

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 132

February 2014

Coming Events

First Saturday of Month	Sat 1
Presentation of the Lord (Blessing of Candles)	Sun 2
Craft Ladies Resume	Tues 4
Prayer Vigil for Peace	Thurs 6
First Friday of Month	Fri 7
Divine Mercy Prayer Group	Fri 7
All Night Adoration Resumes	Fri 7
Our Lady of Lourdes (World Day of Prayer for Sick)	Tues 11
Parish Retreat	Fri Sat & Sun 21, 22, 23
Prayers for Healing	Fri 21
Feast of Chair if St Peter	Sat 22
CWL Coffee Morning	Mon 24

Inside this issue:

<i>February Jokes</i>	3
<i>Our Next Governor General</i>	4
<i>Riding the wave of Faith</i>	6
<i>You! & unborn baby animals</i>	7

Wag Contacts

Email:
westwaggaparish@hotmail.com
Web Page: westwaggaparish.com
Phone: 6931 3601

The due date for the next Wag is:
Sunday October 29th.

New Crucifix Figure at San Isidore

One of the most evocative and consoling images we possess in the Catholic Church is the Crucifix, that is, a cross with the figure of Christ Crucified upon it. It has a special place in regards to our greatest prayer, the Mass, which can be described as "Calvary over again", because it is a re-presentation of Our Lord's perfect act of love.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal in No. 308 requires the use of a "cross, with the figure of Christ crucified upon it, either on the altar or near it, where it is clearly visible to the assembled congregation. It is appropriate that such a cross, which calls to mind for the faithful the saving Passion of the Lord, remain near the altar even outside of liturgical celebrations."

Recently the Crucifix at San Isidore was renewed. This wooden cross has a special place in the history of our parish: it was made in March 1985 by Ron Carey, in memory of his father, John Francis Carey. John Carey was a carpenter who had also made a cross. His cross was made for the Catholic Church in Wangarratta.

Ron made his cross for the Church in San Isidore after his father died. The cross was used for Good Friday processions around the San Isidore oval for some years.

Recently the Carey Family donated a hand carved figure of Our Lord to match the wooden cross. This new figure was made in Vietnam, and brought to Australia by Eric Jellett who had been teaching English to candidates for the Confraternity.

May all who look upon this Cross during Mass or when visiting the Church be reminded of Our Lord's love for them, a love made present in the fullest way in the Mass!



pastor's page



Later in this month of February, the parish retreat will be on St. Therese & Her Little Way. Over the last 10 years there has been over 30 weekend retreats in the parish of West Wagga. These have proven to be spiritually very successful and well attended. Many folk from all over the place have even been repeat attendees. This is understandable because every Catholic needs to be revitalised with new spiritual insights. It is just as in any occupation where one needs to be renewed & updated. This is often termed professional development. The enhancing of one's PB; one's personal best. The difference is that this is one's personal spiritual excellence.

Some people think that Sunday Mass is sufficient & have never in their life given a little more time to God than this 'indispensable minimum'

(Catechism 2041). This would be like saying to one's spouse I will only do what I absolutely have to & no more. Or parents fulfilling one's minimum commitment to their children & doing no more. Yet Jesus had something interesting to off regarding fulfilling one's duty or an offer of charity.

"If anyone wants to sue you & take your coat, give your cloak as well; & if anyone forces you to go 1 mile, go also the second mile" (Mat 5:40-41). No one can outdo God in generosity, so giving a weekend of time to come closer to him will prove most

beneficial and that time will be rewarded many times over.

Sometimes people say that I have heard it all at Mass. Actually, that is far from the case because a retreat deals with much more than a 15 minute Sunday sermon. In fact, it is never possible to know enough about God & the things of God. To enter into heaven with minimal knowledge & minimal exposure to the things of God is to deprive oneself of unrepeatable moments of grace. Such graces do not come from spiritual conferences alone, but from the extra Masses, times before the Blessed Sacrament, Reconciliation, & many other special spiritual moments. To have never attended a free retreat is really to have missed out on something quite splendid.

