

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 114

July 2012

## Coming Events

<b>Visiting Neo-Cat QLD Youth:</b>	Thurs 5
<b>Prayers for Peace:</b>	Thurs 5
<b>First Friday ~ Sacred Heart: Divine Mercy Prayer Group:</b>	Fri 6
<b>First Saturday ~ Immaculate Heart:</b>	Sat 7
<b>Home of Compassion Auxiliary Meeting:</b>	Mon 9
<b>Alan Ames Healing Ministry:</b>	Mon 9
<b>St Benedict ~ Pope's Feast Day:</b>	Wed 11
<b>Parish Film Night:</b>	Fri 13
<b>South Sudan Celebration Day:</b>	Sat 14
<b>Carmelite Ladies Auxiliary Card Party:</b>	Mon 16
<b>Prayers for Healing:</b>	Fri 20
<b>Confirmation Classes Begin:</b>	Tues 24
<b>Home of Compassion Aux Card Party:</b>	Mon 30

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## Wag Contacts

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The due date for the next Wag is:  
**Sunday August 5th**

## Refugee Week - Restoring Hope



This year's theme for Refugee Week was *Restoring Hope*.

The West Wagga - San Isidore Refugee Committee, as customary, was active in providing welcome, prayer and hospitality to a gathering of around 150 people at Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church San Isidore on Sunday evening June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Leaders of the Anglican Community participated in the prayer service. Pastor John Moi along with representatives of various church and community service groups shared prayers, with the Reverend Genieve Blackwell, Anglican Bishop in Wagga Wagga giving the occasional address for the evening.



A number of new arrivals to Wagga Wagga are from the Burmese Community. Part of their contribution to the evening of prayer was their singing of the hymn *How Great Though Art in their own language*. This was particularly well done.

Parishioners and members of the Sudanese Community sang an entrance hymn and provided a traditional slow processional dance. A generous supper was provided afterwards which all enjoyed in community friendship. An overall blessed occasion for all.



## pastor's page



Work is a means to an end. The end is life itself. And while work can be very engaging and satisfying there is just a danger that it can consume too much of one's life. This inevitably is to the disadvantage of personal health and family, especially the nurturing of children and teens.

As with all things a balance is needed since virtue always takes a middle path, thus avoiding the extremes of excess and defect. Indeed we are encouraged 'not to worry about our life, what we will eat or what we will drink, or about our body, what we will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? (Mat 6:25) There are many slogans that highlight a correct emphasis. 'Do you live to eat or eat to live?' 'If a man will not work, let him not eat' (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

The mix between one's lifestyle, ownership of property, the 'wants' for various appliances of modern living and the essential ends of life can sometimes become blurred. The basic question of all life is answered in an old catechism. **Q.** Why did God make me? **A.** 'God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him for ever in heaven'.

But it is not all about God and 'me'! It is also about my neighbor. It is unusual for someone not to love themselves so Jesus instructed us 'to love our neighbor as we love our self' (Mat 19:19). Hence life is essentially to, 'love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all

our soul, and with all our mind' and 'to love our neighbor as ourselves' (Mat 22:37-39). Service of our neighbor was a hallmark of the life of Jesus Christ who explicitly stated 'the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve...' (Mat 20:28).

When we spend time, energy and money on others we can supernaturalize such worthy activities by doing so for the love of God. In this way we are fulfilling the law of love; 'Truly I tell you, just as you did good to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me' (Mat 25:40).

Volunteering to help others was 'a given' in the past but in recent times it has largely fallen by the way-side. There are many reasons for this fact but one of the main reasons seems to be that people are today overcommitted financially and therefore must work harder and longer. What one income could achieve previously is not possible today or maybe our wants are greater!

In our own parish there have been examples of heroic and selfless volunteering from a variety of parishioners and in a variety of ways. The West Wagga Parish with its churches, school, presbytery, halls and facilities would not be what it is now if it were not for the selfless generosity of individual parishioners. We who benefit from the generosity of past parishioners do well not to forget the enterprise from by-gone generous souls.

