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

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 130 December 2013

IN THEATERS NOW!

Coming Events

Christmas Mass Choir Practice:

Sun 8, 15, 22

Solemnity of Immaculate

Conception: Mon 8

Gathering in Saboisky's Garden:

Sun 8

Advent Twilight Gospel Reflection: Tues 10

Prayer Vigils for Peace: Each

Thursday

Riverina Chamber Orchestra:

Sat 14

Christmas Novena: begins Tues

17

Bethlehem Set Up: Wed 18 2nd Rite Reconciliation: Fri 20 Come to Bethlehem: Sun 21-23 Christmas Vigil Ho.T School:

Tues 24

Christmas Day: Wed 25 St Stephen's Day: Thurs 26 Pack Up Bethlehem: Thurs 26 St John Apostle: Dec 27 The Holy Innocents: Dec 28 The Holy Family: Sun 29 Mary, Mother of God: Jan 1

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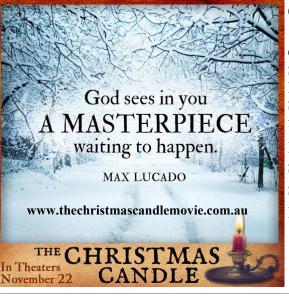
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The due date for the next Wag is: Friday December 27th.



Deep in the heart of the English countryside lies the enchanting village of Gladbury. Legend has it every 25 years an angel visits the village candlemaker and touches a single candle. Whoever lights this candle receives a miracle on Christmas Eve. But in 1890, at the dawn of the electric age, this centuries old legend may come to an end. When David Richmond (Hans Matheson), a progressive young minister, arrives in Gladbury, the villagers discover a new formula for miracles: good deeds and acts of kindness. While David's quest to modernize Gladbury sets him at odds with the old world candlemaker, he finds an unlikely ally in the lovely skeptic, Emily Barstow (Samantha Barks). Now, the fiery candlemaker must fight to preserve the legacy of the Christmas Candle. But when the candle goes missing, the miraculous and human collide in the most astonishing Christmas the village of Gladbury has ever seen.



(Movie length 115 minutes)

Cast: Hans Matheson, Samantha Barks, Lesley Manville, Sylvester McCoy, Susan Boyle's (the singer's first movie performance).

Forum Cinema Times:

Sat: 10.30am 5.30pm

Sun: 10.45am Mon, Tues Wed: 10.45am & 4.15pm

Appropriately at Christmas we address each other with words typical of the Season's Greetings. By acknowledging others we demonstrate our appreciation and love for them. Gift giving takes that same gesture a little further

in its expression.

Since this is the last Wag for the year, I too feel a real need to express my sincere thanks to the many parishioners who have assisted with the mission of the parish. I would dearly love to list names as a sign of my heartfelt awareness of the many individuals who keep things smoothly ticking along. The danger with a list is that it might hurt by way of exclusion or omission. That's the last thing I desire. So I will content myself with listing the many works performed [even then I fear I will leave something out]. All our effort of course is for God and his reward is infinitely greater then my paltry words of gratitude ~ knowing that our *Father who* sees all that is done in secret will reward you [Mat 6:4].

At the different Mass centres – Ashmont, Collingullie, Glenfield, the Loreto Home of Compassion and San Isidore there are many hands making light the work. Sincere gratitude to everyone involved with the Liturgy in each centre; assisting ministers, lectors, organists, choir members, servers, church flower cleaners. arrangers. collectors, linen counters,

pastor's page

Seasons

cleaners, altar arrangers, church preparation and the putting of things away, parish bulletin and Wag contributors and writers.

Particular mention can be given to the various groups in the parish who have made varying and consistent contributions to the parish's life and mission; the Parish **Pastoral** Planning Committee, the Finance Committee, the Ladies Auxiliary, Vincent de Paul Conference, Refugee Committee, those on the planned giving scheme and all contributors. Much effort is expended in these endeavours and while hidden, it is substantial.

