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

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 134 April 2014

Coming Events

The Gift of Refuge: Mon 7 **Lenten Confessions: Mon** Lenten Program: Mon 10, 14 Prayer Vigil for Peace: Thurs 10 Home of Compassion: Mon 14 **Easter Ceremony Times Passion Sunday:** normal Mass Sunday times Mon 14: Mass of Oils St. Pat's Albury, 11am **Tues 15: 2nd Rite Reconciliation** 7.30pm Holy Trinity Thurs 17: No 7am Mass (adoration as usual 6am) Holy Thurs: 7pm Mass **Home of Compassion Good Fri: 11am Stations of Cross** 3pm Veneration of Cross Holy Sat: Easter Vigil 6.30pm San Isidore **Easter Sun: 9am Holy Trinity** 9.30am St Michael's Collingullie 10.30am Loreto Home Compassion 5.30pm Glenfield Center ANZAC DAY: Fri 25 St Joseph Worker: May 1

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The due date for the next Wag is: **Sunday May 4th.**

Good news for the Confraternity of Christ the Priest!

In March the
Confraternity of Christ
the Priest gained two
new members.
Brothers Henry and
Anselm have been
Novices for 12 months
and have now become
members of the
Confraternity. They now
study at Vianney College.



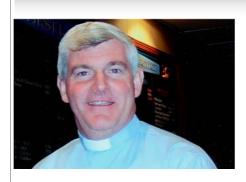
Br Anselm is in 4th year and Brother Henry in 5th year.

At the end of March, Marvin and Richardson came from Sri Lanka to begin their training with the Confraternity. And on 5th April, four more men have come from Vietnam to join Marvin and Richardson at the Confraternity's House of Studies in San Isidore. Among the men shown below are Thomas, Francis, Xavier and

Joseph. In both Vietnam and Sri Lanka the Confraternity of Christ the Priest has been running candidate programs to help these men and others to discern their vocations and

prepare for life serving the Church. We hope that in the near future these men will begin to enrich the life of our parish of West Wagga Wagga.





Easter is a time *of* Reconciliation. It is also a time *for* Reconciliation. I am not just referring to the Sacrament of Penance which all are exhorted to receive regularly and especially during Lent or in the lead up of Holy Week, when there is the Second Rite in the parish.

Easter is a time of reconciliation whereby Jesus died for each of us individually; reconciling us to his Father. All were sinners in need of redemption. Jesus Christ is the Redeemer. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, 'so if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ' (2 Cor 5:17-18).

I have written many times about forgiving one's enemy (Mt 6:12) and asking Jesus to bless them (Lk 6:28). 'Lord, I forgive (name) & I ask you to bless him/her.' Acting in a timely manner forestalls deep emotion growing into anger, resentment, bitterness & even wrath. It is an early lesson in life how these feelings can grow in one's heart & even lead to a murderous action. This was the case in the first family, where one sibling Cain killed his brother Abel, righteous though Abel was (Gen 4:8).

I have also exhorted how when guilty of an offence, we all should apologise and ask for forgiveness in a timely manner (cf. Mt 5:23-24). Of course, the emphasis here is on when guilty. Jesus fully forgave his killers (Lk 23:34); but he never had to apologise. He had no need to. He was an innocent lamb led to slaughter never opening his mouth (Acts 8:32). Jesus was often accused and even found guilty by those in authority, even

pastor's page

when he was innocent. The Scriptures speak of the murderous intent others had for him (Mt 26:4). Jealousy and pride had blinded them to his message (Mk15:10). He was falsely accused of all manner of sins; blasphemy (Mk 2:7; Mt 26:65); gluttony (Mt 11:19); drunkenness (Lk 7:34); idolatry (Jn 10:33); a friend of sinners (Mt 11:19). He was even said to be mad (Mk 3:21). His enemies felt justified to 'mock him, spit upon him, flog him, & kill him' (Mk 10:34), wrong though they were.

