

West Wagga Wagga Catholic Parish  
Ashmont, Collingullie, Glenfield, Lloyd, San Isidore

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 122

April 2013

## Coming Events



Divine Mercy Sunday  
Devotions: Sun 7  
Solemnity of Annunciation of  
the Lord: Mon 8:  
Parish Film Night: Fri 12 Apr  
Presentation Sisters Golden  
Jubilees: Sat 13  
Prayers for Healing: Fri 19  
ANZAC Day Mass &  
Prayers: Thurs 25  
St Joseph the Worker: May 1

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## Wag Contacts

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**Phone:** 6931 3601

The due date for the next Wag is:  
**Sunday April 24th.**

## Easter Baptisms, Alleluia

All parishioners should rejoice in and be grateful to God for the witness of those who come to faith and into the Church through Baptism.

Over the years we have been blest with numerous converts to the faith. This year was no different with the reception to the Church of Adriana Lions.

Adriana is studying at CSU and comes from Newcastle. She was instructed in the faith by Fr Thomas Casanova. Congratulations Adriana.



Rafael

We were also please to have Rafael Ahumada Tighe son of Enrique and Marcia baptised at the Easter Vigil ceremony.

Then on Easter Sunday Harmony Witt was baptised. Daughter of Emily and Mathew.

Congratulations to both families.

**Congratulations** to Presentation Sisters' Golden Jubilarians: Srs Carmel Clancy, Carmel Wallis, Maureen Watson, Rosslyn Bennett and Ann McRae.

### Happy Birthday

Fr Mick Burgess on the occasion his 80th Birthday  
Sr Mary Flinn PVBM who celebrates her 90th birthday

If you wish to include a congratulatory note please email or put in parish mail box.

## pastor's page



This month the Wag comes out on Divine Mercy Sunday. Every Catholic should be familiar with this liturgical feast instituted by Blessed John Paul II. The devotion to the Divine Mercy is a private revelation that comes to us from Jesus through Saint Faustina Kowalska. No one need strictly practice it yet Jesus gave it to us out of love. All Christians should have a deep and abiding devotion to the Mercy of God because all attain salvation via his mercy. Mercy is Divine Love in action. St Thomas Aquinas states; 'Mercy is the greatest of God's attributes'. St Faustina wrote: 'The Love of God is the flower - Mercy the fruit' (*Diary* 949).

This year 2013 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the "Apostle of Mercy", St Faustina. Sister Faustina died at the age of 33 that is believed to be the age of Jesus when he died for us! Faustina had been a professed religious for just 13 years. Thirteen? This appears to be a favourite number of the Blessed Virgin Mary as demonstrated by her many Church approved apparitions. Every Catholic should be able to explain to those who ask, something about this particular hope filled devotion of the Divine Mercy (cf. 1 Peter 3:15).

The private revelation emphasising God's mercy is nothing new. The full public revelation of tradition, Sacred Texts and the Magisterium (*CCC Apostolic Constitution*) have all highlighted and explained God's love for all through his mercy. But even good people had forgotten about God's mercy or were overcome with fear and scruples during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There were

many reasons for this attitude, too many to recount here. It is enough to give Jesus' explicit cure for this complaint. He repeated to St Faustina what he had previously told the Apostles; namely, Trust in Me! (John 14:1). Sister Faustina recorded in her *Diary* that Jesus told her to tell everyone to say; "*Jesus, I trust in You*" (327).

Sr Faustina also had to trust in his mercy and will. When Jesus asked her to have a painting of him done, she hesitated. But Jesus stated, '*Know that if you neglect the matter of the painting of the image and the whole work of mercy, you will have to answer for a multitude of souls on the day of judgment.*' Faustina then writes in her diary, 'After these words of Our Lord, a certain fear filled my soul, and alarm took hold of me. Try as I would, I could not calm myself. These words kept resounding in my ears: So, I will not only have to answer for myself on the day of judgment, but also for the souls of others. These words cut deep into my heart' (154). It is because of St Faustina we have the Divine Image today.

The image of Jesus as he appeared to Sr Faustina is represented in our churches of Holy



Trinity and Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus said, '*I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory*' (48).

This Mercy image depicts Jesus in a normal white priestly alb but with two rays of light emanating from his heart. The rays of light represented God's merciful grace; the red rays are for the precious blood of Jesus and the white is like the water that came forth from his Sacred Heart. This water is the symbol of baptism. There is much to be said about the Divine Mercy devotion, please do read about it.

