

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 162

August 2016

Coming Events

Monthly Cuppa, after 9am Mass on last Sunday of the month

Adoration - 6 to 7am daily, all night Fridays starting 9pm

St Maximilian Kolbe Sun 14

Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary Mon 15

Holy Day of Obligation - this means we all have the same obligation to go to Mass as we have on Sundays and Christmas.

Queenship of Mary Mon 21

St Bartholomew Wed 24

St Monica Sat 27

St Augustine Sun 28

Bishop Gerard Hanna

Farewell Mass - 5 pm Cathedral.

Refreshments -

Our Lady of

Fatima Hall 6:30pm Wed 31

Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.

Mother Teresa



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page - Olympics! 2

Atheist Prof becomes Catholic 4

Human Chimp Myth 5

Ideal spouse? Write it down! 7

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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: Wednesday August 31st.

World Youth Day Poland!

Avoid 'sofa happiness'

Pope Francis tells 1.6 million young people at World Youth Day's Saturday night vigil "Field of Mercy", Krakow, Poland to avoid 'sofa happiness'



"That is probably the most harmful and insidious form of paralysis, since little by little, without even realizing it, we start to nod off, to grow drowsy and dull while others – perhaps more alert than we are, but not necessarily better – decide our future for us," he said.

"This is itself a great form of paralysis, whenever we start thinking that happiness is the same as comfort and convenience, that being happy means going through life asleep or on tranquilizers, that the only way to be happy is to live in a haze."



"Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths."



No to Gender Ideology!

In a meeting with Polish bishops during World Youth Day, Pope Francis condemned gender ideology:

"In Europe, America, Latin America, Africa, and in some countries of Asia, there are genuine forms of ideological colonization taking place. And one of these - I will call it clearly by its name - is [the ideology of] "gender".

Today children – children! – are taught in school that everyone can choose his or her sex... this terrible!"

"In a conversation with Pope Benedict, who is in good health and very perceptive, he said to me: "Holiness, this is the age of sin against God the Creator".

God created man and woman; God created the world in a certain way... and we are doing the exact opposite. "This is the age of sin against God the Creator". That will help us."



pastor's page - the Olympics!

Over the next few weeks many people will be entertained and inspired by seeing 'the world's best athletes' compete at the Olympic Games in Rio.

Despite the bigger issue around the world of jihad and worry about war, and transgender athletes having an unfair advantage in the women's events, we may still be enthusiastic to see our country win gold.

In ancient times winners won a wreath made of bay leaves, also called laurel. And even though they dressed in the style they imagined the 'gods' of Olympus liked and were treated like 'gods', the wreaths withered. Old athletes have only memories, after they can run and jump and swim no more.

Sporting achievement is mostly for a limited period of life, however, lessons learnt through sport can be helpful for the bigger competition, the far more important one. St Paul said that we should "fight the good fight" and "run the race meaning to win!"

Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win. Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one. Thus I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing. No, I drive my body and train it, for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified. (1Cor 9:25-27)

The real race is about reaching heaven, and what we need to win that prize. It is about having strong Faith, Hope and Love (gifts from God which can become stronger as we exercise them); and "working out our salvation" as St Paul also

wrote, "Faith working through love".

No great achievements come through laziness and this is true about our spiritual lives no less than in sport or business. No one can reach heaven by being lazy. As Christians we need to have self-discipline and effort and sacrifice, motivated by love and the hope of heaven.

The saints, those who have received the crown that lasts forever, and have taken their place on the podium of having their names mentioned during the Mass, inspire and instruct us on how to live the Christian life well. Like St Paul they show us that "exercise is beneficial, but spiritual exercise even more so". If only we all put as much effort into our spiritual health and fitness as we do for our bodies! How many hours do good young people spend in training and competing? But how many hours in seeking to be close to God, in prayer and studying about God, in reading the Bible?

As a minimum, we should be at Mass at least once a week, and spend 15 mins in formal prayer each day, and give at least that much time in works of charity.