One such pioneering parishioner was Mrs. Betty Letitia Gallagher. A requiem Mass was held for Betty last Friday June 29 in Holy Trinity Church. Betty (née Austin) was born in Leeton in 1927 and with her brother Johnny, was fostered out. Betty never let hardship get in the way of hard work. She was one of the "cannery" girls in Leeton during the WW II effort. Bet was

an adventurous soul who loved excitement and travel. Working in Wagga and Melbourne, she later drove across the unsealed road of the Nullabor plain in the 1950s. On her intrepid scooter she rode to Townsville and worked on Magnetic Island. Then Betty with a friend worked up and down the islands of New Zealand before coming back to Australia and marrying Jock in 1961.

Betty and her husband Jock and two sons Greg and Patrick moved into Malta Crescent in 1965 and were among the first six families to build a home in Ashmont. They lived simply but happily. The parish land was then just paddocks. It wasn't long before Betty was deeply involved in the new parish of Ashmont. Betty brought a lot of experience to the friendliness of the parish having worked in the hospitality industry for many years. Her working her way around both Australia and New Zealand for over fifteen years proved invaluable experience for our burgeoning parish. She was always lending a helping hand. Gregory and Patrick were among the earliest students at Holy Trinity School which began in 1970 and both served at Mass. Over forty years Betty contributed



## pastor's page continued

in a variety of ways to parish life.

Betty was instrumental in establishing the Ladies Auxiliary and was its first president serving in that role for more than twenty years. Helping all the pioneering priests, she taught the Sunday school catechism while Father Andrew Quinn preached his sermon. Betty organized the roster for church cleaning and took her hefty share of this apostolate. She organized the roster and cleaned the church up until 2004. Betty was a good Christian wife, mother and parishioner. All of her parish efforts were done while balancing part time employment, raising her boys and keeping house for Jock who was often away with his work.



Betty was integral to the Thursday night Bingo when the Ho.T hall/ church was used for this as well as a number of other activities. The existing church was then a bare concrete block building with a door opening out on to Bardia Street. It was very plain but functional. There was just the one external toilet and no other facilities except a sink in the sacristy. There was no parish house, just land all around.

Betty with other parishioners helped raise much needed money to keep things going in the parish over the years. They would fix the hall for the bingo by assembling all the wooden trestles and then put them away later to make room for the school or church. Then there was the cleaning up, washing of ash trays and the sweeping of the floor. All of this was no small job and its regularity - wearing. Betty also ran an early canteen in the parish.

Today we build on the enterprise and industry of early stalwart parishioners such as Betty. With gratitude we pray for the repose of her soul and remember the



invaluable assistance Betty and others have made over the years. Times have changed and needs are different but to all parish volunteers in whatever capacity I thank you and recommend you to God as the generous benefactors that you are. There is always much to be done in God's vineyard and the same few do most of it. If many do a little, few need to do much. I encourage anyone who has yet not understood the blessing that volunteering is, to give it a go. Whatever you expend will be more than richly rewarded by our loving Lord. As Saint Paul said, 'In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35).

## June Jokes



A young businessman had just started his own firm. He rented a beautiful office and had it furnished with antiques. Sitting there, he saw a man come into the outer office. Wishing to appear the hot shot, the businessman picked up the phone and started to pretend he had a big deal working.

He threw huge figures around and

made giant commitments. Finally he hung up and asked the visitor, ""Can I help you?""

The man said, ""Yeah, I've come to activate your phone lines.""

A three year old walked over to a pregnant lady while waiting with his mother in the doctors office. He inquisitively ask the lady, "Why is your stomach so big?" She replied, "I'm having a baby." With big eyes, he asked, "Is the baby in your stomach?" She said, "He sure is." Then the little boy, with a puzzled look, asked, "Is it a good baby?" She said, "Oh, yes. It's a real good baby."