In conclusion I reprint the words of Jesus: '*I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first-by deed, the second-by word, the third-by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays reverence to My mercy. Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy, and I demand the worship of My mercy through the solemn celebration of the Feast and through the veneration of the image which is painted. By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works*' (742).

*Fr Gerard*

## April Jokes



There were these two cows, chatting over the fence between their fields.

The first cow said, "I tell you, this mad-cow-disease is really pretty scary. They say it is spreading fast; I heard it hit some cows down on the Johnson Farm."

The other cow replies, "I ain't worried, it don't affect us old ducks."

Q: When do cannibals leave the table? A: When everyone's eaten.

Q: What's a King's favorite clothing? A: A reign coat.

Q: Where do mermaids see movies? A: At the dive-in?

Q: What falls but never hurts itself? A: Snow.

I never wanted to believe that my Dad was stealing from his job as a road worker. But when I got home, all the signs were there.

What do you call a Frenchman wearing sandals? Philippe Philippe.

Q: What did the Buddhist monk say to the hot dog vendor? A: "Make me one with everything."

Who is the roundest knight at king Arthur's table? Sir Cumfrence

"Two atoms walk into a bar. One turns to the other and says, "I think I lost an electron!" The other replies, "Are you sure?" "Yes, I'm positive.""

A man walks into a bar and asks the bartender, "If I show you a really good trick, will you give me a free drink?" The bartender considers it, then agrees. The man reaches into his pocket and pulls out a tiny rat. He reaches into his other pocket and pulls out a tiny piano. The rat stretches, cracks his knuckles, and proceeds to play the blues.

After the man finished his drink, he asked the bartender, "If I show you an even better trick, will you give me free drinks for the rest of the evening?" The bartender agrees, thinking that no trick could possibly be better than the first. The man reaches into his pocket and pulls out a tiny rat. He reaches into his other pocket and pulls out a tiny piano. The rat stretches, cracks his knuckles, and proceeds to play the blues. The man reaches into another pocket and pulls out a small bullfrog, who begins to sing along with the rat's music.

While the man is enjoying his beverages, a stranger confronts him and offers him \$100,000.00 for the bullfrog. "Sorry," the man replies, "he's not for sale." The stranger increases the offer to \$250,000.00 cash up front. "No," he insists, "he's not for sale." The stranger again



increases the offer, this time to \$500,000.00 cash. The man finally agrees, and turns the frog over to the stranger in exchange for the money.

"Are you insane?" the bartender demanded. "That frog could have been worth millions to you, and you let him go for a mere \$500,000!" "Don't worry about it," the man answered. "The frog was really nothing special. You see, the rat's a ventriloquist."

Did you hear about the teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put his boots on?

He asked for help and she could see why. With her pulling and him pushing, the boots still didn't want to go on. When the second boot was on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost whimpered when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet."

She looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on - this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots."



# A Pope of Contradictions

The Catholic Answers staff was gathered in the small office library, lights dimmed, EWTN feed from St. Peter's Square projected onto the blank wall. We did our best to break up the nervous wait with jokes and chatter, and with last-minute predictions and side bets. Then, finally, the balcony curtains opened and we all cheered as Cardinal Tauran stepped out to confirm what the smoke and bells had already announced: We had a pope.

Then a hush. We strained through our meager Latin to catch the name, but when it came—Bergoglio—the silence persisted. Who? That wasn't one of the names near the top of the list. I did hear Jimmy Akin, who had studied the papabile form book better than anyone, give a murmur of recognition. Then came the second name—Franciscum—and I could only utter a feeble “wow.”

Worst. Pope announcement reaction. Ever.

But, with a full day now to gather my wits, I'd like to offer a few more reflected thoughts about our new Vicar of Christ:

Like some others, high on my papal-quality wish list was a vigorous younger pope with a firm, aggressive administrative hand. Over the last generation, John Paul II captivated the world with his personality and Benedict XVI took us deeper into theological and liturgical mysteries with his brilliance. Now, I thought, it was time for a new sheriff-pope to ride into Rome and bust the entrenched bureaucracy; for a white tornado who would blow through the weak bishops, dissenting theologians, pro-abortion pols, worship-space wreckovators, lavender mafia, and Clown Mass enthusiasts, leaving in his wake a scoured landscape safe for orthodoxy.

