

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 113

June 2012

## Coming Events

<b>First Friday Devotions of Month:</b>	Fri 1
<b>First Saturday Devotions of Month:</b>	Sat 2
<b>Solemnity of Most Holy Trinity (Titular Feast of Holy Trinity Church):</b>	Sun 3
<b>Anointing of the Sick Mass</b>	Tues 5
<b>Prayers for Peace:</b>	Thurs 7
<b>Solemnity of the Holy Body &amp; Blood of Christ:</b>	Sun 10
<b>Mass at Collingullie:</b>	Sun 10
<b>Corpus Christi Youth Fest:</b>	Sun 10
<b>St Anthony of Padua:</b>	Wed 13
<b>Solemnity of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:</b>	Fri 15
<b>Prayers for Healing:</b>	Fri 15
<b>The Abundance of Grace Parish Retreat:</b>	Fri 13
<b>Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary:</b>	Sat 14
<b>Final Day of Parish Retreat:</b>	Sun 17
<b>Week of Guided Prayer:</b>	Fri 17
<b>Solemnity of St John Baptist:</b>	Sun 24
<b>Solemnity of Sts Peter &amp; Paul:</b>	Fri 29

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## Wag Contacts

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The due date for the next Wag is:  
Sunday July 1st

## Travelling Monstrance Visits West Wagga

On November 24, 2004, Pope John Paul II blessed six monstrances, representing each of the six continents of the world. Since that time, they have travelled thousands of miles and have stimulated millions of prayers within parishes throughout the world. A monstrance as shown by the photo is a sacred vessel which contains the consecrated Eucharistic Host when exposed for adoration in a church or when carried in procession.

The traveling monstrances were used to promote worldwide Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations; a campaign that began during the Year of the Eucharist.

This endeavour is sponsored by the Serrans in Australia, Serra International and the Holy See's Congregation for Catholic Education's Pontifical Office for Vocations.

One of the 6 monstrances blessed by John Paul II was sent to Australia. However, unlike the other five monstrances that arrived safely, the very expensive monstrance never arrived. Because it went missing and after exhaustive efforts to find it failed, a further monstrance was commissioned which is unique.

Since Blessed John Paul II had died by the time the new monstrance was made Pope Benedict XVI blessed the Australian monstrance shortly after he became pope in 2005.

The gold plated ornate and hand crafted monstrance is worth many thousands of dollars and its beauty

and craftsmanship befits admiration. More adorable, of course, is Jesus Christ, Son of God who is cradled for all to adore in the exquisite monstrance.

Australia's own monstrance has travelled extensively throughout Australia since 2005. It first visited West Wagga

parish in 2006. This time too each of our parish's churches had an opportunity to adore Jesus. On Pentecost Sunday there was a time of extended adoration. Last Wednesday morning just prior to Mass there was a formal Benediction with the monstrance.

Many graces were merited by spending time in adoration. Although the traveling monstrance is special, more wonderful is every minute spent before Jesus in the Eucharist. All are invited, 'come let us adore the Lord'!



## Parish Retreat: THE ABUNDANCE OF GRACE

7pm Fri 15th June through to 4.30pm Sun 17th June

Come to all or any parts you like

Details at the back of the church or check out parish website

## pastor's page



### The Year of Grace

Bishop Gerard wrote recently to priests saying; 'As you are aware, the Church throughout Australia is celebrating a *Year of Grace* which started on Pentecost, Sunday.

This Year of Grace will also incorporate our celebration in Australia of the international *Year of Faith* proposed by Pope Benedict XVI, starting 11th October, 2012, to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

At the heart of the *Year of Grace and Faith* is not a plan for events or more activity. It is more like a call to "Come aside and rest awhile" with the Lord. Acknowledging and repenting of the wounds caused by human sinfulness, the recognition at the heart of a *Year of Grace and Faith* is a need to *Start Afresh from Christ*.