The upcoming retreat will consider "the little way" of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Saint Thérèse was a Carmelite Religious Sister. She entered religious life at 15 years of age & died at the age of 24. She was a seeming nobody until after her death when her spiritual writings came to the public eye. In a matter of years, Thérèse was a household name, a great saint of the 20th century. Images & statues of her are everywhere & parishes are named after her. She is only 1 of 3 women who are Doctors of the Church. That means she was an outstanding teacher whose lessons are valuable for all people & for all times. This is a great honour. Her doctrine is entitled "The Little Way". This 'way' is her understanding of what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ. It is an infallible means for the seeking of authentic holiness of life, even high sanctity, through the ordinary events of everyday. St. Thérèse based her little way on two fundamental convictions: 1. God always demonstrates his love by mercy and forgiveness and 2. No one can be perfect in following the Lord.

St. Thérèse believed that many people

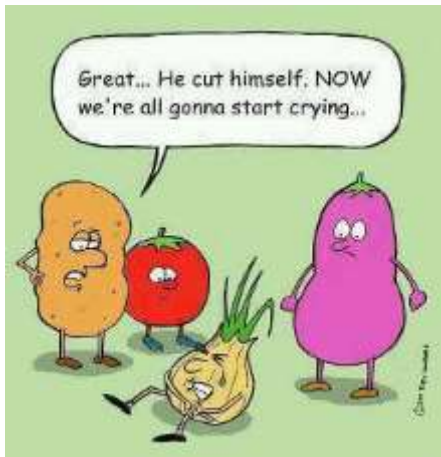
of her time lived with an erroneous understanding of the true God & all that he is. In fact, St. Thérèse once wrote that she could not understand how anyone could be afraid of a God who became a little child for us. She also knew that she would never be perfect. Therefore, she went to God as a child approaches a parent with open arms and a profound trust.

St. Thérèse translated "the little way" in terms of a commitment to the tasks & to the people we meet in our everyday lives. She took her assignments in the convent of Lisieux as ways of manifesting her love for God & for others. She worked at the most menial tasks in the convent happily. She was kind to all & generous with her love. Her life sounds so routine & ordinary, but it was steeped in a loving commitment that was faithful to God to the end. It is called a little way precisely by being simple, direct, yet calling for amazing fortitude & commitment. Thérèse had many beautiful little teachings: "For a long time I had been asking myself why souls did not all receive the same amount of grace. Jesus deigned to instruct me about this mystery. Before my eyes He placed the book of nature & I understood that all the flowers created by Him are beautiful... that, if all the little flowers wanted to be roses, nature would lose her springtime garb. The same is true of the world of souls, the Lord's living garden."

In living out her life of faith she sensed that everything that she was able to accomplish came from the generous love of God in her life. St Thérèse promised to pray & win many graces for those who asked her help. Many have experienced her gift of spiritual roses. Her Little Way puts holiness of life within the reach of ordinary people. Come along to the parish retreat & learn more.

Fr Gerard

February Jokes



After she woke up, a woman told her husband, "I just dreamed you gave me a diamond necklace for Valentine's Day. What do you think it means?"

"You'll know tonight," he said.

That evening the husband came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it--to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams."

Captains log, Star-date 3.14159265359. I seem to have a strange urge for Pie today

I was dreaming about the "Lord of the Rings" films last night.... Apparently I was Tolkein in my sleep.

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

The husband said, "You are in charge of the cooking around here so you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee."

Wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides it says in the Bible that the man should do the coffee."

Husband replies, "I can't believe that! Show me."

So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says, "HEBREWS."

Q. What do you call a very small valentine? A. A valentiny!

Q. What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?

A. I'm stuck on you!

Q. What did the boy snake say to the girl snake on Valentine's Day?

A. Give me a hug and a hiss, honey!

Q. What did the boy sheep say to the girl sheep on Valentine's Day?

A. I love ewe!

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

Q: What washes up on very small beaches? A: Microwaves!

Q: What goes through towns, up & over hills, but doesn't move? A: The road!

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he knew the answer so quickly. "How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said.

"All you have to do is add it up, like the Priest said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

Q: What do you call an old snowman? A: Water!

Q: What did one elevator say to the other elevator? A: I think I'm coming down with something!

Q: What's the different between a cat and a comma?

A: A cat has claws at the end of paws; A comma is a pause at the end of a clause.

Little Emily was at her first wedding and gaped at the entire ceremony. When it was over, she asked her mother, "Why did the lady change her mind?"

Her mother asked, "What do you mean?"

"Well, she went down the aisle with one man and came back with another one."

Q: Why was there thunder and lightning in the lab? A: The scientists were brainstorming!

Did you hear about the guy who got crushed by fruit? He got berried alive

I used to be obsessed with JRR Tolkien..... Now I've kicked the hobbit!