The 76-year-old with jowls and thick spectacles who stood there waving stiff and unsmiling from the

balcony didn't seem to fit that bill.

But there is a reason—there are innumerable reasons—why I don't get to vote for pope. For, contra my superficial eight-second impression of the man, it turns out that gentle Cardinal Bergoglio was a ferocious reformer, the kind of bishop who fights fascists for breakfast and rebukes presidents for lunch, then bathes AIDS patients after hours. He's a kindly septuagenarian with drooping jowls and an adamantium spine. In a quote that has gotten wide play, an unnamed cardinal is reported to have said, “Four years of Bergoglio would be enough to change things.” New sheriff in town? Check.

What an admixture of humility and

made it his own. Franciscum. Just Franciscum.

And then he got on the bus with his former brother cardinals and went off to pay his hotel bill. But not before he asked the gathered throng to give him their blessing. Collegiality? I've got your collegiality right here, pal.

“Lowly and yet chosen.” That was Cardinal Bergoglio's episcopal motto, combining in dynamic tension the humility of self-abasement and the glory of being an apostle of Christ. It's easy to live and act like a prince—the triumphant clericalist. It's easy to live like and act like a pauper—the hippie-pastor who calls you “dude” and tells you to call him “Rick.”

But to live like a pauper while acting with the dignity and authority your office demands is a rare trick.

**FRANCIS'S POVERTY IS ANOTHER CONTRADICTION.** As all the early stories report, he has eschewed an archbishop's privilege and lived modestly—in a day when suburban American pastors have cooks and cleaning ladies (as a wise saying goes, “A rectory without

a women soon becomes a barracks”), Cardinal Bergoglio made his own meals in his small apartment. He rode the bus, or shanks's mare.

Now, neither of his two predecessors could be said to have luxuriated in his office. John Paul II came up through Nazi devastation, then Soviet devastation, then the gray austerity of the Eastern Bloc; he preferred hiking books and a mountain forest to papal finery and easy Roman living. Benedict XVI lived in his mind, not a palace; he wore the velvet and ermine, to borrow from Chesterton, for the benefit of the people on the street. But Pope Francis's choice of name, his



brashness we have already seen, even in his first minutes and hours! Pope Francis is the first bishop of Rome in over a millennium to choose an unused name—it hasn't been done since Pope Lando (the First, and for understandable reasons likely the Last). Yes, there was John Paul I, but that name was all about continuity, a humble nod to his two predecessors; Francis, on the other hand, is a thunderbolt of a novelty on the scale of the Luminous Mysteries.

Smart money was on Leo XIV or Pius XIII for a reformer-pope, or John XXIV for a pastoral pope, or even Benedict XVII out of respect to the giant who still walks among us. But Cardinal Bergoglio grabbed his papacy by the scruff and instantly

## A Pope of Contradictions continued

unadorned white cassock and zucchetto, even that minimalistic wave and low-key greeting, signal that poverty and holy simplicity will be especial preoccupations of his reign.

How unexpected, how wonderful. Papal self-indulgence wasn't on the cable news talking points list (title: "Crises in the Church") prior to the conclave. Even professional anti-Catholics seem to have grown tired of rearming legends about Catholic decadence: there are juicier things to rant about than

thrones and tiaras and buried Vatican treasure. And other Catholic leaders have espoused Catholic Social Teaching's carefully moderated economic principles, which find no easy home on the political right or left. In short, we weren't looking for the Pope of the Poor.

But we got the Pope of the Poor, and in one day he's looking like another master-stroke of the Holy Spirit. Viva!



Pope Francis' coat of arms shows three symbols on a blue background: at the top, a sun with the letters IHS in the middle - the logo of the Jesuit Society - and underneath a star and a lily, symbolising the Virgin Mary and St Joseph.

The Latin motto beneath the crest is "*miserando atque eligendo*" - which refers to a Bible passage showing Jesus Christ's "mercy" in choosing Matthew, a tax collector, to be one of his disciples.

## miserando atque eligendo

## PUTTING DIGITS IN PLACES THEY SHOULDN'T BE!

by Teresa Oefinger

I once had a student who got his finger stuck inside a test tube. It was really quite stuck. I knew something was up when I saw about 12 different shoulders around the room shaking as they heroically tried to conceal their laughter. This young man's finger continued to get whiter and whiter right before my eyes.

