

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 110

March 2011

## Coming Events

Parish Mission 2012:	Sat 5 – Sun 12
International Women's Day:	Sun 4
Catholic Women's League Coffee Morning:	Mon 5
Lenten Program:	Mondays of Lent
Junior Legion:	Tuesdays
Rosary Group:	Wednesdays
Senior Legion:	Wednesdays
St Vde Paul:	Thursdays
Prayers for Peace:	Thus of Lent
St Mary's Cathedral Scholar Concert:	Sat 10
Home of Compassion Auxiliary:	Mon 12
Prayers for Healing:	Fri 16
50th Jubilee Bishop Henschke Boys' School:	Fri 16
St Patrick's Day:	Thurs 17
St Joseph Husband of Mary:	Mon 19
Annunciation of the Lord:	Mon 26
Legion of Mary ACIES:	Sun 25
Passion Sunday:	April Sun 1

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## Wag Contacts

Email:  
westwagga@exemail.com.au

Phone: 6931 3601

The due date for the next Wag is:  
**Sunday April 1**

## Episcopal Ex-Parishioner



Bishop Michael Kennedy, his mother Fidelma, siblings and their families outside the Cathedral after the episcopal ceremony. A small bus load of West Wagga parishioners with Fr Gerard attended the ordination Mass in Armidale. We wish Bishop Kennedy a fruitful ministry and his diocese every grace and blessing from Almighty God.

### Marriage Congratulations



**Kevin and Patricia Laurent**  
60 years ~ Diamond Anniversary

**Jim and Judy Ellis**  
50 years ~ Golden Jubilee

**Peter and Marg Sewell**  
40 years ~ Ruby Anniversary

### Birthday Congratulations

#### Jim McLeod

With the distinction of being born February 29 ~ celebrates his 60th birthday or his 15th birthday.

#### Vale Bruce Kennedy

Eternal Rest grant to Bruce, O Lord.  
We pray for the repose of his soul while asking God's consoling graces on Mary and her family.



If you would like someone featured in this section please email details to westwagga@exemail.com.au

## pastor's page

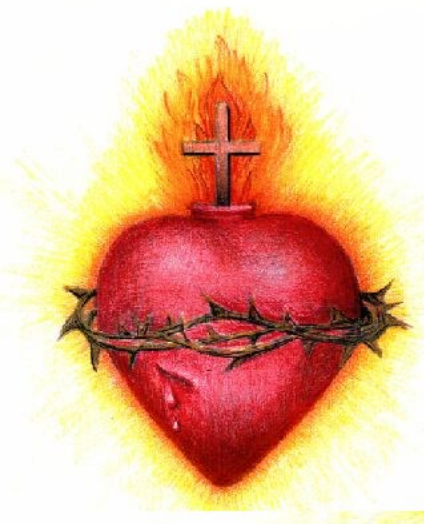
In a previous Wag I invited readers during this year which has been dedicated as a Year of Grace by our Bishops, to do something spiritually worthwhile and pre-eminently practical. The Sacred Heart Devotion has more recently been overshadowed by the equally excellent devotion to Christ's Divine Mercy. Both are equally valuable as devotions to express our love for Jesus. Yet the Directory on Popular Piety and Liturgy published by the Congregation of Divine Worship (2002) states that, 'Of all devotions, devotion to the Sacred Heart was, and remains, one of the most widespread and popular in the Church' (para.166).

The Year of Grace, it is a wonderful opportunity to revisit the teachings and blessings on the Sacred Heart of Jesus whose love is especially manifest in his mercy. When Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in France in 1673, he expressed his dismay at the fact that he lived, loved and died for us, so immense is his love; yet he has received only "ingratitude in return". There is little doubt that in a lifetime it is possible given all the other works, worries and weariness that besets us that we can slacken off our devotion, not only by way of sin but also by way of familiarity. I know that I have been guilty of this.