In Australia, the vision of a *Year of Grace* has been described as a spiritual journey like that of Abraham, who set out in faith, not knowing the place to which he was going.

It has also been described as a fitting time to listen more intently to the Word of God in *Prayerful*

*reading of the Scriptures (Lectio Divina).*

Other words have been used also, such as: thanksgiving, healing, holiness and prayer.

The Bishop's *Year of Grace* website contains further information and resources: [www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au](http://www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au)

The *Year of Grace* candle will be burnt throughout the year during liturgical events. There is also the special prayer that will be offered during the prayers of intercession. Prayer cards are also available.

In our Diocese we will also display the *Year of Grace* banner.

Starting from the Solemnity of *The Body and Blood of the Lord*, Sunday, 10th June, we will have this image of Christ displayed on the banner in a church, and together with the candle, these will be simple and prayerful reminders of the *Year of Grace* to all.

There are brochures by way of introducing the community of faith to the vision of *A Year of Grace and Faith*.

During this year in our parish there will be opportunities for prayer and reflection on the *Year of Grace*.

One such event is the Parish Retreat to be held on the weekend of June 16/17. *The Abundance of Grace* retreat will explain much about grace given to us by God and more importantly how we can benefit even more from such a great gratuitous blessing.

Other prayerful opportunities could be as simple as a Scripture Reading, a brief reflection, some Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. Daily Mass is an excellent means to grow in the grace available to us. The *Year of Grace* is not to create more work or to multiply events, but to make time for your own prayerful listening to the Holy Spirit of God. Grace is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). This grace is 'has been merited for us by the passion of Christ and is given to us in Baptism. Justification is the beginning of the free response of man, that is, faith in Christ and of cooperation with the grace of the Holy Spirit' (Compendium 422). 'Faith in Christ and of cooperation with the grace of the Holy Spirit' is the source of the *Year of Grace*, hence the Bishop's remind us to "Start afresh from Christ".

A simple prayer to learn and to pray is:

*Lord God,  
be the beginning and end of all  
that we say and do,  
prompt our actions by  
your holy grace  
and complete them  
with your all  
powerful help.  
Through Christ our  
Lord, Amen.*

*Fr Gerard*



## June Jokes

**I wondered** why the frisbee was getting bigger, and then it hit me.

**I don't approve** of political jokes, I've seen too many of them get elected.

**"Excuse me,** this coffee tastes like mud."

Waiter- "Yes sir, it's fresh ground.

### I've Arrived

Scottish couple decided to go to Spain to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier.

Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So, the husband left Glasgow and flew to Barcelona on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day. The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an email to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her email address, and without realizing his error, sent the email.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Blackpool, England, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who died following a heart attack.

The widow decided to check her email expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted.



The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

**To: My Loving Wife I've Arrived**

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones.

I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow.

Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. It's mighty hot down here!

**3 kinds of people:** those who can count and those who can't.



A cricket team was on the field during practice, when to their surprise, a big turkey suddenly walked up to the coach and demanded a tryout. "Are you crazy," shouted the coach, "we don't give tryouts to turkeys." Before he knew it the turkey started dashing off and made a fantastic catch. "That was amazing", exclaimed the coach "I have never seen anything like that! How much do you want for a year?" "Don't worry about money," said the turkey, "let me just ask you something, does the season go past Christmas?!"

**Why** do you always find things in the last place you look?



A man goes into a bar with his dog. He goes up to the bar and asks for a drink.

The bartender says "You can't bring that dog in here!" The guy, without missing a beat, says "This is my seeing-eye dog."

"Oh man," the bartender says, "I'm sorry, here, the first one's on me." The man takes his drink and goes to a table near the door.

Another guy walks into the bar with a Chihuahua. The first guys sees him, stops him and says "You can't bring that dog in here unless you tell him it's a seeing-eye dog."