Jesus provides a powerful teaching on reconciliation in Matthew's Gospel. St. Matt records it because he was a personal beneficiary of Christ's kindness to tax collectors. Jesus taught how to go about achieving reconciliation with a neighbour; irrespective of the degree of the offense. This is no idle teaching but a profound healing truth actioned in five clear steps. Each needs to be followed if we truly want to walk the way of Jesus. a) If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are <u>alone</u>; b) If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. c) But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. d) If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; e) and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector' (Mat 18: 15-17).

a) is clear enough, for it respects the privacy, confidentiality & dignity of the individual; b) conciliation is a resolution & attempt to repair a broken relationship; c) be sure about the allegation. Witnesses are essential. Sometimes people imagine an offence or are unjustifiably emotional or are grieved when they have no right to take offence; d) only after these prior three steps have been tried & proven unsuccessful, should an authority figure (e.g. church leader or legal court) be brought into the dispute to mediate a reproché mon;

reconciliation! e) Yet it is this final step that is the most important. Where everything else has failed; when all prior steps & attempts have been unsuccessful, then the ultimate Christlike attitude must be applied. "Treat the other as a Gentile and a tax collector." Love them into reconciliation. This verse is not a permission to ignore or alienate them; as some uninformed people have interpreted the verse.

Each of us in turn, if we are truly about reconciliation, need to do as Jesus taught & demonstrated in his life. Jesus forgave all, without exception. He proved what he said, by acting identically with what he taught. He treated prostitutes, tax collectors, Pharisees & even Gentiles (Mk 7:26) with the greatest respect and love. And far from alienating them, having nothing to do with them by ignoring them and ostracizing them, he welcomed them, spent time with them and reconciled them. Ultimately, he died for them. This is the service of charity at its best, 'I call you friends'. Mary Magdalen, a lady of the night was his friend (Lk 7:38), Matthew the tax collector was his friend, (Lk 19:5), Saul (St. Paul) the persecuting Pharisee was his friend (Lk 9:17).

The lesson for each of us is: 'do to others as we would have them do to us' (Mt 7:12). This begins with: 'Forgive and you will be forgiven' (Mt 6:12); be kind, considerate, charitable, just, & never hold a grudge or act in a petty or vengeful manner (Sermon on the Mount).

'All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; so we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us' (2 Cor 5:18-20).

That means; die to self, and to treat others as Gentiles and tax collectors, truly forgiving all others faithfully and firmly in one's heart. Jesus did! You can too - with his help. Easter Ceremonies are proofs of our Reconciliation.

71 Gerard

April Jokes



I HEARD YOU BLURTING MY NAME THERE ... ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

What kind of birds flock together? Vel-crows.

What do prisoners use to call each other? Cell phones.

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her small boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The Mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."

What Do You Call A Bear With No Teeth? A Gummy Bear

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mike, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were \$70!!! No way, I thought. I can get one cheaper off the web.

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

A three-year old put his shoes on by himself. His mother noticed the left was on the right foot. She said, "Son, your shoes are on the wrong feet." He looked up at her with a raised brow and said, "Don't kid me, Mom. I KNOW they're my feet."

I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I'll let you know.

A father was at the beach with his children when his four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore, where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

What two words have a thousand letters in them? Post Office!

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

I was walking the dogs the other day when all of a sudden they vanished into thin air. Not sure where they went, but I've got some leads.

Kid's Proverbs

Strike While The... Bug Is Close.

If You Lie Down With The Dogs, You'll... Smell funny in the morning.

Better to be safe than Punch a 5th grader

It's always darkest before...... Daylight Savings Time Never underestimate the power of......Termites

Don't bite the hand that.....looks dirty

A miss is as good as a..... Mr.

You can't teach an old dog new.....math

The pen is mightier than the...... pigs

Where there's smoke there's...... pollution

Happy the bride who....gets all the presents

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and.....you have to blow your nose

If at first you don't succeed get new batteries

Realizing that their home just wasn't big enough with the new baby in the house, Little Johnny's parents discussed moving to a bigger one. Little Johnny sat patiently listening to his parents, then piped in, "It's no use. He'll just follow us anyway."



Daniel Wells - Faith and Football

- By Matt Biddle. For full article 'Footy, Family, Faith' go to Catholic Weekly

Daniel Wells is arguably North Melbourne's most important player, having established himself as one of the league's elite ball users over the past decade.

But there's more to the talented 28-year-old then just football prowess. He's a Catholic, and not just in name only, but one who practises his faith and regards it as an integral part of his life.

Daniel was not raised a Catholic, and had limited experience of religion in his early years. Wells' family moved to WA during his youth. While he never expected to be moving to the other side of the country to play football at the highest level, Daniel says he couldn't be happier with the way his life has panned out since being drafted by North Melbourne. In his first season at the club, he met school teacher Mariangela Laudato. Mariangela would later become his wife and, at the same time, bring him to the Catholic faith.



Before the pair were married in 2006, Daniel completed the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) course in Melbourne, attending sessions on weeknights during the football season.