In the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus we have a loving and easy remembrance in the Divine image that has been passed on to us of the Lord's appearance via statues and paintings. In these images the Heart is exposed and predominant because Jesus wanted us to be quite clear about the fact that he has a heart like ours, human, but burning with an infinite desire for our love to be returned and united with his in making reparation to the Heavenly Father. We are invited to ponder his love in our mental prayer, to have an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in our homes or bedroom and each time we go past it to offer a prayer such as Jesus I love you; Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on me; Heart of Jesus save souls; Jesus I unite myself to you in reparation for sin.

Other aspects of this devotion are making one's personal consecration; or the consecration of one's family and home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; the

recitation of the Litany of the Sacred Heart; acts of reparation; frequent Reconciliation and Holy Communion and an observance of a Holy Hour; but especially says the Directory, 'the pious practice of the first Fridays of the month which derives from the "great promises" made by Jesus to St. Margaret Mary. At a time when sacramental communion was very rare among the faithful, the first Friday devotion contributed significantly to a renewed use of the Sacraments of Penance and of the Holy Eucharist. In our own times, the devotion to the first Fridays, even if practised correctly, may not always lead to the desired spiritual fruits. Hence, the faithful require constant instruction so that any reduction of the practice to mere credulity, is avoided and an active faith encouraged so that the faithful may undertake their commitment to the Gospel correctly in their lives. They should also be reminded of the absolute pre-eminence of Sunday, the "primordial feast"(188), which should be marked by the full participation of the faithful at the celebration of the Holy Mass' (para.171).



The Heart of Jesus makes a wonderful promise to us regarding our last end. He does this as an infinitely loving gesture of encouragement towards us. Jesus' great promise is now further extended towards the dying in the Divine Mercy devotion. For example; we can pray the chaplet of the Divine Mercy in the presence of the dying and be absolutely sure of that person's eternal salvation (*Diary 811, 1541*). How good is that! Everyone who loves anyone else should do that for a family member or a friend – even for an enemy, so that they

can then be purified in the cleansing of purgatory.

The promise concerning the assurance of our own salvation is contained in a letter written in May, 1684, by St. Margaret Mary. "On a Friday during Holy Communion, He said these words to His unworthy slave, if I mistake not: I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart that Its all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on nine first Fridays of the month consecutively, the grace of final repentance; they will not die under My displeasure or without receiving their Sacraments, My Divine Heart making Itself their assured refuge at the last moment." With regard to this promise it may be remarked: 1) that Our Lord required Communion to be received on a particular day chosen by Him; 2) that the nine Fridays must be consecutive; 3) that they must be made in honor of His Sacred Heart, which means that those who make the nine Fridays must practice the devotion and must have a great love for Our Lord; 4) that Our Lord does not say that those who make the nine Fridays will be dispensed from any of their obligations or from exercising the vigilance necessary to lead a good life and overcome temptation; rather He implicitly promises abundant graces to those who make the Nine Fridays to help them to carry out these obligations and persevere to the end; 5) that perseverance in receiving Holy Communion for nine consecutive First Fridays helps the faithful to acquire the habit of frequent Communion, which Our Lord eagerly desires; and 6) finally, that the practice of the Nine Fridays is very pleasing to Our Lord since He promises such a great reward, and that all Catholics should endeavour to make the Nine Fridays."

St. Margaret Mary wrote that Jesus promised that none of those who practice this amiable devotion and are devoted to His adorable Heart will ever perish."

There are Masses at a variety of times in Wagga each Friday. Start next month, if you haven't already.

*Fr Gerard*

# March Jokes

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(See Daniel 5) THE WRITING ON BELSHAZZAR'S WALL 02-27-2012

TEACHER: How old were you on your last birthday?  
 CHARLOTTE: Seven.  
 TEACHER: How old will you be on your next birthday?  
 CHARLOTTE: Nine.  
 TEACHER: That's impossible.  
 CHARLOTTE: No, it isn't, Teacher. I'm eight today.  
 TEACHER: George, go to the map and find North America.  
 GEORGE: Here it is!  
 TEACHER: Correct. Now, class, who discovered America?  
 CLASS: George!

