



Our Lady of the Angels School, Rouse Hill

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Week 8 Term 4

28th November, 2014

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith, Where there is despair, bring hope
Where there is darkness, bring light, Where there is sadness, bring joy
O Master grant that I may not seek, to be consoled as to console
To be understood, as to understand To be loved, as to love
For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

"It is in dying that we are born to eternal life"

Dear Parents,

'Come, O come, Emmanuel'

Happy New Year to you! Liturgical year, that is.

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent marking the official start of the church year. We leave the period of Ordinary Time (Green) and move into the four weeks of Advent (Purple), a time of preparation for the very important event of Christmas.

As with all special events in our lives – be they birthdays, HSC, weddings - the degree of success experienced in the outcome is largely dependent on how well we have prepared. Advent is a reminder that our lives here on Earth are times of 'preparation' for the greatest event of all, when we will meet God in our next life. Advent is an opportune time to ask ourselves...

How well are we preparing ourselves to meet God?

How well do we live out the lines of the St Francis prayer in the day to day?



Family Advent Calendar

In your lead up to the excitement of Christmas, why not emphasise the real meaning through the use of a 'real' Advent Calendar? Please refer to the attachment with this Newsletter for your convenience.

Special Announcement

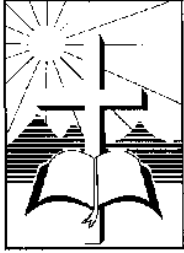
It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mrs Lisa Hurst has been appointed to the position of Coordinator 2 – Literacy. OLA school community has been truly blessed to have had Mrs Hurst join us this year. Mrs Hurst is a highly experienced and gifted professional who has effectively held this position in her previous school. Her appointment to the Leadership Team will bring a valued added and I look forward to her contribution to the Learning and Teaching of the students in 2015.

This time of year always presents challenges in the area of employment and staffing, making decisions around what is best for the students in our school. Once again, I thank God that my prayers have been answered and the 'pieces of the puzzle' have fallen into place. Sadly, there are some to whom we will say farewell but, as we know, the end of one marks the beginning of a new one, for all concerned. A full report on staffing will be delivered closer to the end of term.

Dates to Remember

Mon 1 st Dec:	Swimming Program continues for Kindy & Yr 3
Mon 8 th Dec:	Feast of Immaculate Conception
Wed 10 th Dec:	Year 6 Graduation Mass and Supper 6pm
Fri 12 th Dec:	Thank you afternoon tea for parent helpers 2.10pm
Mon 15 th Dec:	Year 6 Fun day
Tues 16 th Dec:	End of Year School Mass 10am
Wed 17 th Dec:	Motiv8 Fun day whole school LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS

NEWSLETTER



Gospel Reflection

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes. Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful.

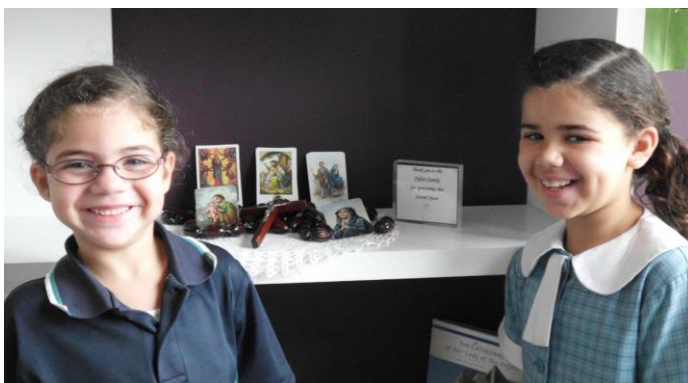
At home with your family...

Talk about a time when you received surprise visitors at your house. Was your household prepared to receive this unannounced guest? What might your family have done differently if you knew ahead of time that this visitor was going to arrive? Jesus told his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return, except the Father. During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also check to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again.

(Sourced and modified from: <http://www.loyolapress.com/sunday-connection.htm>)

Take some time out to reflect this weekend!

Mr Andrew Baker ☺



Family Sacred Space.

Thank you to the **Trifiro Family** for sponsoring the Family Prayer Space this week.

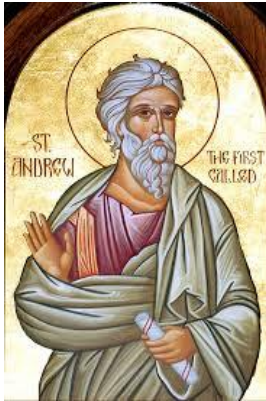
Next week the sponsor family will be the **Merrin Family**.

DWF Envelopes. Thank you to those parents who have returned the DWF envelopes with a donation. If you are returning your envelope, please do so on Monday as this will be the last day to return them.