With an even more surprised and shocked look, he asked... "Then why did you eat him?"

Wife sent a text message to her husband: "windows frozen at home, what can I do?" He replied with this text message: "throw hot water on them!" A few minutes later she sent him another text: "I did that... but now the computer won't work at all!"

I just brought a new guard dog , he's really good. I haven't been able to get in my house for 3 days.



## Praying - could save your life on earth too

An 8-year old US boy has survived with only minor injuries despite being swept into a flooded drain and surfacing in a creek over a kilometre away.

Kenny Markiewicz was playing with his cousin when the freak accident occurred after he went over to a "mud puddle, a big one". His hometown of Minnesota has been hit with record levels of rain and flooding over the past few days and murky water often disguised objects underneath the surface.

It wasn't until Kenny's mother heard her niece scream that she

urgently dialed 911.

"He just was going across by the puddle and, apparently, there was a culvert or a pipe there and he fell in," she said.

As neighbours lifted manholes in search of Kenny, he had vanished down a drain of rushing water before his grandfather Gordon Marshall found him in a creek around one and a half kilometres away.

"The first thing I think I said to him is, "Are you alright? Do you know where you're at?" He didn't. He just screamed," said Mr Marshall.



"He was lost, petrified, scared to death."

Kenny said his mother was the only thought on his mind during a "dark scary ride" that had his family and friends in panic.

"I plugged my nose, I took a breath and I prayed," he said.

## Families in Trial Are Not Alone, Says Pope

The meditations for the traditional Good Friday procession in the Colosseum were unique this year: they were by a married couple.

In his brief address the Pope said:

The experience of suffering and of the cross touches all mankind; it touches the family too. How often does the journey become wearisome and difficult! Misunderstandings, conflicts, worry for the future of our children, sickness and problems of every kind. These days too, the

situation of many families is made worse by the threat of unemployment ....

The Way of the Cross which we have spiritually retraced this evening invites all of us, and families in particular, to contemplate Christ crucified in order to have the force to overcome difficulties. The cross of Christ is the supreme sign of God's love for every man and woman, the superabundant response to every person's need for love. At times of

trouble, when our families have to face pain and adversity, let us look to Christ's cross. There we can find the courage and strength to press on.

The Holy Father also affirmed that in times of trial, we are not alone; the family is not alone.

Jesus, he said, is present with his love, he sustains them by his grace and grants the strength needed to carry on, to make sacrifices and to overcome every obstacle.



## Ho.T FILM NIGHT

Friday July 13th 7.30 pm — Join together to watch:

### A WALK *in the* CLOUDS

[PG]

After returning from the WW II, Paul (Keanu Reeves) and a young woman meet on a bus as she's headed home from college to help with the grape harvest and face her Old World domineering dad. The woman has not married but is pregnant and she thinks her father is going to kill her.

Paul proposes to pretend to be her husband to help her face her father. This film is about a young man's difficult decisions, his virtue and his kindness to an unknown woman in difficulty. It is a funny romantic drama with some insight into 1950 Mexican family life in the wine country of California. The film is set in beautiful grape fields called *Las Nubes*, (Spanish for "the clouds"). It is a charming and heart-warming watch with excellent portrayals by Keanu Reeves and a grandfather role by Anthony Quinn.

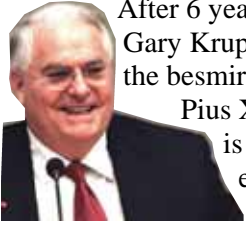
Tea and coffee provided. Come and enjoy a social evening!



# Jew says: Pius XII saved so many Jews!

By Edward Pentin  
Zenit.org

## Historian: We're Winning in Effort to Clear Pius XII's Name



After 6 years of research, Gary Krupp is confident the besmirching of Pope Pius XII's reputation is coming to an end.