Can't wait til Feb. 15th... otherwise known as 1/2 price chocolate day.

Q: Did you hear about the crab that went to the seafood athletics? A: He pulled a muscle

I was playing with my kid's farm set and swallowed 6 plastic horses. I was rushed into hospital but the doctors say I am stable.....

During World War II an engaged couple had planned a romantic Valentine's Day wedding. Suddenly the man, then stationed at Camp Edwards in Massachusetts, received orders to prepare to ship out, and all leaves were cancelled. Being a young man in love, he went AWOL. He and my mother were married four days earlier than originally planned and he returned to base to an angry sergeant. After hearing the explanation, the sergeant understandingly replied, "Okay, okay!" Then, as an afterthought: "But don't let it happen again!"



The Gift that Lives On

Teddy Stallard certainly qualified as "one of the least": disinterested in school; musty, wrinkled clothes; hair never combed; one of those kids with a deadpan face; an expressionless, glassy, unfocused stare. When Miss Thompson spoke to Teddy, he always answered in monosyllables. Unattractive, unmotivated, and distant, he was just plain hard to like.

Even though his teacher said she loved everyone in her class the same, down inside she wasn't being completely truthful. Whenever she marked Teddy's papers, she got a certain perverse pleasure out of putting X's next to the wrong answers, and when she put the F's at the top of the papers, she always did it with a flair. She should have known better; she had Teddy's records and she knew more about him than she wanted to admit. The records read:

First Grade: Teddy shows promise with his work and attitude, but poor home situation

Second Grade: Teddy could do better. Mother is seriously ill. He receives little help at home

Third Grade: Teddy is a good boy but too serious. He is a slow learner. His mother died this year.

Fourth Grade: Teddy is very slow, but well-behaved. His father shows no interest.

Christmas came, and the boys and girls in Miss Thompson's class brought her Christmas presents. They piled their presents on her desk and crowded around to watch her open them. Among the presents there was one from Teddy Stallard. She was surprised that he had brought her a gift, but he had. Teddy's gift was wrapped in brown paper and was held together with Scotch tape. On the paper were

written the simple words. "For Miss Thompson from Teddy"

When she opened Teddy's present, out fell a gaudy, rhinestone bracelet with half stones missing, and a bottle of cheap perfume. The other boys and girls began to giggle and smirk over Teddy's gifts, but Miss Thompson at least had enough sense to silence them by immediately putting on the bracelet and putting some of the perfume on her wrist. Holding her wrist up for the other children to smell, she said, "Doesn't it smell lovely?" And the children, taking their cues from the teacher, readily agreed with "oohs" and "aahs".

At the end of the day, when school was over and the other children had left, Teddy lingered behind. He slowly came over to her desk and said softly,

"Miss Thompson... Miss Thompson, you smell just like my mother... and her bracelet looks real pretty on you, too. I'm glad you liked my presents!"

When Teddy left, Miss Thompson got down on her knees and asked God to forgive her.

The next day when the children came to school, they were welcomed by a new teacher. Miss Thompson had become a different person. She was no longer just a teacher; she had become an agent of

God.

She was now a person committed to loving her children and doing things for them that would live on after her. She helped all the children but especially the slow ones, and especially Teddy Stallard. By the end of that school year Teddy showed dramatic improvement. He had caught up with most of the students and was even ahead of some.

She didn't hear from Teddy for a long time. Then one day she received a note that read:

Dear Miss Thompson,

I wanted you to be the first to know: I will be graduating second in my class.

Love, Teddy Stallard.

Four years later, another note came:

Dear Miss Thompson,

They just told me I will be graduating first in my class. I wanted you to be the first to know. The University has not been easy but I liked it.

Love, Teddy Stallard.

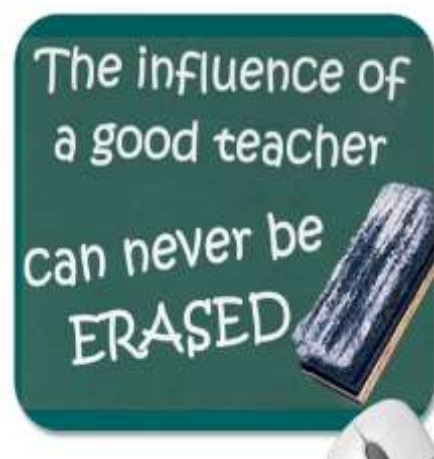
And four years later...