The second man graciously thanks the first man and continues to the bar. He asks for a drink. The bartender says "Hey, you can't bring that dog in here!"

The second man replies "This is my seeing-eye dog." The bartender says, "No, I don't think so. They do not have Chihuahuas as seeing-eye dogs."

The man pauses for a half-second and replies "What?!! They gave me a Chihuahua?!!"

**Adults** are always asking little kids what they want to be when they grow up because they're looking for ideas.

Jerry was in the hospital recovering from surgery when a nurse asks him how he is feeling.

"I'm OK but I didn't like the four-letter-word the doctor used in surgery," he answered.

"What did he say," asked the nurse. "OOPS!"

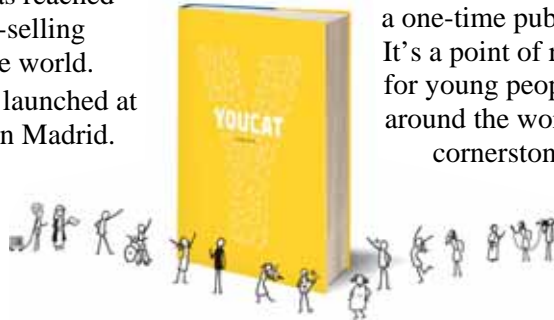
# YOUCAT Becomes World's Best-Selling Catholic Book

## 1.7M Sold Around the Globe

(Zenit.org).- The young people's catechism of the Catholic Church, titled YOUCAT, has reached the rank of the best-selling Catholic book in the world. The catechism was launched at World Youth Day in Madrid. Ignatius Press published the English-language version.

Jesuit Father Joseph Fessio, editor of Ignatius, referred to YOUCAT's unique role: "Like its big brother, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, YOUCAT isn't a one-time publication. It's a point of reference for young people around the world and a cornerstone of the New

Evangelization." YOUCAT adapts the content of the Catechism of the Catholic Church to a format intended to engage young people and young adults. The format includes questions and answers, highly-readable commentary, margin photos and illustrations, summary definitions of key terms, Bible citations and quotes from the saints and other teachers.



# Can you hear Jesus knocking?



A nurse on the pediatric ward, before listening to the little ones'

chests, she would plug the stethoscope into their ears and let them listen to their heart beat. Their eyes would always light up with awe, but she never got the response equal to four year old David's comment.

She gently tucked the stethoscope into his ears and placed the disk over his heart.

"Listen", she said, "What do you suppose that is?"

He drew his eye brows together in a puzzled line and looked up as if lost in the mystery of the strange tap - tap—tapping deep in his chest.

Then his face broke out in a wondrous grin and he asked, "Is that Jesus knocking?"



# Ho.T FILM NIGHT



**Friday June 11th 7.30 pm** — Join together to watch:

## COURAGEOUS

Four men striving to fulfill their mission "to serve and protect," both as law enforcement officers and fathers.

Tea and coffee provided.

Come an enjoy a social evening!

# The Rock Star Who Met Christ



Dion DiMucci was there at the creation of rock'n'roll.

In the late 1950s, the Italian-American boy from the Bronx scored runaway hits with songs like "The Wanderer" and "Runaround Sue". By the age of 20, the once-poor gang member had become a millionaire. In 1959, while touring with Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper, he fatefully chose not to get on the plane that killed them both. In the 1960s, although he had everything the world could offer, he felt profoundly empty. He struggled with heroin and alcohol addiction until one night in 1967 when he fell to his knees and prayed. Then everything changed.

Dion appears on the legendary cover of The Beatles' Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album and counts Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen and Lou Reed as friends and admirers. Although now 72, he is still writing recording music and has just published a moving memoir of his journey back to his Catholic roots: *Dion: The Wanderer Talks Truth*.

Speaking from his Florida home Dion told me of his deep love for the Catholic Church, which he says is far more than merely a natural organisation.

"It's supernatural," he says.