Saint of the Week

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE

Feast Day: November 30 Born/Died: Around the time of Jesus



St. Andrew was born at Bethsaida in Israel. He and his brother, Simon Peter, grew up to become fishermen. And when Andrew heard the great St. John the Baptist preach, he became his disciple.

When Jesus came to be baptized, John pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold the Lamb of God," Andrew understood that Jesus was greater. At once he left John and followed Jesus.

Jesus knew that Andrew was walking behind him and turning back, asked why he was being followed. Andrew said that he would like to know where Jesus lived. Jesus warmly invited him to, "Come and see."

Andrew had been with Jesus only a short while when he realized that this was truly the Messiah and he became the first disciple of Christ. Then Andrew brought his brother Simon (St. Peter) to Jesus. The Lord welcomed him as his disciple too.

At first the two brothers continued their fishing trade and family affairs. But soon the Lord called them to stay with him all the time. He promised to make them fishers of men, and this time they left their nets for good. St. Andrew went through life leading people to Jesus, both before and after Jesus died.

After Jesus ascended into heaven, St. Andrew preached the Gospel in Greece. There, he was put to death on a saltire cross (x shaped), to which he was tied, not nailed.

He lived two days in that state of suffering but still found enough strength to preach to the people who gathered around their beloved apostle.

Hundreds of years later, when the king of Scotland faced a large invading army, he prayed for guidance. A white cloud in the form of a saltire cross floated in the blue sky above him and he won the battle. Saint Andrew was named the patron saint of Scotland and the Saltire became the national flag of Scotland.

St. Andrew is also the patron saint of Russia.

Boy's Shed

Two weeks ago we received 6 cubic metres of garden soil and we have started to build our mounds. It has been very hot work, but we have persisted and learned to co-operate with each in these conditions. The boys certainly did appreciate the mist from the water bottle. We hope to plant our plants before the end of term.

Boot Campers of the Week

Congratulations to Caleb McGrady, Ella Girdham & Nicholas Cutroni.



Each week we will be looking for two students who show enthusiasm and determination during the boot camp session.

They will be rewarded with a certificate and a \$10 gift voucher kindly sponsored by Woolworths IT.



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL

We are asking for donations to compile Christmas Hampers for St Vincent de Paul to help those who will not be able to celebrate Christmas the way we will. It is hard to imagine what it would feel like not to have a table full of beautiful food, Christmas presents and wrapping spread throughout the house. Christmas is always a time for us to enjoy the company of family and friends, huge lunches and dinners, and many, many presents.



Through our school community this is one opportunity for us to demonstrate God's love – not through some sense of obligation, but from a genuine love for others. This will allow the children to participate with you, as they may be able to help you select some items to add to the Christmas hampers while you are doing your grocery shopping over the coming weeks. It is a wonderful way to show our children the real meaning of giving, especially when they won't receive a gift in return.

Please talk to your children about this so they understand how we can serve others the way Jesus did, as we will be doing the same at school.

We will begin collecting donations of packaged foods from this Monday 24th November as we head towards the beginning of Advent – the time we prepare ourselves, our hearts, our minds, for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. The types of grocery items that will be suitable for the listed on this page. ***Each child will receive a slip of paper today, with an item to contribute to its classes hamper. All donations will need to be in by Friday of Week 9 (5th December)*** so that we can have the hampers ready to be collected by St. Vincent De Paul. I'm sure your generosity will make someone else's Christmas the joyful Season it is meant to be.

help



In conjunction with this, each class will also have a donation box on their prayer table that the children can put a gold coin donation into throughout the next few weeks.

".....in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

Thank you in advance for your generosity.
Mrs Emma-Kate Callaghan ☺

Parent helper thank you afternoon tea

The teachers are very grateful for all parent assistance throughout the year and would like to thank everyone who helped in any way, big or small. Whether it be as a regular classroom helper, excursions, sports days, book covering, special lunches, gross motor or pencil sharpening, Please come along to our 'Thank you afternoon tea' on Friday 12th December at 2.10pm to celebrate another great year at OLA.



From the Library.....

Please ensure that all library books and home readers are returned to school by Friday 5th December.

From the P&F.....

SPECIAL TREATS 2015

The children have thoroughly enjoyed special treats each Friday. A special thank you to all of the helpers for their flexibility and enthusiasm this year!

We will be putting together a roster for Terms 1 and 2 for 2015. No experience necessary, just a friendly smile and a small amount of time. Toddlers are welcome!

If you are able to give 45 minutes of your time from 1.20pm on a Friday once or twice a term, please forward your *name and contact number* to Annemarie Bond at mnabond@bigpond.com

We all know that the children really look forward to having a special treat each week and it is a great opportunity to get to know some other parents at OLA.

Thank you for your contributions so far and we look forward to meeting you in the near future!