Dear Miss Thompson,

As of today, I am Theodore Stallard, M.D. How about that? I wanted you to be the first to know I am getting married next month, the 27th to be exact. I wanted you to come and sit where my mother would sit if she were alive. You are the only family I have now: Dad died last year.

Love, Teddy Stallard.

Miss Thompson went to that wedding and sat where Teddy's mother would have sat. She deserved to sit there; she had done something for Teddy that he could never forget.



Australia's Next Governor General



Australia's Prime Minister Taps Catholic as New Governor General

CANBERRA, January 28, 2014 (Zenit.org) - Australia's new Governor General is a practicing Catholic who for the past four years has served as Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University, said to be the largest English speaking Catholic university in the world.

Peter Cosgrove, a former head of Australia's armed forces, was appointed to the post by Prime Minister Tony Abbott today. He begins his five-year term in March.

As a constitutional monarchy within the Commonwealth, Gen. Cosgrove will act as representative of Queen Elizabeth II, undertaking many of the duties normally given to a head of state on her behalf.

A popular figure in Australia, he won the Military Cross as a soldier in Vietnam, and commanded international peacekeeping forces in East Timor in 1999. He was named

Australian of the Year in 2001 for being a role model to the country's citizens.

Gen. Cosgrove, 66, served as chief of the defence forces from 2002 until 2005, overseeing Australia's participation in the Iraq War coalition.

Educated by Christian Brothers, he once said he was given an education which "always showed me right from wrong."

Papal honour for General Cosgrove

Thursday, 7 February 2013

The Chancellor of Australian Catholic University (ACU), General Peter Cosgrove, has been bestowed with the Honour of the Knight of the Grand Cross in the Order of St Gregory the Great, by The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI.

General Cosgrove has been especially selected to receive The Honour of Knight of the Grand Cross in the Order of St Gregory the Great for his distinguished services to the Church in the Archdiocese of Sydney. His Eminence Cardinal George Pell bestowed the honour upon General Cosgrove at a formal ceremony at Cathedral House in

Sydney.

He was invested with the insignia of the Knight of the Grand Cross in the Order of St Gregory the Great and presented with the formal citation.

General Cosgrove said that to receive the honour was a great privilege and, "I could not be more pleased and humbled by this".

The Papal Order of Saint Gregory is one of five orders of knighthood of the Holy See, with four classes in military and civilian divisions. It was originally founded by Pope Gregory XVI in 1831 and is awarded to acknowledge an individual's meritorious services to the church.

The Grand Cross is the highest papal rank awarded to an Australian. General Cosgrove is the first Australian to receive the honour since Arthur Calwell.



Learn to say 'no' to kids



According to parenting expert, Dr David Walsh, more parents are using "yes" instead of discipline, guidance and standards to appease their children & ease their own guilt. The result? Children "are experiencing an epidemic I call 'discipline deficit disorder'," says Dr Walsh.

"More & more parents almost have an allergic reaction to kids being unhappy, we feel it's our responsibility to make sure they're having fun," says Dr Walsh.

As a consequence, children have become emotionally detached, less considerate, more self-absorbed & unaware of "real world" expectations.

Schools are starting to feel the impact too. According to a recent national survey of 1300 school teachers, in NSW alone, a third of teachers plan to quit within 10 years. More than 60 percent cited student behaviour as the reason.

Saying yes may bring instant gratification & fleeting happiness, but it also cheats children out of the single most important lesson parents can deliver: self-discipline.

"It is twice as strong a predictor of school success as intelligence, and without it I think our kids are ill-prepared for many things in life," Dr Walsh says.

Riding the wave of Faith from The Record

The search for the perfect wave is really a search for God, with both ending in euphoria, says Catholic school teacher, convert, & avid surfer Richard Sellwood.

The father of seven spends every spare moment he has in the surf, continuing a passion that has been a major part of his life since his youth.

He's also passionate about the Catholic faith, & has combined his passions in his recently-completed book, *Stoke: A Surfer's Guide to the Catholic Faith*, a work he says is an explanation of the faith through the use of surfing imagery.

The book highlights numerous parallels between surfing & Catholicism, some of which provide arguments for the existence of God.

"The ocean is the largest visible part of God's creation & the breaking wave is the most interesting thing going on in that ocean," Mr Sellwood says.

"You can see the effects of the wind on the ocean, because it's nice & clean, but you can't see the wind, so that's a parallel for proving God's existence in the argument from design."

