

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 115

August 2012

Coming Events

Transfiguration of the Lord; Mon 6
Confirmation Meetings: Tuesdays
St Mary of the Cross; Wed 8



Ho.T School Play:
“Kids at Sea”
14/15

Young Mum’s
Rosary Group:
Wed 8

Parish Film Night:
“One Hit from
Home”: Fri 10

Community of God’s Sons and
Daughters: Sun 12
Carmelite Ladies Auxiliary Meeting:
Mon 13
Home of Compassion Auxiliary AGM:
Mon 13
Parish Pastoral Council AGM: Mon 13
National Marriage Day Rally: Tues 14
Solemnity of the Assumption BVM:
Wed 15
Prayers for Healing: Fri 17
Enthronement of Two Hearts in
Homes: 18/19
Afternoon of Exquisite Music: Sat 18
Too Sexy Too Soon Lecture: Thurs 23
Migrant & Refugee Sunday: Aug 26
Ho.T Confirmations: Fri 31

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The due date for the next Wag is:
Sunday September 2nd

A Moment of Grace



In this Year of Grace it is good to recall the greatest grace that any person can receive.

It is Holy Communion; receiving the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ the Son of God into one’s very being.

In this year of Grace the young parishioners from the St Mary MacKillop School made their First Holy Communion. At the 9am Mass last Sunday at Holy Trinity, Emma and Thomas Stephens both received Jesus for the first time. Both have been longing for this moment; Emma as she sings in the choir at Mass each Sunday and Thomas who began serving at the altar last year.

Johnny Kennedy also made his First Holy Communion at St Michael’s Cathedral last Sunday in the afternoon with a number of other children from the school. Johnny is named after his grandfather Mr. John

Kennedy who did very much behind the scenes at Holy Trinity Church and was a great help to Father Andrew Quinn when he was pastor at West Wagga. Sr Dolores PBVM (of happy memory) who was Father Quinn’s assistant always spoke with the highest praise of Mr. John Kennedy for all that he did in helping Father and the parish.

We congratulate each of these children and their parents and teachers in bringing the children to this significant moment of Grace.

May God bless them and keep them always faithful to the Sacramental Graces of the Holy Eucharist.

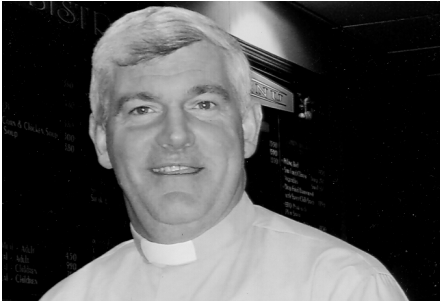


The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: August 15th

This day is so special that it is only one of two days where all are expected to go to Mass and praise God for his goodness to us. Other days of obligation are Christmas Day and each Sunday of the year.

Masses on Wednesday 15 are: 7am & 10.15am at Holy Trinity
and 5.45pm at San Isidore

pastor's page



Parish Council

Each year since 2003 an Annual Parish Report has been produced which comprises both the parish's various apostolates and its financial state. Generally this report coincides with the Annual Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee Meeting. This year the AGM will be held on **Monday evening, August 13 at 7pm** at the Ho.T hall. In this issue of the Wag I wanted to highlight the importance of the Parish Pastoral Council. I invite and encourage greater involvement of parishioners in the parish council. We have always had quality people involved, all are welcome. To this end I thought I would present the mind of the Church regarding the Parish Pastoral Council.

The Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee Meeting are something that arose after Vatican II with its highlighting of lay participation in parish decision making as an assistance to the parish clergy. The Vatican II Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People (*Apostolicam actuositatem*, par. 26, 1965) recommended the establishment of councils at all levels of the Catholic Church including the parish. Such councils had one purpose; namely, to assist in the Church's "apostolate" or mission. This was the genesis of the "parish pastoral council".

In 1984, the revised Code of Canon Law was published. In canon 536, it recommended (but did not mandate) "pastoral" councils at the parish level. The pastoral council (according to the decree) has a

threefold purpose. It (1) investigates pastoral matters, (2) ponders or reflects on them, & (3) reaches conclusions that are recommended to the pastor. The canon defines the purpose of councils in an extremely brief way. It says they "give their help in fostering parish activity".