Appreciation needs to be expressed to the teaching staff of the school, the school Board and the Parents and Friends and the volunteer catechists who assist during the year at the public

schools. There have been many involved with working bees and the others who have contributed time, energy and expertise at the various parish centres. Not to mention all the effort underway at present for the 'Come to Bethlehem.'

Finally I wish everyone in the parish a happy, holy and safe time during the Christmas period with family and friends. May 2014 be a year full of many opportunities to experience the spiritual richness of God's Spirit. May it lead you to the fullness of joy and a renewed spiritual discovery. Again my heartfelt thanks and assuring all of Fr Thomas' and my promise of prayers, blessing and remembrance in the Christmas Mass.

Fr Gerard



December's Jokes

Blessing Prayer

A 4-year-old boy was asked to give the meal blessing before Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles.

Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip.

Then he paused, and everyone waited--and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"



Christmas Care

A lady dropped her handbag in the bustle of holiday shopping. An honest, little boy noticed her drop the handbag, so he picked it up and returned it to her. The lady looked into her handbag and commented, "Hmm.... That's funny. When I lost my bag there was a \$20 bill in it. Now there are twenty \$1bills." The boy quickly replied,

"That's right, lady. The last time I found a purse, the owner didn't have any change for a reward."

Christmas Prayers

A few days before Christmas, two young brothers were spending the night at their grandparent's house. When it was time to go to bed, and anxious to do the right thing, they both knelt down to say their prayers.

Suddenly, the younger one began to do so in a very loud voice.

"Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a play-station, a mountain-bike and a telescope."

His older brother leaned over and nudged his brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf."

"I know" he replied, "But Grandma is!"

Santa lives at the North Pole - JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water. Santa comes but once a year JESUS is an ever present gift. Santa fills your stockings with goodies JESUS fills our souls with grace. Santa comes down your chimney uninvited JESUS stands at your door and knocks and only then enters your heart. You have to stand in line to see Santa JESUS is as close as the mention of His name. Santa lets you sit on his lap JESUS lets you rest in His arms. Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, What's your name?" JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and our future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads. Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly JESUS has a heart full of love. All Santa can offer is HO HO HO JESUS offers health, holiness, hope and even heaven. Santa says "You better not cry" JESUS says "Cast all your cares on to me, for I care for you." Santa's little helpers make toys

JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

Santa may make you chuckle but

While Santa puts gifts under your tree JESUS became our gift and died on the tree for you and me.

There is really is no comparison. JESUS is the best. We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about. We need to keep Christ in Christmas and in our hearts. Jesus really is and will always remain the reason for the season.



Former Yahoo executive thrilled to join 'brotherhood' of Church

The previous head of one of the internet's leading online search engines travelled to Rome in order to be received into the universal Church, expressing his joy at joining the family of faith.

"I'm in Rome to become Catholic," Richard Riley told CNA in an Oct. 28 interview, "I was married in the Catholic Church 13 years ago, I have four children who were baptized in the Catholic Church and I really wanted to join the family and be unified in faith."

Riley previously led Yahoo!'s American division, the internet company's largest unit, most recently heading the regions of Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

He left the company after having worked with them for 13 years upon his promotion earlier this year to take the helm as CEO of a rapidly growing British mobile application called "Shazam," which currently has over 325 million users all over the world.

When asked what he found in the Catholic Church that he hadn't found elsewhere, Riley stated that "There's so much history and tradition."

Emphasizing how his wife is Italian, Riley noted that "of course Catholicism's been a big part" of their lives, and that "the family and brotherhood of the Church" is something "unique and really special."

The internet exec, who travelled to Italy for the event of his Confirmation, revealed that he is



"starting to" feel at home in the Church, especially being in Rome, which he described as "a spectacular place."