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

Thank you for your generous donations of uniforms so far! If you still have any items of clothing that you would like to *donate* to the OLA Second Hand Clothing Shop, please send in the clean items to the school office in a plastic bag as soon as possible.

The Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open next **Thursday December 4th from 8.30am to 9.15am**. There are both Summer and Winter items available as well as school and library bags.

Please be prepared for cash transactions only as card facilities will not be available.

P&F Committee

Catholic Education Office

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

The Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge is happening again!

Students are encouraged to read a minimum of 10 books over the school holidays, upload their details online at parra.catholic.edu.au and they'll go into the draw to WIN one of four iPad minis!

Entries close on Friday 6 February, and the winners will be announced on the Catholic Education website on Monday 16 February.

Bishops Office

Call for Pastoral Care Volunteers

Do you have some spare time on your hands and enjoy spending time with seniors and the elderly? St Hedwig Village is a German and English speaking, aged-care facility in Blacktown and is currently looking for volunteers. Prior training in pastoral care work, or a willingness to undertake a course would be advantageous. Support will be given in the role, days and hours are flexible to suit your own commitments. For further information please contact Maria Lynam on 02 8822 9928.

Caritas Australia 50th Jubilee Morning Tea

The Social Justice Office warmly invites you to attend a Caritas Australia 50th Jubilee Morning Tea to celebrate - with thanks for your support. Enjoy a sneak peek into Project Compassion 2015.

Date: Friday 5 December, from 10am- 11.30am.

Where: Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown.

Contact: RSVP to Sr Louise McKeogh lmckeogh@parra.catholic.org.au by Thursday 4 December.

Catholic Institute of Sydney – Ten Australian Catholics course

The Catholic Institute of Sydney will be running the course 'Ten Australian Catholics' as an extensive from January 28 – 30 and May 16 – 17, 2015. The course looks at the history of the Catholic Church in Australia through the lives of ten Catholics. A book of Readings will be provided. Registrations close Thursday 11 December. Costs are \$1700 for award students; \$500 for audit students and \$10 CISSA fee. For more information, contact Dr John Luttrell jluttrell@cis.catholic.edu.au or 02 9752 9513.

Website: www.cis.catholic.edu.au

Ordination to the Diaconate – your invitation

Everyone is welcome to attend the Ordination to the Diaconate of Pio Yong Ho Jang, Thomas Thien Hien Bui and Willy Limjap by Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney.

Date: Friday 12 December at 7.30pm

Where: Padre Pio Catholic Church, 34-38 William Howell Drive, Glenmore Park

RSVP: SMS - 0450 908 036 or ordinationpt@gmail.com

Positions vacant

The Diocese of Parramatta is seeking applications for the position of Chief of Operations and Finance. For a confidential discussion and a copy of the Information Pack please contact Anthony Spata, REACH Human Resources on 0402 210 055 or anthony@reachhr.com.au. Applications close 19 December 2014.

Advent and Christmas books, cards, CDs, DVDs & gifts

St Pauls Books & Gifts Centre in Parramatta publishes religious books, CDs and DVDs for adults, teenagers and children in the following areas: Bibles and biblical studies, liturgy and liturgical resources, parish bulletins, theology, spirituality, Australian Church, ecumenism, prayer, devotions, Vatican documents, educational resources for schools and parishes. Visit St Pauls for all your Advent and Christmas books, cards, CDs, DVDs & gifts.

Where: St Pauls Books & Gifts Centre, 238 Church St, Parramatta.

Mass: Mass from 1pm-1.30pm, Monday to Friday, in the Mary MacKillop Chapel above the Centre.

Contact: Ph: 02 9126 8912, bookcentreparr@stpauls.com.au Order online: www.stpauls.com.au

Noël! Noël! Christmas concert

The Brandenburg Choir and Australian Brandenburg Orchestra will perform this annual concert in St Patrick's Cathedral. *Noël! Noël!* features Gregorian chant, medieval carols, French and German hymns, English Christmas songs and many favourites such as *Christmas Night*, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *Once in Royal David's City*, and *Stille Nacht*. With its timeless and ageless appeal *Noël! Noël!* is the perfect gift to share with family and friends.

Date: Thursday 18 December, starts 7.30pm.

Venue: St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta.

Tickets: Adults \$72, Concession \$52, Under 30 \$45, Student \$42, Child \$25. Transaction fees apply.

Bookings: www.brandenburg.com.au



**Congratulation to our Year 1 students for winning
The Hills Shire Library Frog Club for the second year**

Slapped Cheek

We have had a case of slapped cheek in the school. This is where a child can have a mild fever, red cheeks, itchy lace-like rash on their cheeks and torso and possible sore throat and runny nose. Please be aware if your child has these symptoms and keep them home from school until the rash disappears. Time from exposure to illness is 1 to 2 weeks and pregnant women should be advised.

Please see attached flyers for KTOOSH holiday program.