"We're definitely winning, absolutely no question. Every time we do more research, we find a diamond." As a Jew from New York who grew up, like many others of his generation, with an indoctrinated hatred of the wartime Pope for his alleged anti-Semitism and unwillingness to help Jews during the Holocaust, Gary Krupp's anger at realizing this was all a lie... is both heartfelt and compelling. Now he and his team of researchers have uncovered more documented evidence that Pave the Way ([www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)) believes should act as incontrovertible proof to any serious historian that Pius XII did all he could to protect and defend Jews before, during & after WWII. Some of these documents show that Pius XII favored the creation of a Jewish state as far back as 1917. In further recent discoveries, Pave the Way has come across a letter written by Cardinal Pacelli in 1939 in which he attempted to obtain visas to enter Brazil for 200,000 Jews who remained in Germany after Kristallnacht. "He wasn't able to obtain the visas, but he tried," says Krupp. "He didn't do it from the safety of Washington DC or London. He did it while surrounded by hostile forces, & infiltrated by spies, & yet he still managed to save more Jews

than all the other world leaders combined."

Further letters reveal how, through his nephew Carlo Pacelli, Pius XII helped prevent the arrest of Roman Jews in 1943, giving an estimated 12,000 of them the chance to seek refuge in Church monasteries, convents, and the homes of Italian Catholics. "All these archival records show how he personally

helped save Jewish people," says Krupp, adding emphatically in his broad New York accent: "Anti-Semites don't do that!" Other ground-breaking discoveries show how the Pope was a target for assassination by Hitler, & that he & his secretary were also named in a German report as co-conspirators in the Valkyre assassination attempt on the Fuhrer in July 1944.

Pave the Way has combed through copies of the New York Times and Palestine Post from 1939 to 1958 to find any evidence of animosity toward the Jews. "There's not one negative article," Krupp says. Krupp points out a "fantastic letter" from the American ambassador to Germany, reporting on 3rd March 1939 on the new Pope's election on 2nd March. The ambassador recalls in the letter meeting Cardinal Pacelli in 1937, & wanting to visit the Sistine Chapel, but he wasn't able to as the Cardinal had kept him for 3 solid hours, talking about National Socialism and Hitler. "In the letter it says: "While his views against Hitler were well known to me, I had no idea of the extremity of his views," Krupp recounts.

Like many, Krupp is convinced the smearing of Pius's reputation was due to an elaborate misinformation campaign by the Soviets and, in



particular, the play "The Deputy." He is particularly indignant with Rome's Jewish community: "All of Rome's Jewish community despises Pius XII, when a few short few years ago they erected a monument in his honor because he saved all of their lives," says Krupp. "You have air in your lungs today because he saved your lives," he says in pointed words directed at them, "and yet you despise him? This is a sin."

What about the accusations one hears made against Pius? Krupp bats them away with ease.

On why Pius didn't lay down his life as a martyr: "Why didn't General Patten do the same thing? ... It would be the worst thing one can do, especially when he could do the good that he did alive."

On the claim no Nazis were excommunicated: "They were -- I love this one. The German bishops said anyone who joined the 'Hitler Party,' who wore the uniform or flew the flag were excommunicated." On the claim that Pius XII helped Nazi war criminals flee to South America: "No, it was exactly the opposite according to Bishop Hudal [Hudal was a Nazi collaborator in Rome]; just read his autobiography." On the claim that Pius authorized forced baptisms of Jewish infants: "Nonsense. In fact he forbade it."

### New York Times Editorial, 1941:

"The voice of Pius XII is a lonely voice in the silence and darkness enveloping Europe this Christmas.. He is about the only ruler left on the Continent of Europe who dares to raise his voice at all."

### Israeli diplomat Pinchas Lapide, 1967:

In his 1967 book *The Last Three Popes and the Jews*, Lapide (who served as Israeli consul in Milan and interviewed Italian Holocaust survivors) declared Pius XII "was instrumental in saving at least 700,000, but probably as many as 860,000 Jews from certain death at Nazi hands."

