

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 133

March 2014

Coming Events

- Lenten Discussion Program** (Ho.T, 7pm) Mondays
- Senior Legion** (7pm, Holy Trinity) Tuesdays
- Rosary Group** (10am, San Isidore) Wednesdays
- Vinnies** (7pm, Holy Trinity) Thursdays
- Solemnity of St Patrick** Mon 17
- Solemnity of St Joseph Husband of Mary** Wed 19
- Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord** Tues 25
- Diaconate Ordinations** Tues 25
Christian Obiekwe & Sean Byrnes
(6pm, Cathedral, all welcome)

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The due date for the next Wag is:
Sunday April 6th.

Lenten Discussions, Monday Evenings

West Wagga Wagga Parish is hosting Lenten discussions on Monday evenings throughout Lent this year.

Discussions will follow the Archdiocese of Sydney's "**Walking the way of Mercy and Simplicity**".

The reflections in this Lenten program are by Bishop Peter Comensoli, who has been chosen to fill in for Cardinal Pell, overseeing the day-to-day running of the



archdiocese of Sydney until the position of Archbishop is filled.



The program has booklets with prayers, readings, reflections and discussion questions.

When? Monday evenings, 7 pm.

Where? Holy Trinity hall.

pastor's page



With Lent just beginning there is a spiritual sense that we are participating in something of the reality of the life and passion of Jesus. Perhaps there is no greater time than this to imbibe something of the message of St Paul who tantalises us with:

'Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church' [Col 1:24].

To suffer vicariously for others, one's family and friends, is a true altruistic good that brings rewards both natural and supernatural.

While Lent is about penance and repairing the effects of sin, it is also about personal spiritual growth, whereby we become more like the image of our loving Saviour. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux describes poetically how an individual's personal spiritual growth aids her family, friends and the world generally. She refers to herself as being like a sweet smelling perfume bottle fragrant with the sweet scent of the Risen Jesus. So that the more she became like him and moved about her duties, those around her could experience the life giving fragrance of the grace of Christ. This fragrance is well known by devotees who have prayed to St Thérèse since her death.

Lent, with its forty days and nights of personal penance and mortification leading up to Holy Week and especially the Easter

Triduum (the three holy days of the Easter weekend), are all days and times when God gifts us an increase of that same sweet-scented fragrance of new life in the resurrected Christ - Risen in Glory.

It is good to recall that all Sundays celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, so no one need do penance on Sundays. But Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting means partaking of only one full meal. Some food (not equaling another full meal) is permitted at breakfast and around midday or in the evening depending on when a person chooses to eat the main or full meal. It is also good to avoid snacking.

The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, milk products or condiments made of animal fat. Abstinence does not include meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. Thus, such foods as chicken broth, consomme, soups cooked or flavored with meat, meat gravies or sauces, as well as seasonings or condiments made from animal fat are not forbidden. Even bacon drippings which contain little bits of meat may be poured over lettuce as seasoning.

The obligation to do penance is a serious one; the obligation to observe, as a whole or "substantially," the days of penance is also serious (Luke 13:3). But no one need be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe some individual days of penance is not considered a sin. And some people are excused from fasting and/or abstinence altogether because of sickness or other reasons.

We are reminded by the divine law that each of us in our own way must do some penance. We must all turn from sin and make reparation to God for our sins. We must forgive others and show love for one another just as we ask for God's love and forgiveness.

There are many ways, works and means of doing penance. For example:

- prayer,
- acts of self-denial,
- almsgiving and works of personal charity focused on others.
- Attending Mass daily or several times a week,
- praying the rosary,
- making the way of the cross (Friday 10.45am after Mass),
- attending the parish Lenten prayer service (Monday evenings),
- teaching those with educational difficulties,
- reading to the blind,
- helping at Vinnies,
- visiting the sick and shut-ins
- and giving an overworked mother a break by baby-sitting, etc.;

All of these can be even more meaningful and demanding than simply abstaining from meat on Friday.

This Lent whatever you do, do it all for the love of Jesus, who suffered and died for you.

Fr Gerard



March Jokes



An old man was wondering if his wife had a hearing problem. So one night, he stood behind her while she was sitting in her lounge chair. He spoke softly to her, "Honey, can you hear me?" There was no response. He moved a little closer and said again, "Honey, can you hear me?" Still, there was no response. Finally he moved right behind her and said, "Honey, can you hear me?" She replied, "For the third time, Yes!"