A pastoral council is to be constituted, under the authority of the parish priest, to investigate, consider, and propose practical conclusions about those things which pertain to pastoral works in the parish (c.511). The parish pastoral council consists of members of the Christian faithful who are in full communion with the Catholic Church; clerics, members of institutes of consecrated life, and especially laity (c.512, §1).

The Christian faithful who are designated to a pastoral council are to be selected in such a way that they truly reflect the entire portion of the people of God which constitutes the diocese, with consideration given to the different areas of the parish, social conditions & professions, and the role which they have in the apostolate whether individually or joined with others (§2). No one except members of the Christian faithful outstanding in firm faith, good morals, and prudence is to be designated to a pastoral council (§3).

Members of the pastoral council are constituted for a set period of time, usually two years (c.513). The pastoral council has a consultative voice with the parish priest who convokes a gathering according to the needs of the apostolate and it is the parish priest who presides (c.514 §1). The pastoral council is to be convoked at least once a year (§2).

The parish pastoral council is concerned about parish apostolates, and considers such parish matters as annual planning, scheduling and budgeting, capital improvements, and other matters. The pastor who establishes these councils consults

them to achieve the threefold purpose; namely, to investigate some aspect of the pastoral situation, reflect about it, and recommend suggested conclusions.

The Parish Finance Committee is formed to assist the parish priest (c.492 §1). It consists of at least three members of the Christian faithful truly expert in financial affairs and/or law, who are outstanding in integrity and appointed by the parish priest. Members of the finance council are appointed for five years and may be reappointed (§2).

The functions of the Finance Committee are to assist with the temporal goods of the parish; prepare a budget of the income and expenditures which are foreseen for the entire governance of the parish in the coming year and at the end of the year render an account of the revenues and expenses and prepare a report (c.493 & 494§4).

Again, I invite all to consider giving a portion of time to this important apostolate of service to the parish. As pastor I appreciate input regarding improvements and modifications within the parish. All of us have some expertise to contribute to the overall commonweal of the parish. See you on Monday August 13 at 7pm.

Fr Gerard

Time for a Smile

- Gargling is a good way to see if your throat leaks.
- I was born to be a pessimist. My blood type is B Negative.



- Treat each day as your last; one day you will be right.
- There are 2 rules for success: 1.) Don't tell all you know.

August Jokes



Policeman: "One of your elephants has been seen chasing a man on a bicycle."

Zoo Keeper: "Nonsense, none of my elephants knows how to ride a bicycle!"

How to you keep an elephant in suspense? I'll tell you tomorrow!

What goes up slowly & comes down quickly? An elephant in a lift!

What's the difference between an elephant and a banana?

Have you ever tried to peel an elephant?

How do you know when there is an elephant under your bed?

When your nose touches the ceiling!

So these two roaches, Tom and Oscar, are hanging out next to a dumpster enjoying a snack. "Hey Tom" said Tom to his friend Oscar, "You know that restaurant down the block? I went there yesterday to pick up some scraps, and I couldn't believe how clean it was, I could practically see my reflection through the shiny waxed floor." "Oscar" hollered Tom spitting the food out of his mouth, "please not while I am eating!!"

An old priest lay dying. He sent a message for an Australian Taxation Office Supervisor and his Lawyer to come to the hospital.