# Pakistani Asia Bibi - soon to be Catholic Martyr?



*There's a story of a woman  
Who's the mother of 5  
3 years in prison  
Now she's barely alive  
- Hal St John, Free Asia Bibi song*

The Catholic band Ooberfuse, one of Pope Benedict's favourite, has recorded a song (uploaded to [www.freeasiabibi.co.uk](http://www.freeasiabibi.co.uk)) calling for the release of the mother of five, Asia (A-see-a) Bibi, who was arrested and jailed after her fellow farmhands accused her of blasphemy.

A French journalist helped Asia write a book, called Blasphemy. In it she describes what has happened

"I am a 'nothing' as they say here. A simple countrywoman from Ittan Wali, a miniscule Punjabi village, in the centre of Pakistan.

"In prison, day and night is the same. My dying is slow. My tears are my only companions in the cell. I see no more than the prison bars, the wet ground and the walls blackened by filth.

"After the newspaper reports, 10 million Pakistanis are ready to kill me by their own hands.

"I want the whole world to know that I will be hung by the neck for

having helped my neighbour. I, Asia Bibi, am condemned to die because I was thirsty. I am a prisoner because I used the same glass as some Muslim women. Water served by a Christian woman is considered impure by these fellow field workers.

"From this prison squalor, I want everyone to hear my small voice denouncing this injustice and this barbarity."

Some have stood up for the truth, even at the cost of their lives.

Asia Bibi says,

"Salman Taseer was a politician and a humanist who did not hesitate to oppose the Taliban and islamisation. He was assassinated because he defended me publically.

*"..I express my feelings of spiritual closeness with Asia Bibi... and I ask that she be released as soon as possible. I pray for those who are in similar situations that their human dignity and their fundamental rights be fully respected."*

Pope Benedict XVI

'Hello, Asia. I am Salman Taseer, the Governor of Punjab. I know your story and I know that you are a victim. He said I am unjustly accused, that this law against blasphemy encourages criminal actions against religious minorities and the most destitute, that it goes not only against the principles of Islam but that it does no service to this religion.'

But the mood in Pakistan is against Bibi,

'People do not like you here. They would want you dead. Salman Taseer's assassin was his body guard. He brought him down. Now he is a hero throughout Pakistan. We also are like your body guards,

if you see what I mean.' said Khalil, prison warden."

Asia Bibi speaks of the trial of hearing crowds clamouring for her death,

'I can no longer bear the sight of people full of hatred, applauding the killing of a poor farm worker. I no longer see them, but I still hear them, the crowd who gave the judge a standing ovation, saying "Kill her, kill her! Allah akbar."

The court house is invaded by a euphoric horde who break down the doors, chanting "Vengeance for the holy Prophet, Allah is great!" I was then thrown like an old rubbish-sack into the van... I had lost all humanity in their eyes.'

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Jun 2009 Arrested by police  
Nov 2010 Condemned to death by hanging  
Nov 2010 Pope calls for Bibi release  
Jan 2011 Salman Taseer calls for Bibi release  
Jan 2011 Salman Taseer assassinated  
Jan 2011 Asia Bibi moved to isolated cell  
Jan 2011 Catholic politician Shahbaz Bhatti houses Bibi's family  
Mar 2011 Shahbaz Bhatti assassinated  
Jun 2012 3rd anniversary of arrest  
NOW: Awaiting death... or freedom!!!

Ooberfuse & freeasiabibi.co.uk are working to raise awareness in the media and to support Asia's husband and five children.



## A man goes on a safari to Africa with his dachshund...

One day, the dachshund starts chasing butterflies & before long the dachshund discovers he is lost.

So, wandering about, he notices a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the obvious intention of having him for lunch. The dachshund thinks, "I'm in deep trouble now!" Then he noticed some bones on the ground close by, and immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat.

Just as the leopard is about to leap, the dachshund exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard. I wonder if there are any more around here."