TEACHER: "Johnny use defeat, deduct, defense and detail in one sentence."

JOHNNY: de-feet of de-duck went over de-fence before de-tail.

Q: What does Charles Dickens keep in his spice rack? A: The best of thymes, the worst of thymes.

Q: Did you hear about the Italian chef that died? A: He pasta way.

Q: Did you hear about the angry pancake? A: He just flipped.

When a three-year-old opened a birthday gift from his grandmother, he discovered a water pistol. He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink. His Mother was not so pleased. She turned to Grandma and said, "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?" Grandma smiled and then replied, "I remember."

I'm a multi-tasking procrastinator. I can put off all kinds of things all at once.

I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move.

My new years resolution was to lose 15 kgs by the end of summer. I've only got 20 kgs to go.

I can almost always tell when a movie doesn't use real dinosaurs.

One day a mailman was greeted by a boy and a huge dog. The mailman said to the boy, "does your dog bite?" "No," replied the boy. Just then the huge dog bit the mailman. The man yelled, "I thought your dog doesn't bite!" "He doesn't," replied the boy, "that's not my dog!"

There are 3 essential tools: duct tape, WD40 and a hammer.

If something is moving and it shouldn't be, duct tape it.

If it isn't moving and it should be, use WD40.

If it still doesn't move, hit it with a hammer. If it breaks, tape it back together with the duct tape.

Two confirmed bachelors sat talking, their conversation drifted from politics to cooking. "I got a cookbook once," said one, "but I could never do anything with it." "Too much fancy work in it, eh?" asked the other. "You said it. Every one of the recipes began the same way - 'Take a clean dish.'"

The first rule of condescending club is really kinda complex and I don't think you'd understand it even if I explained it to you.

First thing this morning, there was a tap on my door. Funny sense of humour my plumber has.

A guy came up to me yesterday and threw a box of lego at me. I really didn't know what to make of it.....

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth? A. Ruthless.

Q. What do they call priests in Germany? A. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible? A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible? A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible? A. God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Also, probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible? A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden? A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. Which area was especially wealthy? A. The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.

Q. Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible? A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

Q. Which Bible character had no parents? A. Joshua, son of Nun.

Q. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark? A. Because Noah was standing on the deck.

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Thanks to Laura Cynthia Chambers (See Genesis 1:1-2:10-10-2014)

Olympic figure skating star hailed as example for Catholics



Catholic Olympian & international skating superstar Kim Yuna is a role model not only of dedication & athleticism but also of how to live the faith publicly, a fan says.

Seminarian for the Archdiocese of Detroit and blog writer Evan Pham told CNA on Feb. 11 that he was struck by Kim's simple act of praying on ice during the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

He said that he was inspired when he and his family saw “a clip of her doing the sign of the cross” and bowing her head immediately before competing the finals for the ladies' skating title, which she won.

“There was this young woman out there on the Olympic ice and all these cameras are constantly on her,” Pham said. “She was not scared. She just wanted to pray: she didn't care who was watching.”

“What an inspiration,” he said of this simple act of public prayer.

In her home country of South Korea, Kim is regarded as one of the most famous celebrities, particularly after winning the 2010 Olympics in ladies' freestyle with a record-breaking score.

One of the best in the history of modern figure skating, Kim holds world record scores in the ladies' short skating program, free skate & combined score, & has broken world record scores 11 times.

In addition to using her celebrity in documentaries & ad campaigns for cosmetics, clothing, & electronics, Kim's renown has served as an

opportunity for the skating star to share her Catholic faith.

Kim converted to the Catholic faith alongside her mother in 2008 after they came in contact with local nuns & Catholic groups through her personal doctor – also a Catholic – who was treating her knee injuries.

At her baptism, Kim took the name “Stella” after Mary, Star of the Sea, & said that during the baptism she “felt an enormous consolation in my heart” & promised God to continue to “pray always,” especially before competitions.

Since then, Kim has shown her faith to the international world, crossing herself as she steps onto the ice during performances & competitions. In 2010, she also joined with the Korean bishops in a national campaign to explain the rosary to the Korean public – and to explain the meaning of the rosary ring she herself wears to fans who mistook it for an engagement ring.