"That's why I love it. I love the

Church. I love the teachings. I love the truth.

But by 1967, after a decade of fame and fortune, Dion was in a bad place. He was heavily addicted to heroin and alcohol, and his career was suffering. He was moved to see his tough-guy father-in-law praying on his knees.

He recalls saying to him: "Pray for me." The wry reply came: "Pray for yourself, God loves to hear from strangers."

Eventually, one night he tried it. He got down on his knees and asked God to free him from his addictions.

He says: "It's been 44 years since I said that prayer, and I haven't taken a drug or a drink."

He also now counsels other addicts. As to whether that was his very first prayer, he says: "You know, nobody's ever asked me that question. I would say it was my first conscious prayer, when I got down on my knees and prayed from my heart. You could call it my first prayer."

That prayer, which freed him from alcohol and drugs, began his deep embrace of Christianity. It also changed his musical direction. Just months after saying the prayer, he had a hit with a gentle, contemplative song, "Abraham, Martin and John", which sold over a million copies in America.

Yet he was to have another profound spiritual experience. While out jogging in 1979, Dion says: "I had this experience, it was very sudden and brilliant and profound. Christ appeared to me, and I've never been the same. It truly set me free.

"By the time I was 20, I had 12

gold records on the wall, and I'd made a couple of million dollars, but I was empty. Something was missing. But when Christ came in to my life, I understood who he was – that God stepped in to history for a reason. When you open up to the wonder and awe and mystery of life, and find out that God is a reality, it fills you. It filled my heart, my mind and my spirit. I've never looked back. I thank God for what he did for me."

In his book he makes articulate arguments against moral relativism, using John Lennon's secular hymn "Imagine" to deconstruct the idea. Dion notes that the song, which contains the lines "Imagine there's no heaven, above us only sky" was released at a time when much of the world was in the grip of atheistic Communism.

Dion says: "For me it's an anthem for a self-centred wretch, and in the same breath, I gotta tell you, I love John Lennon... that song just doesn't go deep enough... you're talking to a guy who couldn't even get along with his bandmates."

He says that Catholics nowadays need to try to "infiltrate the culture". "That's our job, I think, to infiltrate the culture." Not, he explains, to impose, but to expose "what's important in life and give people an opportunity to see the truth."



**"To accept meat eaters into a vegetarian organisation is of course to destroy it: it is no longer a vegetarian group." Bill Muehlenberg**

Can you think of how this applies to what some people want to do to marriage?

## Come and See

Since becoming Catholic in 2004, I have asked myself over and over, why I was never invited to attend a Mass.

I could attend funerals and was invited to a few weddings, but not one Catholic ever invited me to Mass.

I was obviously a believer, I loved the same God, and many Catholics came to an interdenominational group Bible Study I taught. I always behaved well; I would never have embarrassed anyone. The Catholics who came to class all seemed to like me. I have always been approachable. Why, in over 35 years, did no one ever once ask me to visit his or her parish for Mass? Why didn't they ask, "Will you come to Mass with me Sunday and let's go out for brunch?"

My husband, Tom, and I went to our first Mass at the Cathedral on February 2, 2003. The minute the Mass ended, we turned to each other. Wide-eyed, I said, "This is worship!" Tom said, "Yes, and we are coming back!" As we stopped to say hello to the priest Tom told him, "We want to become Catholic." One visit to one Catholic Mass; that is all it took. That one visit and a ton of grace - but God provided the grace! The time was right for us. The time was perfect.

We attended Mass for one year and one day - and on February 3, 2004 we were received into full communion in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. It is true, we did not "get" to come forward for the Eucharist for one year and one day. I can remember one of our grandchildren, hearing we could not "take" Communion "yet" said, "Grandmother! They would not let YOU take Communion? You are the best Christian I know." But I told our grandchild, "The Eucharist is so

special - first, the Eucharist is a sacrament - second, they wanted us to fully understand what the Catholic Church knows and teaches as Truth - it is like waiting for the wedding night - being ready for it - anticipating."

