcome BBQ to coincide with the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus on Friday, 1 April on the new grass of our school oval between 6:00 and 8:00pm. More details to follow.

Details regarding our Easter Egg Raffle went home this week. We ask that each child donate an Easter egg toward this raffle so that we can make up baskets for prizes. Wrapping of the Easter prizes will take place on Tuesday, 22nd March at 9:00am in the Miriam Centre. Kylie Burgess and Katie Hill have agreed to organise this event for the children; please let them or the office know if you are available to assist with wrapping.

A reminder that the Diocesan Parent Council Cluster Meeting will be held on Thursday; 3 March at 6:30pm followed by the Parent Teams Induction and Workshop at 7:30pm in the Viv Simnet Room. A light dinner and refreshments will be served. It will provide an opportunity for Parent Teams to gain valuable information and support for all members - both new incoming and experienced - for their leadership role. All welcome; please RSVP to the office ASAP.

Thank you for your continued support:
Parent Community Network
Building Community
Help to raise over $10,000 to fight Leukaemia

Our son Ethan is currently in Kinder at OLR. In July 2015 our 2 year-old daughter, Ilaria was diagnosed with a rare form leukaemia (JMML) that is only treatable with a bone marrow transplant. In December we were lucky to find an unrelated donor and receive a transplant.

After over 100 days in hospital, we were recently lucky enough to see our daughter come home to start the next stage in her recovery with 6-12 months in isolation.

This time has been filled with many challenges for our family. The Leukaemia Foundation has been amazing in their support for people with leukaemia, and the significant contribution they make to research. So we are looking to give back by attempting to raise over $10,000 for the ‘World’s Greatest Shave’.

If you would like to join us on Sunday the 20th of March 2-4pm in the OLR Hall we would love to see you there. A link to our Facebook Page will be put on the OLR Facebook page for you to RSVP so that we know how many to cater for.

If you can spare a few dollars, please donate here: http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/fairyilariascourt

Many thanks for your support
Daniel & Helena

Ilaria with her Bravery Beads pre-transplant:

Ilaria visiting the hospital clinic post-transplant
Bus Stop Closure Notice

Wyong Rd before Mingara Dr West Bound

Attention All Passengers,

As from Monday 14th March 2016 The Bus Stop on Wyong Rd before Mingara Dr West Bound will be closed permanently and relocated to Tumbi Creek Rd.

School Bus 41 – Students will need to board the bus at the Bus Stop West of pedestrian Lights on Wyong Rd West Bound.

School Bus 58 - Students will need to board the bus at the Bus Stop West of pedestrian Lights on Wyong Rd West Bound.

School Bus 47 - Students will need to board the bus at the Bus Stop West of pedestrian Lights on Wyong Rd West Bound.

School Bus 39 – Students will need to board the bus corner Hansens Rd and Tattler St

Routes 15, 25, 45, 47, 48

Passengers will need to Board Buses at the Bus Stop West of Pedestrian Lights on Wyong Rd West Bound.

Routes 16, 19, 24, 26

Passengers will need to Board Buses at the New Bus Stop Corner Tumbi creek Rd and Clare Mace Cres West Bound.

Red Bus apologise for any inconvenience caused.

If you have any question please contact our office 4332 8655
News from the OLR Crossing Guard

The OLR students have been wonderful and very well behaved. However, sometimes adults with pre-schoolers are not holding the toddler's hand, and the toddler is either being left behind on the side or is running ahead of the adult. The Crossing guards are very concerned and asks that adults to keep hold of the toddler's hands when crossing the road and when waiting for the cars to be stopped.

Important information about travelling with Opal

- The School Opal card is only for travel to and from school.
- The School Opal card doesn't cover travel to after school care, school excursions, sport and other activities away from school.
- Students should use a Child/Youth Opal card for travel after hours, on weekends or during school holidays.
- School Opal cards will not be activated for light rail or Sydney Airport Link stations.
- Students should tap on and tap off every time.
- Please direct customers to apply online at transportnsw.info/school-students

How to use your Opal Card correctly

Remember,
You only need to Tap On and Tap Off once for each journey, then find a seat and sit down to travel safe on the bus, train or ferry.

Don't forget!
Book Club orders are due: THURSDAY 10TH MARCH

Contact 131500 for all Timetable and Opal Enquiries

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FutureTahs Camp

FutureTahs Camp is here for 2016! Camp includes 1 full day of rugby fun filled coaching and a FutureTahs sports pack, (Boot bag, water bottle and FutureTahs hat)

9am-3pm
Central Coast Grammar
18th April 2016
Ages 6 - 12

$95

To register please follow the link below.
https://rugby.force.com/rugbyportal/

Please note: You will pass through the Rugby Learning Centre. Once you are in you will need to search NSW Rugby FutureTahs Camp

Girl Power
It’s all about me!

If you’re a 11, 12 or 13 year old girl this EVENT is for you!

Come along and discover simple and powerful ways to feel really great about yourself, to learn how to be a good friend and to enjoy healthy friendships.

There will be both fun and relaxing activities providing you with some valuable life skills to help you transition confidently into your teenage years.

Saturday 9 April, 1.30-2.30pm
Lake Haven Library

Reserve your spot on 4350 1570.

This session will be presented by Pamela Northcote, a Registered Nurse and a qualified Meditation Facilitator and has two teenagers in high school.