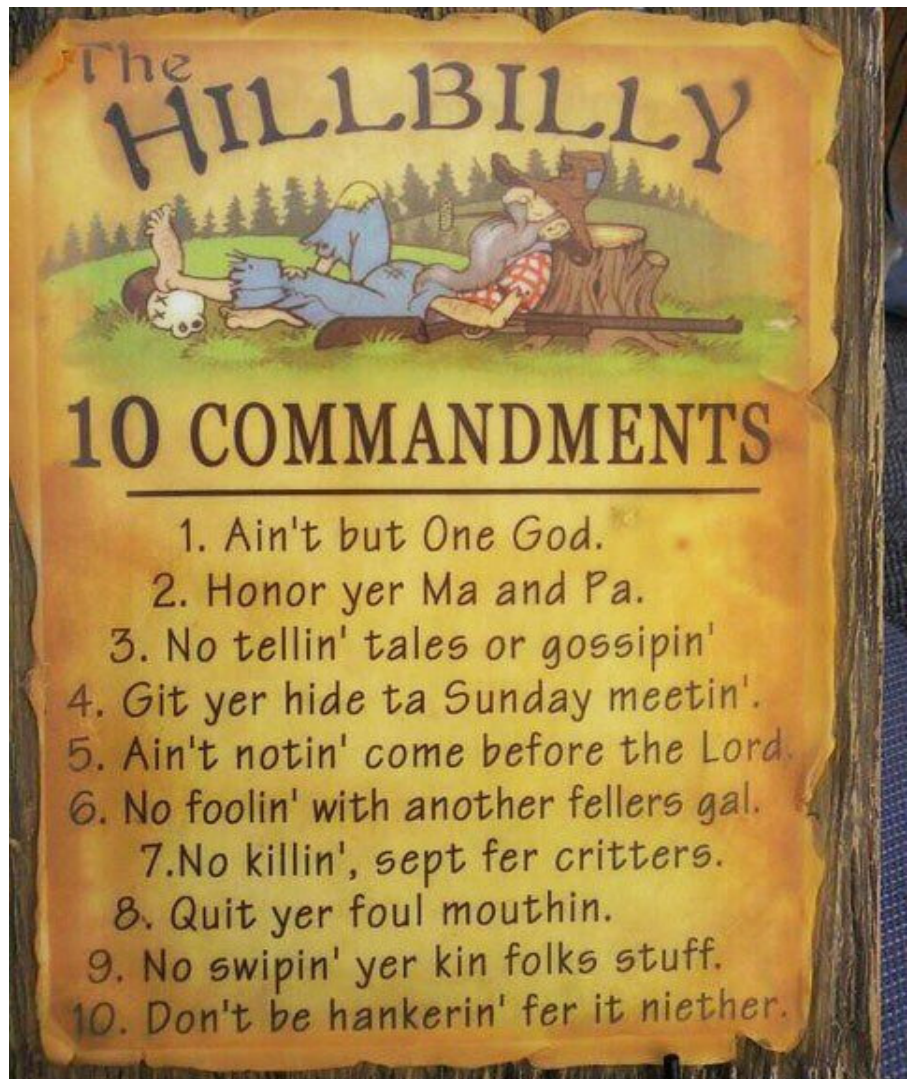
When they arrived, they were ushered up to his room. As they entered the room, the priest held out his hands and motioned for them to

sit on each side of the bed. The priest grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled and stared at the ceiling. For a time, no one said anything.

Both the Australian Taxation Office Supervisor and the Lawyer were touched and flattered that the old man would ask them to be with him during his final moments. They were also puzzled because the priest had never given any indication that he particularly liked either one of them.

Finally, the Lawyer asked, Father, "why did you ask the two of us to come here?" The old priest mustered all his strength, and then said weakly, "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I'd like to go."

Jeff was fast asleep in his at bed at 3:00 am when he heard an urgent knocking at the door. Rubbing the sleep out of his eyes he made his way to the door. "Can you give me a push", asked the man at the door." Jeff looked at the man, thinking he looked a bit drunk, slammed the door in his face and went back to bed. "Shame on you", said his wife Sally, when hearing the story. "You remember on our vacation how our car got stuck in the middle of the night and that man helped us, go out there and push his car." So Jeff trudges back out of bed, opens the door, and calls out "Ok I'm here to give you a push, where are you?" I'm over here in the back" came the voice



Former atheist poet reveals details of her Conversion

“Until two years ago, I was a really committed atheist and I really hated the Catholic Church,” said poet Sally Read, as she explained how all that dramatically changed during nine months in 2010.

“The whole process took from March to December, and I was received into the Catholic Church at the Vatican in December, so it was a bit of a lightning flash.”