Kim has also been active in using her position as an opportunity for charitable works, volunteering and donating funds to Catholic Hospitals, Universities, and other charitable organizations, and working alongside the Catholic bishops in Korea as a spokeswoman for Catholic charities in Seoul.

Additionally, in 2012, Kim donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Salesian of Don Bosco to help support the missionary brothers in South Sudan & to establish Catholic Schools in the war-torn country.

She told Korean press that while visiting Africa in 2011 she “felt the need to help out children there,” and wanted “to offer what little support I can” to those in Africa.

This public witness, Pham said, has inspired him to be more open with sharing his own beliefs.

He explained that growing up, he

was “very anxious about my faith” especially praying in public. “I didn't want them to think I was strange,” he said, adding that in some ways publicly expressing one's beliefs is “basically painting a target on your forehead” for comments, jokes & persecution.

When he saw Kim praying on the ice, however, his fear was challenged.

“It's a regular thing for her,” he said of her pre-skating prayers. “Wow. What a way of witness,” Pham said, noting that her actions made him ask himself, “If she can do this, why can't I do this?”

Yuna Kim taught him about “the chances we have of manifesting” the Catholic faith to the public.

“What would I choose,” he continued, “being afraid or not afraid? Being not afraid is so much more beautiful,” Pham said.

Now he is much more open to praying in public and sharing his faith with strangers- including on his blog, but the skating star's example still comes back to him.

“If I'm ever second thinking about making a sign of the cross, I think about what I saw.”

Pham said that Kim is often in his prayers, and has inspired him to “take the time to pray” for other public figures who have “so much potential to do good.”

“I really hope that she continues to use her influence in a good way: to be an evangelist.”



The liberating power of Confession

Given the publicity he usually receives from the media, it was interesting that the title of Pope Francis's address on Confession last week was not trumpeted around the world, writes Francis Phillips in *The Catholic Herald*.

You can understand why this subject would not have leapt off the news desks of the media though: 'Courage?' 'Confession?' Well – no gossip, no scandal, therefore no news. Yet, as reported on CNA on February 20, the Holy Father spoke with such pastoral warmth on the subject that it deserves revisiting and that a thoughtful reader would recognise the obviously healing element of the Sacrament, whether a believer or not.

As the Pope explained, in Confession we meet Jesus who receives us 'with so much love!' Confession is not just a personal matter, 'it is rooted in the universality of the Church which accompanies us on the path of conversion.'

On the question of shame or



embarrassment at revealing our weaknesses and vices, Pope Francis was forthright: 'Even embarrassment is good,' he declared. 'It's healthy to

have a bit of shame... It does us good because it makes us more humble.' Afterwards, the Pope told his audience, the penitent feels liberated from the burden of his conscience: 'free, great, beautiful, forgiven, clean, happy.'

Striking a personal note, the Holy Father told his listeners, 'When I go to Confession, it's for healing: healing the soul, healing the heart because of something I did to make it unwell.' He concluded by reassuring the pilgrims: 'Every time we go to confession, God embraces us.'

It all sounds so simple and straightforward – and it is meant to be straightforward. A convert friend told me it took her some time to realise that she did not need to explain or describe the complex background to her sins as she was prone to do. Confession isn't the same as therapy.

Pope Francis put it more simply. Indeed, it's so simple that even children who have reached the age of reason can grasp it.

"Retreat" by James McAuley

Australian poet who converted to the Catholic faith. Died in 1976

Come into yourself a while,
Be deaf to outer cries;
Ask not who wins, who falls, who rages,
Or what each doubtful sign presages,
Or what face treachery wears.

Soon you must return to tasks
That sicken and appall:
The calumnies will never cease,
Look only to the sign of peace,
The Cross upon the wall.

This is that sole instrument
That measures every chart;
This square and level overrules
The subtle calculus of fools
By a celestial art.



It is not said we shall succeed,
Save as his Cross prevails:
The good we choose and mean to do
Prosper if he wills it too,
And if not, then it fails.

Nor is failure our disgrace:
By ways we cannot know
He keeps the merit in his hand,
And suddenly as no one planned,
Behold the kingdom grow!