Tom and I keep inviting people to Mass; we invite our family now, but others, too. We know we all love the same God.

So what is the reason many Catholics don't invite friends to Mass? Is it because we can't explain to our friends or to our



family that they will have to wait, like everyone else had to wait, until they understand what Catholics believe before they are ready to receive the Eucharist?

Any person who is secure in his or her faith would find it easy to come to Mass with us. The stronger the Protestant believing Christian is in his knowledge of the Bible and his faith, the more he is going to see the Mass as beautiful. He will know the untruths of what many Protestants have been told in the past - that Catholics crucify Jesus all over again and again, it is a bloody Mass, or Catholics have a death cookie at Communion. He will know we don't worship Mary, or the saints but we do worship Christ who has died, Christ who has risen and Christ who will come again! He will be amazed at the beauty of the Old and New

Testament seen and heard in the liturgy and how much Sacred Scripture we hear at Mass every day. He just might fall in love all over again with the Lord and want to come worship with us. Tom and I did just that.

We have it ALL in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church - why then are we all not sharing it? Pope John Paul II told us to be evangelical. Why do Catholics keep this a secret - this wonderful worship - exquisite worship?

It is clear we do keep it a secret! If we don't ask friends or family to come with us to a Mass, most of them are not going to fall in the door of the Cathedral when they walk by, as Tom and I did.

Sure, you will be turned down. I can promise you that. You will be rejected! Embarrassed? Yes, you will be embarrassed and some people will tell you things that hurt you about your faith. Who cares? Call it suffering if you like - Catholics do that well.

Catholics understand suffering and how it unites us to Christ. Protestants get turned down right and left when they invite people to church, but they still invite people. Do you know why? Because they believe, with a passion, that faith is a life and death situation.

Do we believe that? Do we believe, with a passion, that faith is a life and death situation? Sure we do! Do we want others to know what we believe and why we believe it? Sure we do! For some reason we just don't know how to tell them. The Mass may show them.

Faith is more than a matter of life and death! Faith is a matter of divine worship. Absolutely divine! Invite someone to come to Mass this week. Tell them in the words of Jesus, "Come and see." They will like it. We did!

## AN OBITUARY PRINTED IN THE LONDON TIMES

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend.

**Common Sense**, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- and...maybe it was my fault.

**Common Sense** lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a

teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

**Common Sense** lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

**Common Sense** lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

**Common Sense** took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

**Common Sense** finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled

a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

**Common Sense** was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

**He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers;**

I Know My Rights

I Want It Now

Someone Else Is To Blame

I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.



## Tony Blair says world without faith would be a disaster

Tony Blair has told a conference in London that a world without faith would be a disaster, reports the Catholic Herald.

In an interview in front of more than 4,300 people at an Anglican conference, Mr Blair also revealed that he had once been rebuked by an official for proposing to end a speech with the words: "God bless Britain."

Mr Blair, a former Anglican who became a Catholic in 2007 – less than a year after he stepped down

as prime minister – said that faith was vital because it introduced the virtue of humility into societies.

"What is the essence of our faith besides all the things we believe, certainly as Christians, about Jesus Christ and his place in our lives?" he asked.

"It is also fundamentally a belief that there is something bigger and more important than you, that you are not the only thing that matters, that there is something that is

greater and transcendent," he told the leadership conference organised by the Holy Trinity Brompton, an influential Anglican parish.



# The West Wagga Wagga

West Wagga Parish



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



## Born Again!



In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

*John 3:3*

BIRTH	TRUTH	SPIRIT
PHARISEE	AGAIN	ETERNAL
BORN	WORLD	KINGDOM
JESUS	LOVED	TEACHER
NICODEMUS	NIGHT	JEWISH
LIFE	MAN	RABBI
FLESH	WATER	

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