As well, all we do should be done for love of God and neighbour, done as well as possible, so that everything becomes part of our race to heaven. One important difference between earthly sport and the heavenly is this: as we get older, we can continue to become better and better spiritual athletes. Neither old age or sickness take away our ability to become saints. It is possible to keep getting better and better all the way to heaven, and we should!

And while each of us must run meaning to win, it is possible for everyone to be winners. More than any worldly athlete, Jesus Christ is our hero. The psalms even describe him as a champion running the course. I imagine His physical stamina as He went on His long journeys, walking back and forth throughout Israel; not just back and forth but also up and down, because the country is very hilly. He roughed it, often having "nowhere to lay His head", and being at times hungry, thirsty and tired.

Remember when He told the disciples to have a break because there were so many people around that they did not even have time to eat? And yet when Jesus saw that the people were "like sheep without a shepherd", He bore His weariness and taught them for a long time.

And then there is the way of the Cross. Our Hero nobly and manfully bears the beatings, the insults, the scourging, the crowning of thorns, the carrying of the Cross and the nailing. All His work with St Joseph and long walks built up a strength that was needed now. In all this pain and injury, Our Lord still loves and teaches and speaks words of mercy, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do". And He completes the course, "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit", as He wins salvation for the whole world.

It is Jesus Christ our Hero who most inspires us to take up the Cross daily and to be, through Him, with Him and in Him, champions and true Christians.

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS

I Choose Life, Griffith- 5th Annual Symposium.

1-5pm Saturday 13th August, 2016 at the Griffith Regional Theatre

NO ADMISSION FEE

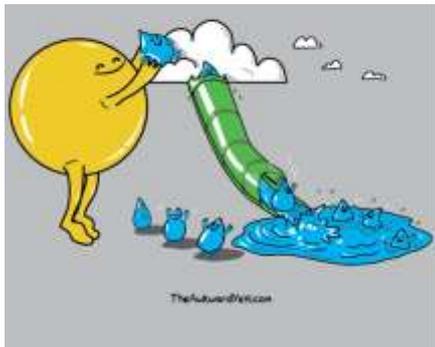
WHAT'S THE TRUTH?

ARE OUR SCHOOLS UNSAFE AND MARRIAGE UNEQUAL?



August Jokes

The Water Cycle:



Old chemistry teachers never die, they just fail to react.

Why do tigers have stripes? So they don't get spotted.

What did the receiver say to the radio wave? Ouch! That megahertz.

What do astronauts do when they get angry? Blast off!

What did the volcano say to his wife? I lava you so much!

What do you call two dinosaurs that have been in an accident? Tyrannosaurus wrecks

What do spacemen do on long trips? They play astronauts and crosses.

Two blood cells met and fell in love. But alas, it was all in vein.

My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned; I couldn't concentrate.

A Relative Limerick

There was an old lady called Wright who could travel much faster than light. She departed one day in a relative way and returned on the previous night.

 <-- lunar eclipse

 <-- solar eclipse

 <-- apocalypse

Q. What do you think of that new restaurant on the moon? A. The food's great, but there's not much atmosphere.

Q. What is the name of the first electricity detective? A. Sherlock Ohms.

Q. Want to hear a joke about sodium hypobromite? A. NaBrO!

Q. What did one electron say to the other electron? A. Don't get excited. You'll only get into a state!

Q. What did the thermometer say to the graduated cylinder? A. You may have graduated but I've got many degrees.

Q. What did the nuclear physicist have for lunch? A. Fission Chips.

Q. What's the difference between a dog and a marine biologist? A: One wags a tail and the other tags a whale.



Q: What do you do with a sick chemist? A: If you can't helium, and you can't curium, then you might as well barium.

In "The Boscombe Valley Mystery", Sherlock Holmes and Watson were in hot pursuit of a suspect when they came to an open outcrop. Watson: "Holmes, what kind of rock is this?" Sherlock Holmes: "Why that's sedimentary, my dear Watson."

Do you know the name Pavlov? It rings a bell.

I'm reading a great book on anti-gravity. I can't put it down.