TEACHER: Tommy, why do you always get so dirty?  
 TOMMY: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.  
 TEACHER: In this box, I have a 10-foot snake.  
 SAMMY: You can't fool me, Teacher... snakes don't have feet.  
 TEACHER: How can you prevent diseases caused by biting insects?  
 JOSE: Don't bite any.

TEACHER: Ellen, give me a sentence starting with "I".  
 ELLEN: I is...  
 TEACHER: No, Ellen. Always say, "I am."  
 ELLEN: All right... "I am the ninth letter of the alphabet."  
 TEACHER: If I had 7 oranges in one hand and 8 oranges in the other, what would I have?  
 CLASS COMEDIAN: Big hands!

A man died and went to The Judgment, they told him, "Before

you meet with God, I should tell you — we've looked over your life, and to be honest you really didn't do anything particularly good or bad. We're not really sure what to do with you. Can you tell us anything you did that can help us make a decision?"  
 The newly arrived soul thought for a moment and replied, "Yeah, once I was driving along and came upon a person who was being harassed by a group of thugs. So I pulled over, got out a bat, and went up to the leader of the thugs. He was a big, muscular guy with a ring pierced through his lip. Well, I tore the ring out of his lip, and told him he and his gang had better stop bothering this guy or they would have to deal with me!"  
 "Wow that's impressive, "When did this happen?"  
 "About three minutes ago," came the reply.

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ARE WE THERE YET? ARE WE THERE YET? 08-31-2009

DOGS look up to you and cats look down on you. Give me a pig. He just looks you in the eye and treats you like an EQUAL.

Q: Did you here about the guy who lost his whole left side?  
 A: He's alright now!  
 Q: How can you keep from getting a sharp pain in your eye when you drink chocolate milk?

The invisible couple had a kid and he isn't much to look at either!

A warthog hits this lady and the husband calls 000.  
 The operator asks, "Where are you ?"  
 The husband replies, "I'm on Eucolipstic Road."  
 The operator asks, "Can you spell that for me?"  
 "Well... I'll just drag her over to Oak St so you can you pick her up there?"

Why did the runner quit the race against Bigfoot?  
 He couldn't face defeat!!

A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He answered, "Call for backup."

A preacher was completing a temperance sermon; with great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

And then finally, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

He sat down.

The song leader then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn # 365: "Shall We Gather at the River."

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(See psalms 100) MOM SAYS WE SING HYMNS TO MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD ... I PERSONALLY LIKE TO YELL "YIPPEE" EVERY NOW AND THEN 02-05-2004

## Genetics Pioneer a Possible Saint

16/01/12 Doctor Who Found Cause of Down Syndrome Moves Closer to Canonization

Diocesan Phase Closes for Jérôme Lejeune

PARIS, FEB. 23, 2012 (Zenit.org).- This spring, the Archdiocese of Paris will officially conclude the diocesan phase of the cause of canonization for Dr. Jérôme Lejeune.

The April 11 ceremony will include a Mass for life in the Notre Dame Cathedral.

Jérôme Lejeune (1926-1994) was a doctor and researcher.

The father of modern genetics, he was awarded the Kennedy Prize in 1962 for the discovery of the chromosomal cause of Trisomy 21. Known for having treated and supported numerous patients affected by intellectual disabilities and for his commitment to human life, he was a member of the Academy of Moral and Political

Sciences and recognized with numerous international titles.

In 1997, Pope John Paul II went to pray at Dr. Lejeune's tomb. The Polish Pontiff had appointed the doctor the first president of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

Four and a half years after the opening of the cause of canonization of Dr. Lejeune (June 28, 2007), and 18 years after his death, the diocesan process has ended.