Remaining calm, I tried to dislodge the tube. Nothing. I suggested he carefully rotate it. It wouldn't budge. He tried soap and cold water. Still stuck. Meanwhile chaos is breaking out in my class, as my lesson becomes completely derailed. Finally, I sent this wily boy to the office. Our secretaries are miracle workers raising ten kids between the two of them. With them in charge, I was completely confident all would be ok.

Forgetting about the lesson of the day, I masterfully got the students back in some degree of

order by sharing my own story of getting my knee stuck between the rails of a balcony. Same kind of curiosity, I remembered wondering at the time how far I could thrust my knee between the rails. Inch by inch, I kept pushing and before I knew it, my knee was stuck and swelling right before my eyes and in front of lots of strangers at a popular hotel!

Many of the students listening to my story of humiliation shot up their hands eager to tell their own stories of heads, arms, fingers stuck in places they shouldn't be. The laughter was refreshing while we waited for finger tube boy to return. We returned to the science lesson on "total internal reflection" careful now to use the equipment properly. Shortly after he left, the boy re-emerged with a grin ear to ear, test tube in tack and finger returning to a lovely shade of pink.

I just couldn't get mad at this kid. He's only twelve after all. I too got

my knee unstuck, but not without a tremendous amount of embarrassment. The excuse for me however, was not youth but sheer stupidity. I was after all 51 years old when this happened.



## Hollywood heartthrob turns pro-life warrior

Teenage dreams can, at times, turn into extraordinary adventures. EMILIE NG met with Eduardo Verástegui recently in the middle of his Australian tour, "From Fame to Faith" with Australian Catholic University, and discovered the incredible journey of a Hollywood success to a humble servant of God.

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

TEN years ago, at 28, Mexican-born singer and actor Eduardo Verástegui found himself surrounded by a team of hustling managers, agents, publicists and lawyers, all bubbling with promises of a more than comfortable Hollywood life. He had women, the parties, the Hollywood staff, the attention, the fame, the glory - he had his teenage dream.

The dream began at 18 years old, when Eduardo left his three younger sisters, parents, and his small home town in northern Mexico, to be an actor.

He took acting classes in Mexico City but, not satisfied with them, grabbed the opportunity to sing in an up-and-coming boy band, Kairo.

"Next thing, I was in Milan, recording our first album, and then in Egypt doing our music video, and then travelling all over Latin America and it was like, wow, this big dream coming true - now to



have stadiums of 50,000 people screaming, and so I lost it, I completely lost the floor," he said.

There was a seven-month stint in New York, laden with parties and frivolous expenditures, before Eduardo returned to Mexico City, finding work as a soap-opera actor. After a few years, he wanted more, and headed to Miami to start a new solo music career, and after a few years, at age 28, he relocated from Miami to Los Angeles to revive his acting career.

It was at this stage that Eduardo was given an English teacher, whom he said, "came at the perfect moment".

"She started asking me questions that I was not ready to answer, but I wanted to answer," he said.

"She changed my life."

His English teacher was a devout Catholic, and while Eduardo grew up Catholic, faith was never the centre of his family's life.

"She challenged me like nobody

had challenged me before - with truth," he said.

"So when she was telling me the Church was this and this, I didn't even question it.

"It was a grace."

Slowly, his English teacher "turned up the volume", pointing out that Eduardo never really loved God with some of his actions as a Hollywood actor.

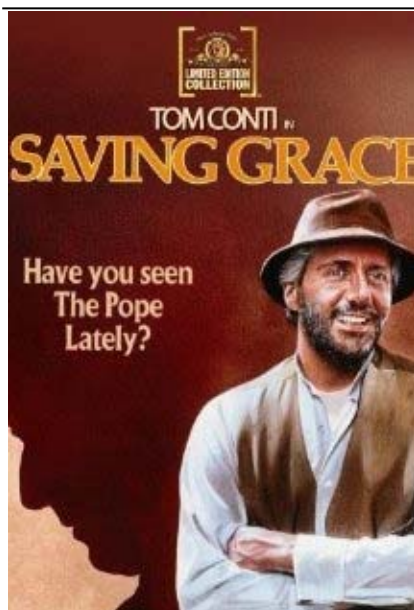
"She said, 'You think that the real man is a Latino lover, a womaniser, and meanwhile here the Church is teaching that we are called to be saints, and you need to live a chaste life ...'," he said.

"And my heart was just broken in pieces, and I realised God allowed me to see my own misery and my own sinful nature and people I hurt in the past."