Last year, Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu wrote a unique pastoral letter addressed to surfers, & it's no surprise to find that Mr Sellwood contributed to its content.

In the letter, Bishop Silva says some see surfing as "mystical & an experience of the presence of God", & Mr Sellwood says he couldn't agree more.

"It definitely has these mystical, contemplative dimensions to it, & that's part of its appeal as a sport," he says.

"These experiences that we have really point to the creator as well, the author of those experiences. The ocean is like an icon of God as pointing towards the creator.

"People flock to the ocean just for a

bit of therapy, for a bit of relaxation, it just rejuvenates the soul."

The ultimate aim of surfing often begins with a long, difficult & tiring quest for the perfect wave, but once it is found, an indescribable joy is found, Mr Sellwood says.

"There's this incredible feeling of euphoria that you get from riding a wave, what we call 'stoke', that's really what captures me I suppose," he says.

One of the hardest skills to master in surfing is 'getting barrelled', & Mr Sellwood likens the experience to contemplative prayer.

"With contemplative prayer, you're not saying or doing anything, it's God that's doing everything."

"It's the same when you're getting barrelled, you're just kind of standing there & the wave's doing everything, you're just being engulfed."

The fact that the major players in the sport of surfing are the surfer & God sets it apart from other sports.

"You're in the elements, you've got waves breaking around you, you've got to be watchful," he explains. "It forces you to live in the now, in the present moment."

While surfing has its redeeming features, Mr Sellwood admits the sport's not entirely squeaky clean.

"I feel it's so close to the ultimate rush & feeling & the ultimate kind of sport, it can be replaced as a bit of a false god," he says.



Then there's the culture of drugs, parties & hedonism that can accompany the sport, & the self-absorption & selfishness that it can generate in someone who can't get enough of the ocean.

It's something Mr Sellwood experienced in his teens, moving to WA's south-west as soon as he finished school so he could surf every single day rather than work. Until he found a room to rent, he simply slept in his car.

"I suppose I replaced God with surfing, I was looking for the ultimate & immersed myself in surfing."

Fortunately for Mr Sellwood, surfing inadvertently led him to Catholicism. In 1992, he attended a Christian surfers meeting because it was the only way he could go night surfing at City Beach, & then to a surf break the following day.

At the meeting, one of the Christian leaders gave Mr Sellwood a book to read in response to his challenge to prove that God existed.

Five years later, while he was watching a television show about miracles, he began thinking about God, prompting him to pick up the book & start reading.

Belief in God suddenly seemed completely reasonable, & Mr Sellwood immediately began to change his life & to pray regularly.

His own book is an attempt to reach out to today's surfers who live the life he did in his teenage years, in the hope that they will be prompted by the wonder of the ocean to begin searching for God.

It's his contribution to the New Evangelisation.

Unlike his unhealthy obsession with surfing as a teenager, now Mr Sellwood can see beyond the waves.

"The search for the perfect wave really is a search for God," he says. "It is a search for life's ultimate fulfilment, perfect & lasting bliss."

Unborn, and Loveable

images by Peter Chinn

Unborn Elephant



Unborn Dolphin



Unborn Snake



Unborn Horse



Unborn Tiger Shark



Unborn Chihuahua



Unborn Leopard



Unborn Polar Bears



YOU! “You knit me together in my mothers womb” *Psalm 139:13*

Unborn Penguin



Unborn bats



Parish Retreat *Little Way of St Thérèse*

Spiritual Retreat

February Friday 21, 7pm, Sat 22, 9am, Sun, 23, 9am

The spiritual conferences will be on Thérèse’s teachings:

- * Littleness, Weakness & Poverty;
- * Confidence in God;
- * Holy Abandonment;
- * the Way of Spiritual Childhood;
- * Love;
- * Zeal.

The details of the retreat’s timetable are on the parish web page and available at the retreat.

Come along and join all or part of the retreat.

If you are able to assist the Ladies Auxiliary please give Jackie Ambler a call on 6931-2774.