'I was doing it so I could actually

marry her in a Catholic church and be a part of it,' he says honestly. 'But then it all made a lot of sense to me, it really made me think a lot about things.'

But completing the RCIA course was not only beneficial to his faith, but also to Mariangela's, who was raised Catholic but admits her formation wasn't strong.

'I attended RCIA with Daniel as though I was this good Catholic

bringing someone to the faith when actually I was bringing myself back,' she explains.

After Daniel became Catholic, he and Mariangela were married and, in 2009, the couple welcomed their daughter, Laudate Angelus. Having recently turned five, Laudate is still the apple of her dad's eye, and Daniel believes it's important for him as a father to lead his family in practising and living out their faith. 'The family rosary is very important for us,' he says.

'There's never been a time where, during the season, I've missed Mass. Sometimes I have to let the coaches know that I can't go to the midfield meeting because I'm going to Mass and they're very respectful of that,' he says.

His own measured conduct is respected by both opponents and teammates and Daniel says that's how he likes to live his faith – by his actions rather than his words.

Pope Francis Stuns Thousands With Bold Move

Pope Francis stunned parishioners and his own master of ceremonies when he broke protocol to do something wholly unexpected: he bowed down in front of the crowd at St. Peter's Basilica and confessed his sins to an ordinary priest, Reuters reported.

Typically, the pope goes to confession in private, so his decision was a departure from the past.

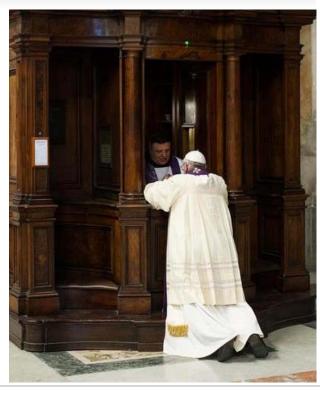
Francis made the noteworthy move after a sermon in which he covered the importance of confession.

"Who can say he is not a sinner? Nobody. We all are," the pope told the congregation of thousands.

Afterward, he was supposed to join 61 priests around the

massive church in hearing the sins of the faithful, but he had a very different plan. When Monsignor Guido Marini, master of ceremonies, pointed Francis toward an empty confessional to hear the congregants' sins, the pope went to a different booth and knelt before a priest to share his own sins for a few minutes.

After that, Francis did hear confessions from the faithful.



Megachurch pastor stuns congregation by announcing he's converting to Catholicism

10/3/2014 By Deacon Greg Kandra

During his Sunday morning service, Ulf Ekman announced the he and his wife, Birgitta, are converting to Roman Catholicism.

Ekman is the founder of Word of Life, a megachurch in Uppsala, Sweden. News reports and blogs coming out of the nation reveal congregation was "partially stunned" after hearing what was packaged as a "special announcement." The theme was "follow the Lamb wherever He goes."

"For Birgitta and me, this has been a slow process were we have gone from discovering new things, to appreciating what we have discovered, to approach and even learn from our fellow Christians," Ekman says on his ministry website.

"We have seen a great love for Jesus and a sound theology, founded on the Bible and classic dogma. We have experienced the richness of sacramental life. We have seen the logic in having a solid structure for priesthood, that keeps

the faith of the church and passes it on from one generation to the next. We have met an ethical and moral strength and consistency that dare to face up to the general opinion, and a kindness towards the poor and the weak. And, last but not least, we have come in contact with representatives for millions of charismatic Catholics and we have seen their living faith."

According to the Alethia blog and think tank, Ekman's conversion is a news story that affects a relatively large part of Swedish Christianity. Word of Life has about 3,000 members and a staff of 12 pastors. The church's school has about 1,000 students. Ekman also launched Scandinavia's largest Bible school, constructed Scandinavia's largest free church building, and rolled out a



media program with TV on all continents, recorded teaching that has been spread around the world, books in 60 languages, and a strong engagement for Israel.

"We have as many know, followed Ekman's steps towards Roman Catholicism since 2007, at times under a lot of ridicule from both members and leadership of the congregation, but also from others within the Christian Community in Sweden," writes Andreas Glandberger, who operates the think tank. "Based on Ulf Ekman's various articles, sermons, statements, and even type of organizations he decided to support financially, a painstaking puzzle has been laid in which the last piece of the puzzle now is in place."