"It's breathtaking, and every time you come it's just absolute amazement, and I'm feeling more and more comfortable," he stressed, noting that having been on his mayor's advisory council, he has been to the Vatican "a few times, and I look forward to coming back frequently." Riley also expressed his belief that his entry into the Church will make him a better worker, and a better CEO, stating that "I think that one of the things that makes great leaders is to have empathy, and to really understand people and to not be self-centered."

"I think the empathy alone and the greater cause and good will absolutely make me and others a better leader."

The new CEO also shared his positive impressions of Pope Francis, whose young pontificate he described as "impressive, in terms of a focus on the poor, and people who are really needy in the world."

Pope Francis, he stressed, makes sure "that all of us think more about them and their needs, rather than our own and material needs," emphasizing how he believes that the pontiff has "really woken up parts of the world to some very special issues."

Referencing his hopes for the future within his new position, Riley expressed his desire to "make Shazam as great a company as we can make it, and see where that takes us."

Christmas Mass Choir Practice:

Sunday
Dec 8, 15, 22
1.30pm
at Ho.T
Church;
please come
along if you
can sing or
play an
instrument.



CHRISTMAS TIMES

Fri 20 Dec: Ho.T **Reconciliation** 2nd Rite 7pm Sat Dec 21: Ho.T Reconciliation 11am - noon

Tuesday Dec 24 - 7am Ho.T, 10.30am Loreto

Christmas Vigil Dec 24
6.45pm - Holy Trinity School Hall
Come to Bethlehem follows 8pm

Christmas Day, Wed Dec 25
8am - San Isidore
9am - Holy Trinity
9.30am - St Michael's, Collingullie
10.30am - Loreto Home of Compassion
[No evening Mass Christmas Day]

Marriage Isn't For You Seth Adam Smith

Having been married only a year and a half, I've recently come to the conclusion that marriage isn't for me. Now before you start making assumptions, keep reading.

I met my wife in high school when we were 15 years old. We were friends for ten years until...until we decided we no longer wanted to be just friends.:) I strongly recommend that best friends fall in love. Good times will be had by all.

Nevertheless, falling in love with my best friend did not prevent me from having certain fears and anxieties about getting married. The nearer Kim and I approached the decision to marry, the more I was filled with a paralyzing fear. Was I ready? Was I making the right choice? Was Kim the right person to marry? Would she make me happy?

Then, one fateful night, I shared these thoughts and concerns with my dad.

Perhaps each of us have moments in our lives when it feels like time slows down or the air becomes still and everything around us seems to draw in, marking that moment as one we will never forget.

My dad giving his response to my concerns was just such a moment for me. With a knowing smile he said, "Seth, you're being totally selfish. So I'm going to make this really simple: marriage isn't for you. You don't marry to make yourself happy, you marry to make someone else happy. More than that, your marriage isn't for

yourself, you're marrying for a family. Not just for the in-laws and all of that nonsense, but for your future children. Who do you want to help you raise them? Who do you want to influence them? Marriage isn't for you. It's not about you. Marriage is about the person you married."



It was in that very moment that I knew that Kim was the right person to marry. I realized that I wanted to make her happy; to see her smile every day, to make her laugh every day. I wanted to be a part of her family, and my family wanted her to be a part of ours. And thinking back on all the times I had seen her play with my nieces, I knew that she was the one with whom I wanted to build our own family.

My father's advice was both shocking and revelatory. It went against the grain of today's "supermarket philosophy", which is if it doesn't make you happy, you can take it back and get a new one.

No, a true marriage (and true love) is never about you. It's about the person you love—their wants, their needs, their hopes, and their dreams. Selfishness demands, "What's in it for me?", while Love asks, "What can I give?" Some time ago, my wife showed me what it means to love selflessly. For many months, my heart had been hardening with a mixture of fear and resentment. Then, after the pressure had built up to where neither of us could stand it, emotions erupted. I was callous. I was selfish.

But instead of matching my selfishness, Kim did something beyond wonderful—she showed an outpouring of love. Laying aside all of the pain and aguish I had caused her, she lovingly took me in her arms and soothed my soul.