"It is an important first step as it marks the end of the informative process. At this stage, there is no conclusion on the part of the Church because the qualitative study of the life and virtues will be carried out in the framework of the Roman process, which will begin after the close of the

diocesan process," specified Father Jean-Charles Nault, postulator of the cause.

"Numerous testimonies of prayer for the beatification of Jérôme Lejeune come to us from all over the world, sent by families who knew him, as well as by a new generation of young people involved in the Service of Life and of wise men happy to manifest that there is no contradiction between faith and science," explained Mayté Varaut, president of the Association of Friends of Professor Jérôme Lejeune.



## Pope Benedict now 6th oldest Pope

Pope Benedict recently passed his predecessor Pope John Paul II in becoming the sixth oldest pope in the history of the Church, completing 84 years, 10 months, 2 weeks and 1 day.

The ranking only looks at the popes elected since the year 1400, because there are no precise records that existed beforehand. This is according to Anura Guruge, who gathers papal statistics and is the creator of the web page "Popes and Papacy," on the history of the popes.

The popes that were older than Benedict XVI include Innocent XII and Pius XI, who both died at 85 years old, Clement X was 86,

Clement XII lived to 87, and topping the list is Leo XIII, who served as pope until he was 93. Despite being nearly 85 years old, the pontiff has maintained a busy schedule ever since his election in

2005. However, he has recently made some changes, such as now receiving bishops in a group, and he now crosses St Peter's Basilica using a mobile platform to help him support his heavy robes.



## Canonization of the 1st. Native American

Oct 21: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha!

Kateri was born in 1656. Her mother was an Algonquin and her father a Mohawk. Kateri became an orphan in the year 1660, when the smallpox epidemic nearly destroyed the entire village. Kateri was then adopted by an uncle who had great hatred for the Christian people. The smallpox disease left Kateri with scarred skin and really terrible eyesight. Kateri moved to a new village with her uncle's family. In her new village Kateri saw the Blackrobes, Jesuit priests. For many years Kateri secretly wished to be baptized but feared

her uncle's reaction. She waited until she could no longer bear to be anything but a Catholic.

On Easter in 1676, Kateri was baptized. Over the next few years Kateri refused to marry, believing that she was married to God and no man could replace the Lord in her eyes and heart. Many people ridiculed her but Kateri would not be scared or threatened into leaving Christianity. Kateri escaped from her uncle and the village one day to go north to learn more about Christianity, with the help of her brother in law and a friend.

As the years went on, Kateri

became sick with tuberculosis.

Kateri died on April 17, 1680 at the mission of Laprairie at the age of twenty-four. Those who were with her when she died said that Kateri's scars disappeared and she became very beautiful.



## Atheist in the Woods

An atheist was walking through the woods.

"What majestic trees!  
"What powerful rivers!  
"What beautiful animals!  
He said to himself.



Suddenly, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him.

He turned to look .... .  
and saw a 7-foot grizzly bear charge towards him.

He ran as fast as he could along the path. He looked over his shoulder & saw that the bear was closing on him ....

He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer .... and then ..... He tripped and fell.

Rolling over to pick himself up,

he found the bear was right on top of him .....  
reaching towards him with its left paw .....  
and raising the right paw to strike ...  
At that instant the Atheist cried out,

'Oh God!'

Time Stopped ...  
The bear froze .....



The forest was silent ....

A bright light shone upon the man,  
and a voice came out of the sky ....

"You deny my existence for all these years,  
you teach others I don't exist  
and even credit creation to cosmic accident .....

Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament?"

"Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light .....

"It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now ... but perhaps you could make the BEAR a Christian?"

... a pause ...

"Very well," said the God.

The light went out.

The sounds of the forest resumed ....  
the bear dropped his right arm ...  
brought both paws together ...  
bowed his head & spoke.

"Bless me, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which I am about to receive, through Christ Our Lord. Amen."