Glandberger went on to say that "shock, anger, sadness, despair and confusion" among the reactions to the news. Others, he writes, were relieved that Ekman's long love affair with the Catholic Church finally was consummated openly, which is also a help in theological discussions.

Are you chasing happiness?

There was once a little puppy that noticed that whenever he was happy, his tail wagged, so the thought he had found the secret to happiness. One day he shared the secret of happiness with an older dog.

He said, "I have learned that the best thing for a dog is happiness, and that happiness is in my tail. So I am going to chase my tail; and when I catch it, I shall have happiness!" The old dog replied, "I too, believe that happiness is a marvelous thing for a dog, and that happiness is in my tail. But I have noticed that when I chase it, my tail

keeps running away from me; but when I go about my business, it follows me wherever I go."

The Bible has a lot to say about being happy. It doesn't say, "Happy are they who have a lot of money" or "Happy are they who live in big houses and drive fancy cars." It doesn't even say, "Happy are they who only have good things happen to them." What the Bible does say is, "Happy are the merciful, happy are the peacemakers, and happy are the pure in heart." The Bible also says, Happy is he who trusts in the Lord. Many of us are like that little puppy chasing his tail -- trying to find true happiness that is

always just out of our reach. What we need to do is learn that if we will just go about our business and trust in the Lord, happiness will follow us wherever we go.

Sermons 4 Kids.com



April Canonisations of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II!

Asked by reporters in July to describe the two late popes, Pope Francis said Blessed John was "a bit of the 'country priest,' a priest who loves each of the faithful and knows how to care for them; he did this as a bishop and as a nuncio" in Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and France before becoming a cardinal and patriarch of Venice.

He was holy, patient, had a good sense of humor and, especially by calling the Second Vatican Council, was a man of courage, Pope Francis said. "He was a man who let himself be guided by the Lord."

As for Blessed John Paul, Pope Francis told the reporters on the plane, "I think of him as 'the great missionary of the church," because he was "a man who proclaimed the Gospel everywhere."

Blessed John Paul II's Accomplishments

Well, just the few accomplishments that will fit in this space:

John Paul II was one of the most influential leaders of the 20th century. He is recognised as helping to end Communist rule in his native Poland and eventually all of Europe. John Paul II significantly improved the Catholic Church's relations with Judaism, Islam, the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the Anglican Communion.

To the world sick with counterfeit, cheap and deadly ideas about the body John Paul II brought the theology of the body.

In his time as Pope the Church received the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the new Code of Canon Law, World Youth Days and the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary.

He was one of the most travelled world leaders in history, visiting 129 countries during his pontificate.

As part of his special emphasis on the universal call to holiness, he beatified 1,340 people and canonised 483 saints, more than the combined tally of his predecessors during the preceding five centuries.

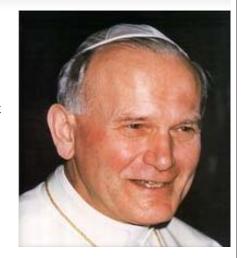
His is the 3rd longest pontificate in the history of the papacy. The longest was that of St. Peter (precise dates unknown), followed by Pope Pius IX (1846-78: 31 years, 7 months, 17 days).

In his 26 and a half years as Pope, John Paul II held nine consistories in which he has created 232 cardinals.

From the start of his pontificate, the Holy Father named over 3,500 of the world's nearly 4,200 bishops.

He wrote 14 encyclicals, 14 apostolic exhortations, 11 apostolic constitutions, 42 apostolic letters and 28 Motu proprio in addition to hundreds of other messages and letters.

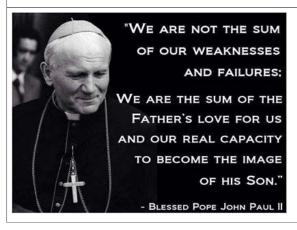
While Pope he wrote five books: Crossing the Threshold of Hope (1994), Gift and Mystery (1996), Roman Triptych (poetry, 2003), Arise, Let us Be Going (2004) and



Memory and Identity (2005).

He was shot and forgave his would be assassin. He was an academic and an athlete, knew at least 8 languages.

Pope John Paul II's last audible words, on hearing tens of thousands of young people singing in St. Peter's Square as he lay in his deathbed, "I sought you out and now you come to me. Thank you."



"Faced with today's problems and disappointments, many people will try to escape from their responsibility. Escape in selfishness, escape in sexual pleasure, escape in drugs, escape in violence, escape in indifference and cynical attitudes. I propose to you the option of love, which is the opposite of escape." JPII

"To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others." JPII

Blessed John XXIII's cure of Sister Caterina Capitani



Pope John XXIII was born in 1881, John died in 1963.