Eduardo considered ending his career and becoming a missionary, finding it difficult to land acting jobs that would not offend his faith, family or Latino culture, when his spiritual director advised him to remain in Hollywood.

Eduardo found himself moving around the world again, but this time to receive a blessing from Pope John Paul II, and to begin producing and acting in Metanoia Film's first movie, Bella.

Bella, which was shot in 24 days, went on to be a winning film at the Toronto International Film Festival. It is also claimed that it has saved the lives of more than 1000 babies



## Ho.T Free FILM NIGHT



Friday April 12th, 7.30 pm - Join together to watch:

### *Saving Grace* PG

A newly-elected not-so-old Pope who feels he has lost touch with the people accidentally locks himself out of the Vatican and believes it is part of God's plan for him. Unknown to the outside world, he winds up in an impoverished Italian village, where his adventures ultimately teach the Pope and his new friends some important lessons about friendship and self-esteem. This is a very human man who goes on a quest to rekindle his faith & identity. It is moving, funny, dramatic, & ultimately inspiring.

Tea and coffee provided. Come and enjoy a social evening!

whose mothers had considered abortions before watching the film. Today, Eduardo attends daily Mass, prays the Rosary in Latin, and offers Miraculous Medals attached to humble requests for Hail Marys. His mission as a producer, director and actor is to promote beauty and

dignity in his films. Eduardo (who is, yes, a single man) is not sure what else God has planned for him, but in his 10 years as a "baby" Catholic, he's learnt to stop humouring God: "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans".

## AN APPEAL FROM THE WEST WAGGA - SAN ISIDORE REFUGEE COMMITTEE

Our committee is appealing for help to cover the cost of an airfare from Africa of a young man who has finally been granted a permanent residency visa. Our committee is seeking financial donations or your support in buying/selling tickets in a raffle for a beautiful Quillo handmade by Judy Ellis.

### A POIGNANT STORY.

Behind this appeal is a beautiful story of a mother's love for her son. Augusta arrived in Wagga Wagga as a refugee 9 years ago from the war in Sierra Leone. She arrived filled with anxiety for her 25 year old son Emmanuel who was still a refugee in Africa. As soon as she could an application to reunite him with her was lodged with Immigration. The long wait began. The rejection of this application was a devastating blow as were the failures of subsequent appeals and other attempts to get her son to Australia.

"I must not give up hope" I remember Augusta saying after

another set back. "I keep praying and I tell Emmanuel to pray" she said. Along with her own settlement stresses she continued for many years to work long hours to pay for the financial costs involved the complex bureaucratic process of



getting a visa. We recognised the heartache of this mother and we too prayed for a successful outcome during our regular refugee prayer vigils.

After eight long testing years, last week, Augusta's prayers

were answered! A letter confirmed that the visa had been granted. The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Brendan O'Connor MP had exercised a Ministerial Intervention to grant the visa.

The refrain "Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy" rang so true as Augusta shared her news with us.

Our committee made a commitment long ago to assist with support for securing this reunion. We are a small committee of little means but the good will and generosity of people has never failed us when we asked for help.

DONATIONS OR REQUEST FOR QUILLO TICKETS CAN BE GIVEN TO:

PEGGY ADAMSON 69313059,  
MARY CRIMMINS 69313008  
JOAN SABOISKY 69313048

## Mass For You At Home



Southern Cross Ten Network broadcasts

### Mass For You At Home

throughout Australia on Channel Eleven every Sunday morning at 5:30am.

The website for **Mass For You At Home** is

<http://www.mfyah.com.au/>

The most recent Sunday Mass is available for your viewing at this website at any time.

Youth can record it from TV for the elderly and play it for them later in the day.

Or set it up for them if they can't do it themselves.

This is a great work of charity.