The West Wagga Wag

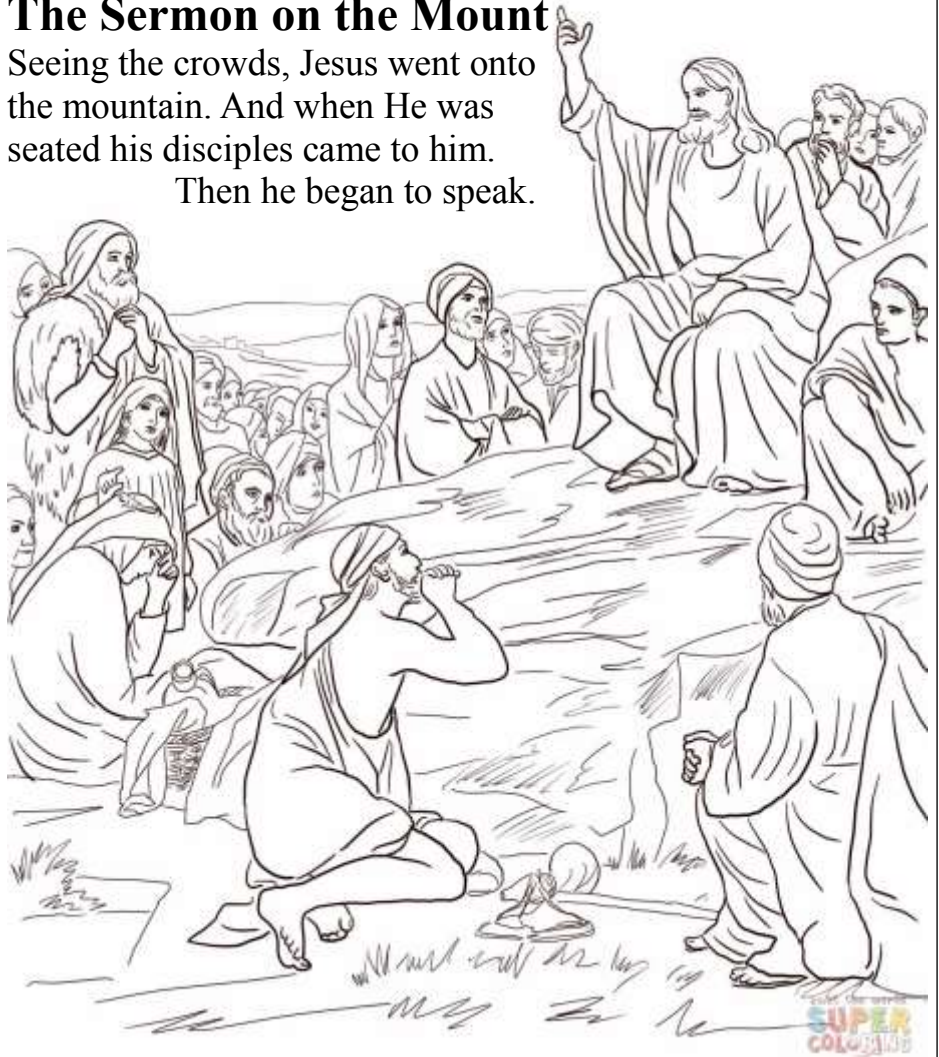
West Wagga Parish



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

The Sermon on the Mount

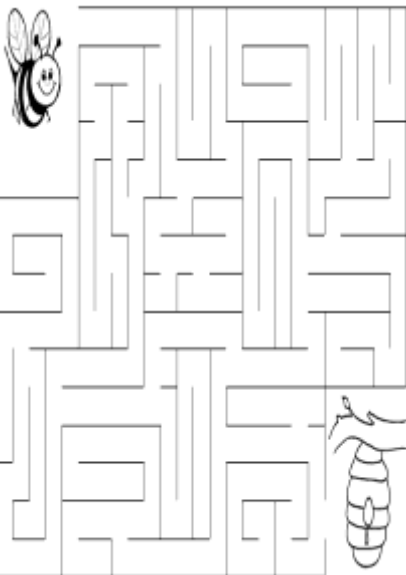
Seeing the crowds, Jesus went onto the mountain. And when He was seated his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak.



"Bee Attitudes"



Help the bee find the honey



Beatitude Fill in the Blank

It is important to remember each of the beatitudes. Test your memory by filling in the missing words in each of the beatitudes.

How blessed are the _____ in spirit: the kingdom of _____ is theirs.

Blessed are the gentle: they shall have the _____ as inheritance.

Blessed are those who _____: they shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who _____ & thirst for uprightness: they shall have their _____.

Blessed are the merciful: they shall have _____ shown them.

Blessed are the pure in _____: they shall see _____.

Blessed are the peace _____: they shall be recognised as _____ of God.

Blessed are those who are _____ in the cause of uprightness: the kingdom of Heaven is _____.