A 41-year-old Englishwoman, Sally Read is regarded as a rising poetry star. Her publisher describes the former psychiatric nurse as “one of a new generation of younger poets shaping the future of British poetry.”

She now lives in an Italian seaside town with her husband & daughter. It was there her conversion story began 2 years ago while she was writing an anthology.

“As I was writing this book, I became very aware that I didn’t know where the soul was and I didn’t know if the soul existed & it was really driving me crazy.” Her frustration led her into discussion, & often heated debate, with a Canadian priest who was based in the coastal resort town.

“So, while I was talking to this priest about, well, is there a God and all of that kind of stuff, I kind

of had this feeling as a poet that God was the ultimate poet & the ultimate Creator, & I was simply being used as an instrument.”

It was at that point that she phoned the priest to say, “I don’t think I’m an atheist after all.” But she refused to



make the intellectual leap ..., insisting to her priest friend that he would never convert her.

“He was very patient & very good.” He said, ‘Christ will convert you, I’m not going to convert you’

Read was raised in a strictly anti-religious household, so she now felt like “everything I had ever believed in (was) being turned upside down.”

“It was very, very difficult. I wasn’t sleeping at all. I was very emotionally traumatized,” she said, of those months in 2010 as “the most disrupted period in my whole life.”

Her turmoil ended abruptly one afternoon when she stepped into a

local Catholic Church.

“Just one day, I was in tears and said to this icon of Christ, ‘If you’re there, then you have to help me.’ And, this thing happened which is very hard to explain, but I felt as if I was being physically lifted up and my tears stopped, and I felt this presence.” She described the sensation as “utterly tangible,” so much so that from then on she “knew that life was devoted to Christ. There was nothing else.”

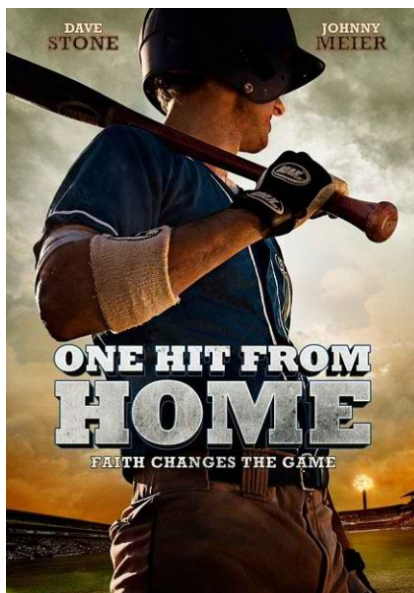
Her journey into the Catholic Church quickly followed.

“I realized that there was only one Church and the way to be closest to Christ was to be a Catholic, because it’s the Eucharist and [receiving] Communion.”

Since then she’s faced opposition from family members & shock from a socially-liberal artistic establishment. &, yet, “I’m still happier than I’ve ever been,” she said with a broad grin on her face.

As for writing, her 3rd anthology of poetry will be released this year. But the philosophical outlook of her work has changed dramatically.

“So, I don’t know where it’s going to go with poetry, but I think it’s going to be interesting,” Read said.



Ho.T FILM NIGHT



Friday August 10th 7.30 pm — Join together to watch:

One HIT from HOME PG

After suffering a career ending knee injury, baseball superstar Jimmy Easton returns to a place he has not been in a very long time...home. Things take an unexpected turn when he is forced back into the world of baseball as the coach of an underachieving college team.

Tea and coffee provided.

Come and enjoy a social evening!

From drug dealer to Ukrainian Catholic monk

For years, the alcohol, the drugs, the parties consumed Taras Kraychuk. Then, literally, he saw the light.

He's now Father Taras (Terry) Kraychuk, serving as a pastor-monk in the Ukrainian Catholic Church and living the monastic life near Derwent, Alberta.

For 12 years, Fr Kraychuk has followed God's call to serve others.

Fr Kraychuk said his conversion came on a bus trip from California to his family in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He had decided to return home at the urging of friends who felt his hard-driving lifestyle would lead to his death.