I have a new theory on inertia but it doesn't seem to be gaining momentum.

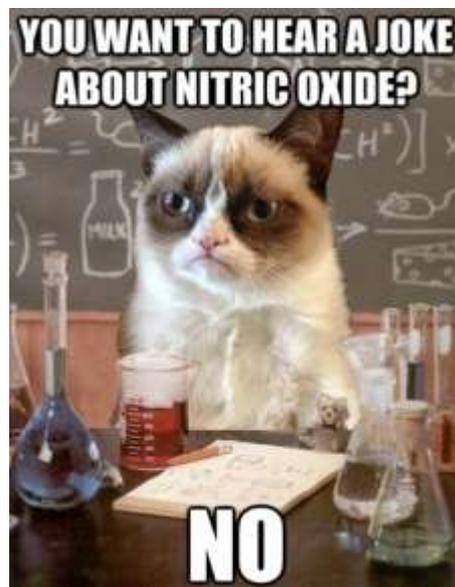
Why can't atheists solve exponential equations? Because they don't believe in higher powers.

A friend who's in liquor production, Has a still of astounding construction, The alcohol boils, Through old magnet coils, He says that it's proof by induction.

Did you hear about the man who got cooled to absolute zero? He's OK now.

Two chemists go into a bar. The first one says "I think I'll have an H2O." The second one says "I think I'll have an H2O too" — and he dies.

There are 10 types of people in the world: those who understand binary, and those who don't.



Atheist Professor, Holly Ordway, Becomes Christian



Dr. Holly Ordway has published a book titled *Not God's Type*, telling her personal story. She begins,

"I had never in my life said a prayer, never been to a church service. Christmas meant presents and Easter meant chocolate bunnies—nothing more." But her views get hardened: "In college, I absorbed the idea that Christianity was historical curiosity, or a blemish on modern civilization, or perhaps both. My college science classes presented Christians as illiterate anti-intellectuals who, because they didn't embrace Darwinism, threatened the advancement of knowledge.

My history classes omitted or downplayed references to historical figures' faith." Still later, "At thirty-one years old, I was an atheist college professor—and I delighted in thinking of myself that way. I got a kick out of being an unbeliever; it was fun to consider myself superior to the unenlightened, superstitious masses, and to make snide comments about Christians." (p.15-16)

Ordway was a trained academic without a history in religion. But she was no disinterested intellectual: "There was something about the idea of faith that made it stick with me. I didn't have faith, I didn't want faith, but I felt compelled to have a good reason why not. I constructed an elaborate analogy for myself, one that I felt gave satisfying explanation of why 'faith' was impossible. . . I could

not believe, no matter how much I might want to . . . I thought 'faith' was a meaningless word, that so-called believers were either hypocrites or self-deluded fools, and that it was a waste of time to consider any

claim that Christians made about the truth. . . . I didn't want to deal with that. Easier by far to read only books by atheists that told me what I wanted to hear: that I was smarter and more intellectually honest and morally superior than the poor, deluded Christians. I had built myself a fortress of atheism, secure against any attack by irrational faith." (p.17-18)

Ordway had carefully built up a defense, but not so careful as to protect her mind from the ideas of the great English poets. She speaks of being surprised by such writers as John Keats, John Donne, and Gerard Manley Hopkins, men who wrote of a beautiful concept: hope. A day of hope . . . was there such a day to hope for?

The rest of Ordway's book tells of her meeting a fencing coach that she trusted, a person who she did not discover was a Christian until after she had begun working with him. He and his wife merely answered her questions, not pressing anything religious on her. She is intellectually honest enough to investigate the sources . . . When she asks for reasonable works on the resurrection of Jesus, she is given N. T. Wright's *The Resurrection of the Son of God*, 740 pages of scholarly examination. She reads Lewis' *Surprised By Joy*, and *Does God Exist?* by Kreeft and Moreland, among others.