## Dolores Hart: From Elvis Co-Star to Nun



As a young starlet in 1960s Hollywood, Dolores Hart had it all. Billed as "the next Grace Kelly" for her beauty and acting talent, she had a 7-figure studio contract, roles with some of the biggest names and was the envy of girls everywhere for giving Elvis Presley his first on-screen kiss.

She acted alongside legends of the silver screen including Anthony Quinn, Robert Wagner and Montgomery Clift and was the top-billed star of MGM's highest grossing film of 1962.

She had partied at the Oscars, won the adulation of millions, fallen in love and had her wedding dress - made by a top designer - at the ready.

Then during a break from promoting her latest film in 1963, aged 24, she told her bosses at MGM Studios that she was heading to see friends in the country. They sent a limousine to drop her off at the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Connecticut. It turned out to be a one-way journey.

Next Sunday, nearly half a century after she gave up a life of fame, glamour and wealth to become a cloistered Benedictine nun, Mother Dolores Hart - now aged 73

and the abbey's prioress - will return to Hollywood.

"This is a homecoming for her," Rebecca Cammisa, director of an Oscar-nominated documentary telling Mother Dolores' story.

"She's a nun, but she's also an actress, that hasn't changed. She's an actress who's returning for an honour to be bestowed upon her, which is that the story of her life and her courage resonated with the Academy's votership."

Sr Dolores' documentary, entitled *God is the Bigger Elvis*, chronicles how the young Dolores Hart - whose parents were both smalltime actors - graduated from being a wide-eyed little girl who dreamed of a future in the film industry, to one of its most beautiful and in-demand stars, before realising she had a greater calling. She wasn't a struggling actress trying to make it, she was an actress who already had made it and whose career was only going to get bigger and bigger.

It was at the age of 18 that Miss Hart - who committed herself to Catholicism eight years previously - was signed by producer Hal Wallis. When she passed a screen test to star alongside Elvis Presley, she did not even know who he was until she told her girlfriends and they screamed.

Now catapulted to stardom, the young Dolores went on to make nine more films over the next five years. She became engaged to Don Robinson, a Los Angeles estate agent on Hollywood's social scene but knew on his first date with her that she was the woman with whom he wanted to spend the rest of his life.

Their love never made it to the

altar. Over dinner one night in 1963, she told him that she was joining the abbey that she had visited a few times during breaks from a Broadway acting role. Mr Robinson broke down.

He never married and they never stopped loving one another, meeting up at the abbey every Easter and every Christmas thereafter until his death last December.

The irony of turning up at the abbey fresh from signing autographs, in a chauffeur-driven limousine provided by a Hollywood studio, has never been lost on Mother Dolores. "God has a sense of humour doesn't he? I mean, he's really a gentleman," she said in an interview last year.

Her family reminded her she was throwing away a one-in-a-million opportunity. "Do you realise what you're doing?" they demanded.

Leaving the film industry for her new vocation "was something I knew absolutely I must do even though I loved my career," she said.

"I really did. I had wanted it since I was 7 years, so I certainly wasn't leaving it because I didn't like or love it. It was just something I knew that God was asking."

She also remains a film buff. As one of 6,000 voting members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences charged with nominating and selecting Oscar winners, she keeps up with all the latest releases.



**Sr Dolores recalls:** "One of the things that Elvis and I did when we made 'King Creole' was we opened the Bible every afternoon before we went on set and we listened to the words of the Lord." Asked what Presley would think of her nomination, she replied, "I think he would be very happy."

Unfortunately the 'God is the Bigger Elvis' short did not win the Oscar.

## Looking for a gift or just a unique way to say "I love you?"



What do you give when his dresser is full of cologne & you're both on diets? When she thinks flowers die too soon, and you've already spent next month's pay? Here are 19 inexpensive ways to say you care.