The light appeared, he said, soon after he dumped the illicit drugs he was carrying into the toilet in the back of the bus, and he promised God that he would try not to get drunk again. Suddenly, he recalled, he realized that Christ loved him despite his decadent lifestyle.

As he looked out a bus window, Fr Kraychuk said he saw God's creation with new eyes. He turned to the biker-type man behind him, with whom he had exchanged stories about the partying life during the trip, & realized something had happened to his new friend at the same time. They started to talk loudly. People came from the front of the bus to the back and listened.

"That was the moment my life turned around," Fr Kraychuk said.

Not long afterward, Fr Kraychuk began working in native missions in northern Canada, discerning a call to the priesthood and monastic life in the Ukrainian Catholic Church. He was ordained in 2000.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Fr Kraychuk was the child of a devout Ukrainian Catholic family that prayed together & attended Mass weekly.

"I grew up in the faith, but I drifted away," he told an audience. "When I

was about 15 or 16, I was into the drug scene."

As Fr Kraychuk put it, he rejected the land of the church and took off to find another land.

"I wanted to experience all the excitement, all the drugs, all the partying, all that belongs with that kind of life," he said.

When he was kicked out of high school, he left the church & his family & became a biker, traveling throughout much of the United States and Canada. Eventually, he landed in Southern California.

"I was living in a place where all my needs were met, selling drugs and making money," he said.

He never stopped believing that God existed but essentially abandoned himself to fate. Any time he would get in trouble, he would call on God. He constantly read his Gideon Bible, believing that if he read it often, God would protect him from the police.

One day, as he looked through a window, thoughts of emptiness & suicide filled his mind.

"I really thought there was nothing to live for," he said. "I wanted to blow myself away because there was no reason; this is all absurd. This is all meaningless."

In that moment, he heard a voice commanding him to take the Bible & read it. He opened it to St. Paul's letter to the Galatians & read about those who won't be with God: drunkards, fornicators, adulterers. He identified with every sinner on the list.

However, he still rejected God and religion. "I don't want to become a Jesus freak," he recalled thinking. But for the next 14 months, things were different.

"It's like the Lord sent an angel, a spirit that would speak to me," he said. Every time he was ready to make a drug deal, the spirit would

come to remind him his actions were against God's law.

He took off again, making his way to Florida, then to Eastern Canada, trying to shake what he imagined was depression. Returning to his friends in California he became even more involved in drugs & alcohol, so much he would shake from the chemicals in his body. "My old buddies said, 'You've got to go or you are going to kill yourself.'" That's when he hopped the bus to Winnipeg. Between Utah & Idaho, 2 biker types came onto the bus & went to the back where Fr Kraychuk was sitting. They started to talk, sharing their latest adventures with drugs & parties. The conversation then shifted to God & Scripture.

He realized that the same things that had happened to him had happened to 1 of the bikers. "It was like looking in a mirror."

After the conversation had died down, Father Kraychuk turned around in his seat and as he was sitting down he experienced the beginning of change in his life.

"It was Christ himself. And he said to me, 'Terry, there are two roads before you. You know where your road is going; you know where it leads. Now I'm offering you my road. You must choose.'"

Fr Kraychuk knew then he had to choose God, pledging "I'll try to follow you." That's when he dumped the drugs in the toilet.

And then he saw the light.



Fulton Sheen: A Belated Thanks by C Hogan



When I was a child, I was fascinated by my parents' photograph albums. I could sit with them for hours, as they talked about people long gone, places they left long ago.

There were little, ageing prints of distant (to me) rels, their feet firmly planted on the running boards of first cars, grandparents dressed up for the Show or a wedding, ping pong teams filled with fresh faced juniors from Mum and Dad's work, The Courier-Mail in Brisbane.

The pictures were a bit dog-eared, cherished, fading a little to a slightly yellowish tinge. The faces were pretty obscure, and the lighting invariably hit and miss.

But there was one photo which never failed to transfix me. It was a 10 x 8 glossy, and signed for Mum. It was lit for days, the contrasts strong and perfect, the subject crisp. If she had told me it was of a Hollywood star, I would not have been surprised. Dear me, this was a handsome man – hair a high gloss black, a faraway expression in the eye.