Both Ordway and C. S. Lewis were credentialed professors of literature before becoming Christian. Both were committed atheists who had created intellectual defenses against

belief in Jesus. Later in her story, Ordway writes, "I read through the Gospel narratives again, trying to take in what they said. I had to admit that — even apart from everything else I had learned — I recognized that they were fact, not story. I'd been steeped in folklore, fantasy, legend, and myth ever since I was a child, and I had studied these literary genres as an adult; I knew their cadences, their flavor, their rhythm. None of these stylistic fingerprints appeared in the New Testament books that I was reading." (p.117)

So here we have a trained, experienced, atheist professor of literature, who if anything knows a myth when she sees it, declaring that it is not such, but rather "The Gospels had the ineffable texture of history, with all the odd clarity of detail that comes when the author is recounting something so huge that even as he tells it, he doesn't see all the implications." (p.117) Like Lewis, who was a professor of literature at Oxford and Cambridge, Ordway made the conclusion of an expert in literature, that the New Testament has all the signs of an eyewitness account.

Ordway gives a very personal account of what it was like to be changed, speaking of how difficult and fearful it was for her to change her beliefs and become a Christian: "It is a hard thing to look at the truth when it runs contrary to what you've always believed. The experience is like pulling back the curtains in a dimly lit room and looking out the window to see what's really inside. When your eyes are used to artificial light, the bright sunlight is almost blinding; your eyes may sting and even water at the brightness, and the temptation is to turn away to the more comfortable dimness."

But in the end she knew her intellectual drive for truth could not let her turn away. She knew she was drawn to the truth, that the New Testament is true and Jesus is real.

Professor debunks human-chimp 99% shared genes myth at World Youth Day

Hugh Owen, Director, Kolbe Center for the Study of Creation and Dr. Thomas Seiler, Ph.D., Physics, Technical University of Munich gave an illuminating science focused Catechesis at World Youth Day, on July 28, 2016, at the Church of the Conversion of St. Paul, Krakow, Poland.

The full talk is really worth reading - www.lifesitenews.com/news/restoring-the-foundation-of-the-family

Hugh Owen introduced and concluded the catechism session, focusing on God's clear teaching that He made us male and female and made marriage the union of one Man and one Woman for Life. He said God is not the author of confusion, His teaching is clear, He saves us from the father of lies, the devil.

Dr. Thomas Seiler showed how real science thoroughly backs up the Church's teaching that all of humanity comes from one man and one woman, beginning with the myth that humans and chimps share 99% of our genes.

Dr. Thomas Seiler:

Most of you may have heard the statement that chimpanzees and humans are having 99% of their genes in common. However, what you are usually not told is that this result was not based on comparing the entire DNA of man and ape but only on comparing a very small fraction of it (ca. 3 %). The function of the other 97% of the genetic code was not understood. Therefore, it was concluded that this DNA had no function at all and it was considered "leftover junk from evolution" ... Meanwhile, modern genetics has demonstrated for almost the entire DNA that there is functionality in every genetic letter. And this has led to the collapse of the claim that man and chimpanzee have 99% of their DNA in common.

In 2007, the leading scientific

journal Science therefore called the suggested 1% difference "a myth." And from a publication in Nature in 2010 comparing the genes of our so-called Y-chromosome with those of the chimpanzee Y-chromosome we know now that 60% of human Y-chromosome is not contained in that of the chimpanzee. This represents a difference of one billion genetic letters, known as nucleotides.

And modern genetics has recently made another important discovery which was very unexpected. Researchers found that all of the different groups of humans on earth, wherever they live and whatever they look like, have 99.9% of their genes in common. This leads to a problem for the hypothesis of evolution because if humans really were descended from the apes, then how could it be that we only have 40% of our Y-chromosome in common with the apes but at the same time there is almost a complete genetic identity among all humans? If there had been an evolution from ape to man then it should still go on among men and reveal significant genetic differences. These recent discoveries therefore drastically widen the gap between man and the animals. And they confirm that there are in reality no such things as human "races". Asians, Europeans, Africans and Indigenous people from America and Australia only have superficial differences like colour of skin or shape of the nose but they are all extremely similar on the genetic level.