Perpetual Trophy WINNER!

Congratulations to Our Lady of the Angels Primary School for having 58.73% of their Year One student's participate in the Club. This makes them the winners of this year's Perpetual Trophy. We look forward to presenting the trophy to the school in the coming weeks.

The winner of the trophy has been calculated based on the overall percentage of students participating at each school. The final top five schools on the leader board for 2014 are:

- ◆ Our Lady of the Angels Primary 58.73%
- ◆ St. Bernadette's Primary 53.49%
- ◆ Castle Hill Public 52.27%
- ◆ Carlingford West Public 42.11%
- ◆ Our Lady of Lourdes Primary 41.67%

THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

From the Classroom of 2W

During weeks 6 and 7, Year 2 started their swimming lessons at Carlile Swimming Centre at Norwest. Each day we would hop on the bus and ride to the swimming centre with Year 1. When we arrived at the centre we would line up behind our group numbers, which were placed on the floor. Then Nat the swimming instructor would discuss with us the safety rules. Our swimming teachers would then come and collect us group by group and take us into the pool.

During the two weeks, we developed our swimming skills and worked on water safety. On Friday at our last lesson we got to play games like races, bull rush, diving and more!

We had a great time at our swimming lessons.

Giaan Lee and Jane Whelan (2W)



From the Parish Office...

Christmas 2014!!

OLA Parish will be holding it's Christmas Party on Sunday, 21 December. Your family are invited to come along and celebrate the birth of Jesus and the wonderful year Our Lady of the Angels has had. Santa Claus will be coming to visit us on this day. There is a sign-up sheet in the Church for you to complete. Santa Claus will need these details by Sun. November 30th.

Christmas Decoration Competition - we are also having a great competition. Please see the Parish Bulletin for details.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation - Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas will be held in the Second Rite at St Monica's, Richmond on Wed. 15 December at 7.30pm and St John 23rd Parish, Stanhope on Thurs. 18 December at 7.30pm. Our Lady of the Angels Parish has Reconciliation on Saturday mornings at 9.30am and also by appointment with either Fr Warren or Fr Joby.

Gingerbread House Making - You are invited to come along as an end of year Christmas Activity to make a yummy Gingerbread House in the OOSH room on Wednesday, 17 December from 7pm-9pm. Cost \$40- Please RSVP to the Parish Office so that we can order the houses.

House Blessing As we begin this new Liturgical Year, in this season of Advent, you are invited to think about having your house blessed. Fr Joby is available to attend to your family home and bless it. For all appointments contact Fr Joby on 8883 4063 or email frjoby@ourladyoftheangels.org.au

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve (Wednesday)

5.30pm Children's Mass.

12.00am Midnight Mass with Christmas Carols from 11.30pm

Christmas Day (Thursday)

8.30am & 10.00am ****NOTE: There will be NO 5.30pm mass on Christmas Day****

Children's Christmas Mass

Children are welcome to wear an angel or shepherd outfit for the Children's Christmas Mass.

Parish Priest: Fr Warren Edwards

Assistant Priest: Fr Joby Kadambattuparambil Ittira

Mass times:

Sat vigil: 5:30pm **Sunday:** 8:30am, 10am & 5.30pm.

Weekdays: Mon -Sat: 9 am Wed -7pm Novena Mass to St Joseph for special intercessions for the Building of our Church.

Email: parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au

Website: www.ourladyoftheangels.org.au

Ph: 8883 4063 **Fax:** 9629 7603

Term 4 Week 8			
Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award	Einstein Award
Kinder B	Charlotte Anderson	Riharna Pacella	Sophia Dobaj
Kinder G	Denison Cu	Ella Dimech	James Apap
Kinder W	Ava Silva	Georgia Parsell	Lucy Tapley
Year 1B	Nate Davis	Brendan Ewer	Lachlan Whitehurst
Year 1 G	Marc Skoljarev	Lauren Eyles	Anneliese Gutwenger
Year 1W	Grace Bennison	Evie Cassel	Bella Molano
Year 2 B	Tamsyn Brown	Olivia Hudson	Zachary Sprowles
Year 2 W	Callum Galway	Liberty Blount	Zac Lesar
Year 3 B	Chiara Fallone	Bradley Wooldridge	Antonia Manago
Year 3 G	Marko Rangan	Charlie Cutroni	Emily Bennison
Year 3 W	Mia Sprowles	Charlie Hallal	Paige Hayden
Year 4 B	Aaron Rebultan	Ethan Kurcubic	Sebastian Cauchi
Year 4 W	Chelsea Lynch	Elouise Gomez	Kerlyia Brown
Year 5/6 B	Paige Cunneen	Caleb Martinez	Emma Corey
Year 5/6 W	Olivia Farrugia	Ben Maher	Imogen Lane