He was wearing a Roman collar, so he looked like a priest (although one much better looking than anyone in the sanctuary up at Little Flower), and he had two surnames

instead of a Christian name and a surname. I handed that photo with care, whenever Mum opened the photo box, and whenever I asked him how she came by it, she would just tell me that he gave it to her.

It was not until years later that I came to understand the importance of Fulton Sheen in the 20th Century Church – and to appreciate the role he played in my mother's life... and mine.

In 1948, she was secretary to The Courier's managing director, and not quite 20. She was considering her options in life... she had met Dad and they were interested in each other, but she was in the process of discerning if she had a vocation.

So when Fulton Sheen came to Australia in that year, she thought she would ask him for some advice.

Imagine that! A girl of 19, asking the rock star church communicator of his time – a man in his early 50s – for an audience. She rang up Lennon's, told them she was from The Courier, and asked to be put through to Fulton Sheen. And so she was. (These really were simpler times, weren't they?)

She told him that she thought she might have a vocation, and wondered if he would be able to help her with that. To his great credit, Fulton Sheen (yet to mitred – that was in 1951) invited her to come after work for a cup of tea.

Mum toddled up Adelaide Street, turned right into George and the Lennon's foyer at the appointed time, and was ushered in to meet him. Fulton Sheen received her with kindness, and grace, and listened carefully as she outlined her inchoate plans – to become a missionary nun. (The Mercies who had taught her at All Hallows might have been astonished to hear this sketch of Mary Kelly's future!)

During their conversation, the man recognized as the first televangelist spoke from the heart to the heart of a young woman. The priest accustomed to thousands in his audiences might have done some discerning himself an, by the end of tea, he was warmly urging her to embrace a life as a wife and a mother (which she did the next year).

It must have been Winter, and Mum must have looked a little under-wrapped to be going off into the chilly Brisbane night. As she left, he gave her five shillings, and told her to buy herself a pair of gloves.

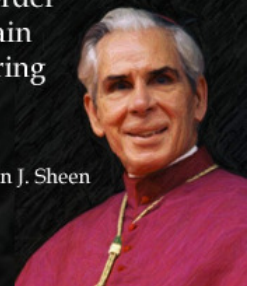
She followed his career in the church after that, and was delighted when he got his TV show, cast down when he and Cardinal Spellman fell out, pleased when he was given a bishopric and then made an archbishop. Mum would have been over the moon to have known that the man who had tea with her, signed a photo for her and funded a pair of leather gloves, is now on the path to canonization.

In June, Pope Benedict XVI officially recognized a decree from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints stating that Archbishop Sheen lived a life of 'heroic virtues'. This is a step towards beatification, and now he is referred to as Venerable Fulton Sheen.

I still have that photograph. And I still look at it from time to time and remember a man I never knew, a

"A religion that doesn't interfere with the secular order will soon discover that the secular order will not refrain from interfering with it."

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen



Consecration of the Family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

~ Alliance of the Two Hearts House-to-House Enthronement

As we see the rise of the “Culture of Death” in our society today, Christ’s request for reparation seems to be now more urgent (Sacred Heart 1670s). The Enemy is out to destroy the Church and society’s basic structure – the family (read Matthew 13:28). This is why there is sometimes a fierce spiritual battle being fought right inside the home. We see parents against their children, children against their parents, spouses against each other. Division is the Enemy’s diabolical mark (read Galatians 5:20). If he succeeds in dividing the family, it is easier for him to divide the Church and society.

Prayer and Reparation are the powerful weapons by which we can defeat evil and win the spiritual battle, the salvation of our souls. Where the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary are enthroned in the home, parents are being asked to pray and make reparation for their children; children are also being asked to make reparation and to pray for holiness of life in their home. Everyone is being asked to pray and make sacrifices especially in these troubled times, for the outrages and sacrileges committed against God and the Blessed Mother so that families can remain united even in face of severe trials. Through the House-to-House Enthronement, the family is initiated into the Daily Communion of Reparation which is both Eucharistic-centred and Marian in spirituality. Through the enthronement of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary in the home, the family enters into an alliance with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary by means of family

consecration. And as the family fulfils the requirements of this consecration (Rosary, Confession, Eucharist, and Holy Hours of Adoration), the family is brought closer together in love and peace. Holiness then increases in the home.