Hearing this, the leopard halts his attack in mid-stride, as a look of

terror comes over him, and slinks away into the trees.

"Whew," says the leopard. "That was close. That dachshund nearly had me."

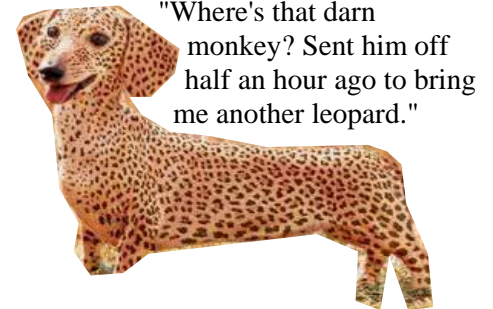
Meanwhile, a monkey, who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. So, off he goes.

But the dachshund saw him heading after the leopard with great speed, and figured that something must be up.

The monkey soon catches up with the leopard, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the leopard. The leopard is furious at being made a fool of and says,

"Here monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine."

Now the dachshund sees the leopard coming with the monkey on his back, and thinks, "What am I going to do now?" But instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet. And, just when they get close enough to hear, the dachshund says:



"Where's that darn monkey? Sent him off half an hour ago to bring me another leopard."

## Atheist Blogger decides to turn Catholic



American blogger, Leah Libresco, known for writing about ethics and religion from her perspective as an atheist, announced on Monday that she now believes in God & intends to enter the Catholic Church.

"For several years, a lot of my friends have been telling me I had an inconsistent and unsustainable philosophy," the Washington, DC-based author of the "Unequally Yoked" blog wrote announcing her intention to convert.

The 22-year-old Yale graduate says she came to believe "that the Moral Law wasn't just a Platonic truth, abstract and distant. It turns out I

actually believed it was some kind of Person, as well as Truth. And there was one religion that seemed like the most promising way to reach back to that living Truth."

Leah describes a key discussion:

"The night before Palm Sunday, I was up at my alma mater for an alumni debate. I had another round of translating a lot of principles out of Catholic in order to use them in my speech, which prompted the now traditional heckling from my friends. After the debate, I buttonholed a Christian friend for another argument. During the discussion, he prodded me on where I thought moral law came from in my metaphysics. ...

I've heard some explanations that try to bake morality into the natural world by reaching for evolutionary psychology. They argue that moral dispositions are evolutionarily triumphant over selfishness, or they talk about group selection, or something else. Usually, these proposed solutions radically

misunderstand a) evolution b) moral philosophy or c) both. I didn't think the answer was there. My friend pressed me to stop beating up on other people's explanations & offer 1 of my own.

*"I don't know," I said.*

*"Your best guess."*

*"I haven't got one."*

*"You must have some idea."*

*"I don't know. I've got nothing. I guess Morality just loves me or something."*

*"..."*

*"Ok, ok, yes, I heard what I just said. Give me a second and let me decide if I believe it."*

It turns out I did."

In recent years, the writer and researcher had – despite her atheism – developed an interest in Christian accounts of morality, developed by authors like CS Lewis, GK Chesterton, and Alasdair MacIntyre. Her blog, "Unequally Yoked," chronicled her engagement with Christian theological claims.

# The West Wagga Wagga

West Wagga Parish



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



## Luke Chapter 7 Jesus forgives a sinful woman

Complete by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank below.

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my \_\_\_\_\_, but she wet my feet with her \_\_\_\_\_ and wiped them with her \_\_\_\_\_. You did not give me a \_\_\_\_\_, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put \_\_\_\_\_ on my head, but she has poured \_\_\_\_\_ on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been \_\_\_\_\_, for she \_\_\_\_\_ much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

Then Jesus said to her, "Your \_\_\_\_\_ are forgiven."

The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has \_\_\_\_\_ you; go in peace."

feet  
forgiven

hair  
kiss

loved  
oil

perfume  
saved

sins  
tears