1. Make a homemade card with a picture of the two of you on the cover. Get ideas for a verse by spending a few minutes browsing through a card shop.
2. Write a poem. It doesn't have to rhyme.
3. Send a love letter listing the reasons "Why I love you so much."
4. Pledge your love for a lifetime. Design it on a desktop computer, print it on parchment, & frame it.
5. Plan a surprise picnic basket, sparkling grape juice, goblets.
6. Bake a giant cookie and write "I love you" with heart shaped redhots or frosting. (Don't worry about calories, it's not for eating!)
7. Make a coupon book and include coupons for a back rub, a compromise when about to lose an argument, a listening ear when needed, and doing the dishes when the other cooks.
8. Kidnap the car for a thorough washing and detailing.
9. Design your personal crest combining symbols that are meaningful to both of you.
10. Compose a love song.
11. Arrange for someone to sing a favorite love song to you and your love when you're together.
12. Call a radio station and have them announce a love message from you and make sure your love is listening at the right time.
13. Buy favorite fruits that aren't in season, like a basket of strawberries or blueberries.
14. Hide little love notes in the car, a coat pocket, or desk.
15. Place a love message in the "personal" section of the classified ads in your local paper.
16. Florist flowers aren't the only way to say "I love you." Pluck a single flower, write a message of how its beauty reminds you of your love.
17. Prepare a surprise candle light gourmet low-calorie dinner for two.
18. Make a paperweight from a smooth stone, paint it, and write a special love message on it.
19. Promise to change a habit that your love has been wanting you to change.

### Ways to Defend Marriage in Federal Parliament

Lower House—Online (**very easy!**) Federal Parliament Survey on Marriage: **Due 20th April.**

<https://www.surveymk.com/s/spla-marriage>

## A Saint Anthony Story

by Loretta O'Donovan

All my life, I've had a devotion to Saint Anthony. As a child I would often pray to him for lost articles.

I had a medal of Saint Anthony that I wore around my neck. I lost my medal one year on our last visit to the family cottage. I prayed and prayed to him that I would find it. But the time came for us to leave and I still couldn't find my medal. Over the winter I forgot about it, but on our first visit in the spring, there was my medal on a dirt road among the stones!

The most humorous story I ever heard regarding Saint Anthony was told by my mother. She had an

aunt who prayed to Saint Anthony for many years. Every night she knelt before her statue of Saint Anthony and asked him to find her a husband. She prayed and prayed faithfully, but her prayers just weren't being answered.

Finally one day, feeling discouraged and angry that Saint Anthony wasn't answering her prayers, she took the statue and threw it out the window. It flew out of her apartment window and bonked an pedestrian on the head. The man saw which window the statue had come from, and returned it to her. They married shortly after. I'm sure the bump had

healed by then.

Saint Anthony definitely sees the humorous side of things. I'm sure there are many times that we all need a whack on the head before we can see God's will for our lives.