And these recent breakthrough discoveries even go further. Today, because of the extreme similarity of the human genome, it is considered a well-established fact among geneticists, that all humans living on

earth now are descended from one single man and from one single woman. In order to convince yourself of this you only have to search in the internet for the terms "mitochondrial Eve" or "Y-chromosome Adam". These names were given by evolutionists in an ironic sense but now many regret that choice of name because this discovery perfectly confirms the Catholic Doctrine of Creation which has taught for 2000 years that all humans are brothers and sisters descended from one single human couple, the real historical persons Adam and Eve, not from a multitude of subhuman primates.

[Dr. Seiler also touched on the areas of embryology (the faked drawings of Ernst Haeckel purporting to show that human embryos look, at different stages, like the embryos of lizards, rabbits, chickens etc), anatomy and paleontology, concluding with a discussion about the theory of evolution.]

"The theory of evolution predicts that things change from less complex to more complex, from incompleteness to completeness and that we should find many failures, lost functions, wrong constructions and half-finished organs which are in the process of evolution. However, all the different areas of relevant research, such as genetics, embryology, anatomy and paleontology, over and over again confirm that all the different kinds of creatures began their existence as already perfect and fully formed.

Indeed, we do not find any evolving, half-finished eye, ear, leg, or wing in nature, neither in the fossil record nor in today's world...

Furthermore, all changes which we do actually observe in nature are never processes of genetic increase or perfection but always processes of genetic loss and degeneration...

Let me conclude with an analogy: One could certainly change a refrigerator into a television by many small steps, replacing one



Stand up and **be counted**

YOUR **YES**
IN THIS
CENSUS
MATTERS



Mark ***your religion***
on the 2016 census

Faith is not in decline around the world. Religious affiliation is growing and faith remains a vital part of the life, culture, thinking and behaviour of individuals in Australia, positively impacting society and culture in many and varied ways.

In our multi-faith and multicultural country, religious freedom is an essential basic human right. People of faith and the organisations that have grown out of our faith traditions make a massive contribution to things such as education, healthcare, aged care and an array of social services in our nation.

It is important that people of faith – those who are regularly connected to organised religion, and those who simply regard themselves as believers – mark the faith they identify with when participating in the National Census.

Saying “yes” to your belief matters because it:

1. Allows people of faith, their religious leaders and government representatives to credibly and confidently **contribute to the public discourse** on a variety of issues such as the economy, education, healthcare and social services.
2. Helps to underline the importance of **freedom of belief** in Australia and also enables leaders to understand the proportional breakdown of beliefs so as to best nurture interfaith harmony that is a feature of our multicultural nation.
3. Provides decision makers with vital information for effectively **planning for the future of our nation** such as the location of places of worship and the many ‘good works’ done by people of faith across religious traditions.
4. Provides a **snapshot of who we are**, including what we value and what drives us. For so many Australians, their values and reasons for the way they act stem from their religious beliefs.
5. Can be used as a future determinant of the **allocation of roles and government resourcing and co-funding** with faith groups who make a massive contribution to society in education, healthcare and social services.

Stand up and be counted when you participate in the Census this Tuesday 9 August 2016.

Produced by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong for all faith traditions and people of goodwill.



Your Ideal Woman on Paper: The Power of the List

I recently got together for a reunion with college buddies and one of them jokingly reminded me of how in college I had an actual physical list on paper of the woman that I wanted to marry. After 15 years, I had forgotten that detail, but it's true. I carried a written list.

The List

In high school during a youth group session, the youth pastor had told us to write down on paper a list of features that we hoped to find in our future spouses and to keep it in your Bible. I made a list and kept it in my Bible. And I added to it over time.

It sounds silly or sentimental, but that list kept me out of a lot of trouble!

Since I was a young man, it had physical attributes of beauty on the list. But it had other elements too about spirituality, temperament, and traits that I desired in a wife.