I realized that I had forgotten my dad's advice. While Kim's side of the marriage had been to love me, my side of the marriage had become all about me. This awful realization brought me to tears, and I promised my wife that I would try to be better.

To all who are reading this article—married, almost married, single, or even the sworn bachelor or bachelorette—I want you to know that marriage isn't for you. No true relationship of love is for you. Love is about the person you love.

And, paradoxically, the more you truly love that person, the more love you receive. And not just from your significant other, but from their friends and their family and thousands of others you never would have met had your love remained self-centered.

Truly, love and marriage isn't for you. It's for others.

G. K. Chesterton on Love and Marriage

"Love means loving the unlovable – or it is no virtue at all."

"Marriage is a duel to the death which no man of honour should decline."

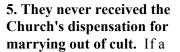
"I have little doubt that when St. George had killed the dragon,
he was heartily afraid of the princess."

Woman marries Catholic bridge Karee Santos

Australian woman Jodi
Rose did in fact marry Le Pont du
Diable bridge (also known as the
Devil's Bridge) on June 17, 2013.
But it cannot be confirmed that the
bridge, raised by Benedictines,
remained Catholic throughout its
lifespan. This peculiar union was
not blessed by a Catholic priest. It
was blessed instead by the mayor of
the neighbouring town. For those
who are wondering, here are five
reasons why the Catholic Church
would never have allowed marriage
between this woman and this bridge.

- 1. **The bridge never consented.** Ms. Rose took advantage of the bridge's inanimate nature and married it even though the bridge could not possibly express its consent to the marriage.
- 2. The bride never agreed to be faithful. She said "He understands that I love other bridges -- and men ours is a love that embraces the vagaries of life, as materialised in the swirling currents of the river that flow beneath his magnificent body," stated Ms. Rose on her blog. She clearly refused to pledge herself solely to her spouse.
- 3. **Their union can never be fruitful.** The wedding between Ms.

Rose and the Bridge is lacking the mutual complementarity of man and woman, husband and wife, human and human. Moreover, Ms. Rose has "yet to explain how she determined the gender of the bridge," according to the newspaper report.



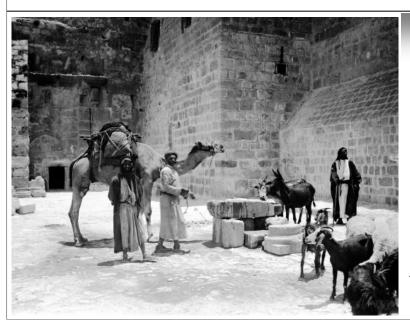
Catholic wishes to marry a baptized non-Catholic, the couple must apply for and receive express permission from the Church. To marry a nonbaptized person requires a special dispensation to overcome the impediment of disparity of cult. Built by Benedictine monks in the 11th century, the Devil's Bridge does appear to be Catholic. Ms Rose, on the other hand, is not. She expressed her religious views as follows: "While I respect those whose romantic feelings are oriented towards objects, mine is a symbolic affair, a pagan/animist view of the spiritual vibration in



everything." It is quite possible that this pagan/animist woman was never even baptized. Quite an impediment!

* * So, if you ever find yourself experiencing yearnings like Ms.
Rose's; **do not** cross that bridge when you come to it.





Come to Bethlehem

Sunday 22, Monday 23, Tuesday 24 Dec

8pm-9.30pm Great for all the family.

Help needed for set up
On the evenings of the event itself
And pack up on December 26 from 8.30am

Please assist if you can at any time.

A Tale of Two Philippine Survivors Charly Holganza

A Philippine Air Force officer swept away by Typhoon Haiyan floated in rough seas for six hours with a 7-year-old boy.