Millions of homes have already been enthroned in 104 countries since the Alliance of the Holy Family was founded in 1992. The Alliance of the Holy Family International (AHFI) started its apostolate under the guidance of the late His Eminence Alfonso Cardinal Trujillo (Prefect of the



Pontifical Council for the Family) and the former Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI). AHFI bring the devotion and the lifestyle of the Alliance of the Two Hearts, which is called the “Communion of Reparation,” to increasingly nurture holiness within family life.

Enthronement is a solemn act of placing God at the centre of people’s lives especially the family. Through a solemn rite, the members of the family accept “holiness” as a state to which God calls each one of them. In the Alliance of Two Hearts House-to-House Enthronement, Jesus is Lord and is worshipped as the King of the family. Mary, on the other hand, is the Mother of Our Lord, our model for holiness and is honoured as the Queen of the home.

During the enthronement ceremony the holy pictures of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary are provided for the family. This means that the family worship Jesus as the Son of God and we honour Mary as the Mother of God. As St. John Eudes explained, Mary is the author of the Heart of Jesus; he refers to their Hearts as “one single Heart,” a unity which is an integral part of the very mystery of the incarnation.

Every family has challenges. We are living in a time of much evil, where sin is no longer considered a sin and where society ignores the existence of God. Consecration to Jesus means total giving of oneself to God, while consecration to Mary means allowing her to be truly our Mother who will bring us closer to Jesus. The consecration to the Two Hearts empowers us to detach ourselves from sin and unite ourselves to Jesus by imitating the life of Mary. The AHFI apostolate is a fruit of love and generosity of the team. Every team does not ask for anything in return, the service is for free. However, the family may make a humble donation solely for the apostolate to defray cost of the materials used (Two Hearts pictures, prayer book, enthronement certification which are all given to the family).

On the weekends of August 4/5 and 18/19 members of the Alliance of the Holy Family International will be in the parish of West Wagga Wagga as a team of apostles. Fr Gerard has invited this team and hopes that every family in the parish will take this blessed opportunity to have their home enthroned to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary who will gift each family with peace, grace and blessing.

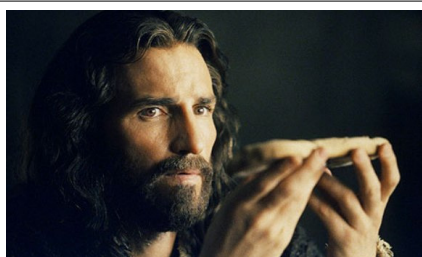
If you would like your family to benefit from this holy and happy apostolate please call Salwa on 0431 430 270 or the parish on 6931 3601.

The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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



John Chapter 6: Jesus tells us about the Blessed Sacrament!

“For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in that person.” (Jn 6:55,56)

A or B? Which is true? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. We should show reverence for the Blessed Sacrament because

- a. it now symbolizes Jesus our Lord
- b. it is now Jesus our Lord

2. How do we know that Jesus changes bread and wine into His very body and blood?

- a. we feel and touch and taste the change
- b. because Jesus said “the bread that I shall give is my flesh, ...For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink”

3. When we receive the Host in Holy Communion we receive

- a. Jesus’ Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity
- b. Jesus’ Body only

4. When does the bread stop being bread and become Jesus’ Body?

- a. at the Consecration when the priest says “this is My Body”
- b. at Communion, when the priest holds up the Host in front of us and says “the Body of Christ”

5. How does Our Lord Jesus become present in the Blessed Sacrament?

- a. by being there along with the bread and wine, which is called Consubstantiation
- b. by the substance of the bread and wine being changed into the substance of the Lord’s Body and Blood, which is called Transubstantiation

1. b; 2. b; 3. a; 4. a; 5. b