Most guys obsess over the details of their new truck or car. They know all the options and all the features that they desire. They study them thoroughly and plan ahead on which model and type. Yet buying a truck is a simple financial transaction. It is not binding. It's not personal. It's a simple purchase. Yet matrimony is a personal covenant with another person "till death to us part." No refunds. No upgrades to a new model. It's not a purchase, it's a vow to God and to her.

So it's surprising that when it comes to women, men will rush into marriage for shallow reasons, such as: "She's hot," or "She's an aerobics instructor," etc.

The List as Filter

When I met girls or dated girls, I had that list working as a filter. Does she go to church every Sunday? Would she be a good mother? How does she act around her friends? Who are her friends? Etc.

I once went a few dates with a gorgeous gal who was religious and checked off down the list. However a few dates in she shared how she expected her husband to follow her career and planned to defer having children by a decade. I was shocked. I wanted to move on. I was extremely attracted to her. She was lovely. But I know that this was "against the list." I kindly moved on. That was our last date.

About six months later, I met the woman who would become my wife – and she was that ideal woman that I had hoped and prayed for. We have been married now 15 years next week!

Becoming the Mirror Image of the Woman on the List

The most important lesson from "the list" was something that the youth minister added. He said,

"Create your ideal spouse list and study it. But most important of all, become the mate who is worthy of



the person on your list. If you're a drunk. If you're a womanizer. If you don't have a job. If you look at porn. If you are not a man of your word. If you don't take care of your mind and body. Then that ideal woman on your list is not going to give you the time of day. So become the mirror image of the man worthy of the woman you desire."

To summarize, that prudent youth minister was telling us: "Have high standards for marriage and have high standards by which to measure yourself." We are the sons of God and life is short. So our commitments should be well-planned and prayerfully executed. Do all things excellently.

So for any young men out there, make that list. You'll be able to spill out the physical things you desire within the first 30 seconds. But it will likely take you minutes, hours, and months to fill out the rest. As a man married 15 years, it's those latter items that are most important and best weighed out.

Godspeed. Taylor Marshall

"Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must fear them or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate."

-Rick Warren

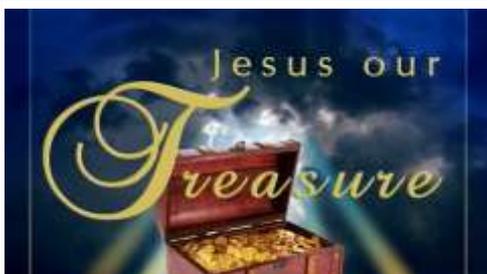


The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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



Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.
Luke 12:33b-34

Find the words below hidden in the 225 letters to the right.

- | | |
|-------------|--------|
| EXHAUSTED | AFRAID |
| DESTROYS | LITTLE |
| TREASURE | FLOCK |
| KINGDOM | POOR |
| POSSESSIONS | WEAR |
| HEAVEN | MOTH |
| PLEASED | THIEF |
| FATHER | LUKE |
| PURSES | SELL |
| HEART | GIVE |

Treasures in Heaven

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Luke 12:34 (NIV)



V	L	S	P	U	R	S	E	S	H	Q	L	R	A	G
E	K	E	P	H	A	R	K	Z	B	E	Q	V	G	I
S	C	L	D	O	L	I	T	T	L	E	A	G	F	V
R	O	L	P	W	O	W	J	T	U	B	C	R	T	E
P	G	K	L	F	L	R	I	Z	H	W	X	H	T	M
H	O	E	E	G	K	F	A	T	H	E	R	S	O	M
T	E	S	A	O	X	C	A	H	S	A	L	D	B	U
H	X	P	S	R	U	N	H	Y	E	R	G	U	M	E
I	H	D	E	E	M	D	O	R	N	N	M	P	K	T
E	A	T	D	W	S	R	U	E	I	Y	A	O	J	E
F	U	M	I	V	T	S	V	K	D	K	F	A	T	H
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Q	T	P	E	E	E	R	Z	O	R	E	A	Y	C	R
K	E	D	R	H	T	I	L	I	N	V	I	W	J	H
X	D	T	X	M	S	F	V	Y	K	S	D	A	U	L