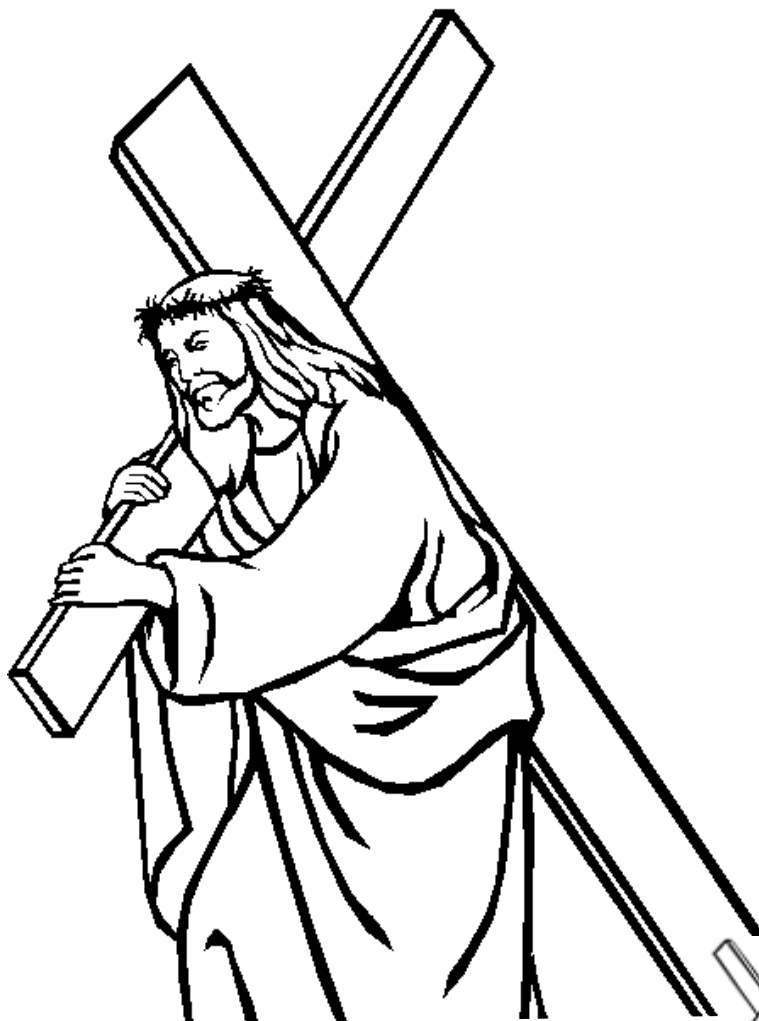
# The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish

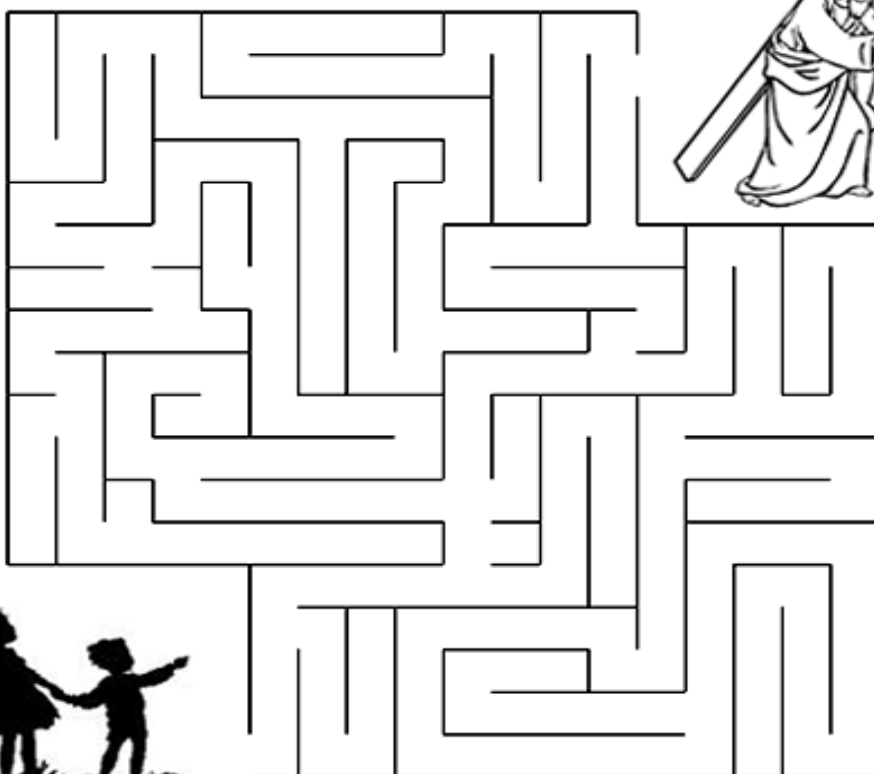


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and San Isidore

# Take up your cross and follow Jesus!



"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."  
Mark 8:34



Can you find the path to Jesus?