# The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



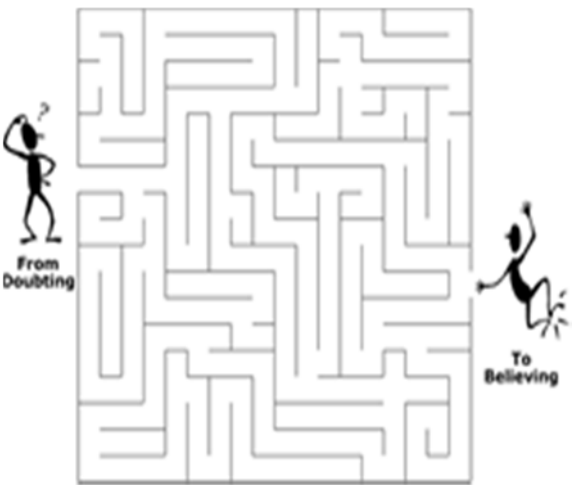
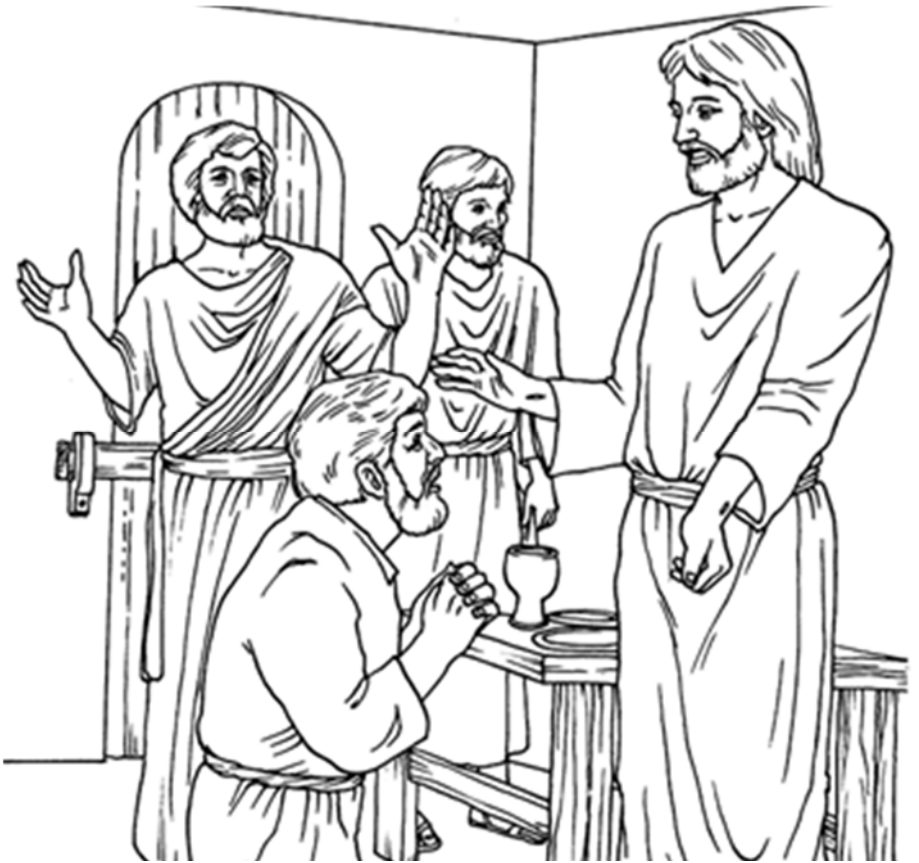
Serving: Ashmont,  
Collingullie,  
Glenfield, Lloyd,  
and San Isidore



## “Doubt no longer but believe”

Thomas said, “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands & put my finger where the nails were, & put my hand into His side, I will not believe”

A week later Jesus said, “Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand & put it into My side. Stop doubting & believe.”



Y	J	M	N	P	S	M	B	J	D	J	Y	D	J	S
C	X	I	T	A	T	F	M	L	H	O	Y	W	A	X
W	X	R	K	N	Y	G	X	P	O	F	O	M	E	D
X	M	A	D	V	Y	G	E	A	X	C	O	R	E	H
R	X	C	C	J	V	D	R	L	X	H	K	V	S	A
T	L	L	U	V	E	D	A	E	T	N	E	E	D	M
T	K	E	S	H	E	H	I	R	C	I	N	S	D	S
O	X	S	C	W	B	A	S	S	L	O	C	Y	N	T
G	R	U	O	L	K	N	Z	E	C	L	R	G	D	N
E	O	H	D	Q	Z	D	B	H	J	I	I	D	E	P
T	S	I	U	J	J	S	A	S	R	S	P	F	E	Z
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E	T	W	U	S	N	K	D	D	U	L	G	E	E	E
R	S	R	N	U	K	P	S	E	S	L	V	H	N	S
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JESUS  
MIRACLES  
DOORS  
TOUCHED  
TOGETHER  
SIGNS  
LIFE  
THOMAS

DOUBTING  
SHOWED  
HANDS  
SIDE  
RECORDED  
BELIEVED  
DISCIPLES  
LOCKED