Lieutenant Colonel Fermin
Carangan is the Commanding
Officer of TOG 8, the Air Force unit
tasked to provide air support for the
islands of Samar and Leyte. On the
morning of Friday, November 8, he
and his troops were in their office
near the Tacloban Airport on red
alert, having been informed of an
incoming superstorm named Haiyan
(local name: Yolanda). Here's how
he narrated his ordeal to Lt Col
Allan Taguba, as Haiyan unleashed
her fury on the city of Tacloban on
that fateful Friday morning.

We were out of the office at 6 am Friday observing. Winds brought by Yolanda were already strong around that time. We (the Air Force troops in Tacloban) were prepared for the possibility of rescue missions days before the expected landfall of Yolanda. Just before 7am, the rains started to pour, so we took shelter.

Around the same time, we noticed that water was slowly entering our office, so we went out again. Then suddenly, we saw that the water was getting higher and higher, until we were forced to get up on to the roof of the building. We had to bore holes in the ceiling just to get up there, and I was the last one up.

Suddenly the building collapsed & I saw my men falling into the surging water and very strong winds. There was also no more roof on top of the building. I was able to hold on to a piece of wood – a truss which I forcibly removed just before I was taken by waves & the strong current.

I didn't notice my 2 junior officers were now gone. Both were fresh graduates from the Philippine Military Academy, and they were beside me before we were swallowed by the water. Then I saw one of my soldiers trying to hold on to an uncollapsed wall of another destroyed building. I tried to reach him but the current was too strong and there was confusion & hysteria.



I was going farther and farther out into the sea & all I saw were tips of coconut trees starting to disappear into the swelling water. Suddenly, I saw a child hugging tightly to a floating coconut tree. By a stroke of luck, the current led me to the child, and I was able to pluck him from his very unfortunate situation. He then held on to the piece of wood I was myself holding on to. Then we floated until we were out there in the middle of nowhere.

At sea, we went through another hell. We were slapped by waves, great big waves from all directions. We were also toyed by swirling winds. And we couldn't help but drink a lot of salt water. I was now getting so tired. And so was Miguel (the boy's name). He was just seven years old. Too young to die, I thought. I thought of my family. I prayed to God to take care of my wife and kids. I thought I've done to them what every father could – that is, to take good care of them.

I also thought of my men. Days before, I had told them to ensure the safety of their families, especially those in Tacloban since the city could be hit hard and everyone of us would be busy in the rescue missions after Yolanda. They might not have time to check on their families during the rescue. Then I

thought of the two new graduates of PMA 2013. I thought that if something happened to me, at least I had been able to give professional and honorable service for a time. And that I've done enough since graduation. These two young guys were just starting and still have a very bright future ahead.

Then I looked at Miguel. He was trembling hard due to the cold. His very young body could not just cope up with the elements. He said, "Kuya [my brother], I will sleep now. I'm so tired already." Then I thought, maybe I survived because of this child. Without him I could have given up. Maybe he's the reason I'm still alive because God wants me to make sure this child will live.

I shouted at Miguel's ears: "Don't sleep! You can do it. Look, we are near land already." Then I pointed at what I thought was another wall of swell, just to lift the spirit of Miguel. And then I realized that it was indeed the shoreline!! I thought there really is a Powerful Being!

The two survived Storm Haiyan and the rough seas between Leyte and Samar during the onslaught of the typhoon. They floated around the bay near Tacloban airport and were eventually rescued along the shorelines of Basey, Samar, at around 1pm the same day. They had been floating for around 6 hours before they were rescued. Basey and Tacloban are separated by the San Pablo and San Pedro Bay. The devastation they saw along the Basey shoreline is another story worth telling. Some of Lt Col Carangan's men are still missing. These men were supposed to take part in the relief and rescue operations for Leyte and Samar. Alas, it turned out that they too would be the very victims to Haiyan's wrath.

The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



Serving: Ashmont, Collingullie, Glenfield, Lloyd,



LORD **BAPTIZE** REPENT

WILD BELT

KINGDOM PATHS HONEY

LOCUSTS HAIR

JOHN PREACHING CAMEL

PREPARE STRAIGHT