Three years later, in 1966, a nun was dying in Naples. Although she was still a young woman, Sister Caterina Capitani's troubles went back to years of internal bleeding from ulcers. As a radical remedy, threequarters of her stomach and her spleen had been removed in 1965. In May 1966, the quarter stomach she had left developed a peptic ulcer complicated by fistula, that is, an open, running sore than broke through her abdomen, emitting everything she ate. Her pulse weak, breathing laboured, and temperature high, and the fistula making normal nourishment impossible, Sister Caterina was close to death. She received the last rites and, at her request, was left alone in her hospital room to pray. Saying her rosary, she suddenly felt a hand on her ravaged stomach while a man's voice said her name.

The sudden touch and voice frightened her as she had heard no one enter. Nervously she rolled over and saw Pope John, "smiling and indescribably beautiful," at her side.

"You prayed to me very much," he said with a calm voice. "Many people have prayed to me, but especially one. You have really taken this miracle from my heart. But don't be afraid now, you are healed. Ring the bell, call the sisters who are in the chapel, have them take your temperature & you will see that you will not have even the slightest temperature. Eat whatever you want, as you did before the sickness: I will hold my hand on

your wound, & you will be healed. Go to the Professor, have him examine you, have some x-rays done and have it all written down, because these things will be needed someday."

"The vision disappeared, and only then did I begin to realize what had happened. I wondered whether it had been a dream. I was trembling from the emotion and fear. I felt well. I felt no pain, but I didn't dare call the sisters: they would have thought I was crazy. After several minutes, I had to decide. I did what the Pope had told me to: I rang the bell.

"The sisters hurried to my bedside. They found me sitting up on the bed. They looked at me as if they were dreaming. I could no longer stifle my joy, and I almost shouted: 'I have been healed. It was Pope John. Measure my fever, you'll see that I have none'. Mother Superior thought I was delirious, as sometimes happens before death.

"They took my temperature: 36.8 C°. 'Do you see?', I said, challenging them. 'Now give me something to eat because I'm hungry'. I hadn't been able to hold anything down in my stomach for many months. Mother Superior, who was almost hypnotized by my state of excitement, ordered the sisters to do as I asked. A sister brought me some semolina, which I ate voraciously, to the astonishment of my sisters. Then they brought me an ice cream, and I ate that too. 'I'm still hungry', I said. The sister brought me some meatballs, and I ate those, followed by some soup, and I devoured that as well.

At this point, the Mother Superior, who was still not convinced of what was happening, said: 'Now we have to change you', thinking that everything I had eaten had gone out of the fistula that had opened on my stomach, which is what always happened. They lay me down on the bed. A nurse brought gauze and a clean nightgown. They uncovered me. The nurse shouted: 'But there's

nothing here'. The sisters fell on their knees, crying from emotion. Until a few minutes earlier the skin on my stomach had been one big wound: the gastric fluids that continually flowed out of the fistula had corroded the skin. The wound had completely disappeared. There was no sign of the fistula, not a trace: the skin was smooth, clean and white. So I told them what had happened.

Within 48 hours nourishment restored her strength to the point that she went back to her demanding work as a nurse. From that time on, she had none of the digestive problems that ought to remain in her case. Her cure was proclaimed the official miracle at Pope John XXIII's beatification on September 3, 2000.

A few facts about Pope John XXIII: Firstborn son of a farming family in northern Italy.

As a priest he served as a bishop's secretary, Church history teacher in seminary, publisher of a diocesan paper and stretcher-bearer for the Italian army during World War I.

In 1925 he became a papal diplomat serving in Bulgaria, Turkey, and finally in France. With the help of Germany's ambassador to Turkey, he helped save around 24,000 Jews.

His most famous encyclicals were Mother and Teacher (1961) and Peace on Earth (1963).



The West Wagga Wag West Wagga Parish

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

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25 (NIV)



Help Lazarus find his way to Jesus.



S S U Е U Υ Е G Q E S E Ρ C D K G Е Z 0 Е Е Ι В Р S J S HAEUUQH В J SICKV MARY WAKE SICK LAZARUS **JESUS**

PRAYED ENTRANCE LOVE BELIEVE BROTHER

STONE WEEPING GLORY

DISCIPLES LIFE

DEATH RISE

MARTHA TOMB SLEEP