10 Questions to Ask Before You Say “I Do”

You're in love. You know you're ready to vow “through sickness and health ... until death do us part” – however, take a deep breath. And consider these 10 questions.



1. Can they handle conflict?

Conflict is certain in marriage, but that's not all negative. ... Healthy conflict gives birth to intimacy and understanding. Unhealthy conflict creates bitterness and resentment. “Two major red flags of unhealthy conflict management are stonewalling (the silent treatment) and any form of violence. If someone is a little too angry as a boyfriend/girlfriend, they will be much too angry as a spouse,” advises Gary Thomas, author of *The Sacred Search*

2. Does he/she share your faith?

Many couples come back after they have children and ask, “What do we do now?” when trying to decide where to worship and even how to acknowledge the birth (Baptism? Dedication?) A common faith holds a family together, not just on a weekly basis, but on major holidays throughout the year—which means that every such occasion will remind you of your disconnect as a couple if you share a significantly different expression of faith.

3. Will they kiss divorce goodbye?

Every marriage eventually proves to be difficult at times. Human nature is such that if there's an easy “off-ramp,” we tend to want to take it. Marry someone who is committed to working through every challenge you face without

considering divorce as an option.

4. Will they be a spectacular parent? You're not just choosing your future husband or wife; you're choosing your kids' future dad or mum. On the day you bring your new babies home, you'll be so glad you picked someone who will be a fantastic parent, or you'll grieve that your kids have to put up with someone who is neglectful or, even worse, abusive.

5. Do they pray? Being married requires daily prayer—we pray about how to love each other, for the strength to serve unselfishly, and for wisdom for many decisions. Every thoughtful Christian will pray every day, so put “prayer aptitude” at least as high as chemistry in your list for a potential spouse. A quick test to know how often someone prays is simply listening to what they talk about. If they're not regularly talking about God, they're not regularly talking to God.

6. Do they know how to forgive?

James 3:2 says, “We all stumble in many ways.” That includes you. The Bible testifies that, in marriage (and out), you will stumble in many ways. If you marry someone who doesn't know how to forgive, your marriage will soon be weighted down with heavy resentment and bitterness.

7. Do they know how to communicate? Communication is essential to build new intimacy when infatuation fades. If you marry someone fearful or unskilled at communication, your marriage will fall into an intimacy rut. Women, however much your boyfriend talks to you, imagine marriage will have 25% less talk. Will that be enough? If he's already borderline in this area, you're likely to become very frustrated after marriage.

8. Is he/she humble? People without humility can never grow; they spend all their energy defending

themselves rather than evaluating themselves and making appropriate corrections. Ask yourself, does this person ever serve others, or do they insist on being served? Do they show empathy toward the feelings of others or are they always trying to impress? Do they show initiative in caring for others, or are they obsessed with how they are treated or appreciated?

9. Are they a giver or a taker?

The sad reality is, some people are givers and some people are takers. Givers don't always mind being in a relationship with a taker because they like to give; it brings them joy. But marriage is a long journey and there will eventually be seasons when the giver needs to receive. In those instances, can your taker learn to give? In most cases, sadly, the answer is no. When a taker has to give, he feels sorry for himself even more than he feels empathy for you. “Ask yourself, when you spend time with your partner, do you feel drained or invigorated?” suggests Gary Thomas, author of *The Sacred Search Study Resource DVD*. “Would you describe the relationship as healing and supportive, or exhausting and combative?”

10. What does their “fruit” look like? A famous Bible passage breaks character down into two lists of “fruit.” One is desirable, one isn't. Go through these lists and see which one most accurately describes the person you're considering marrying: The “Watch Out” List: Impurity and debauchery (is this person drawn to the crude?); Hatred, discord, and jealousy; Fits of rage; Selfishness; Divisive and envious; Drunkenness. The “Go” List: Love; Joy; Peace; Patience; Kindness; Goodness; Faithfulness; Gentleness; Self-control.

Our man in the Vatican - Tess Livingston, The Australian

Following his appointment as Prefect for the Economy for the Holy See and the Vatican signed, Cardinal George Pell and a couple of close friends sat down at a restaurant near Domus Australia to celebrate with cotoletta milanese and a good drop of vino.

The appointment was a rare achievement.

Pell, who is now on the same level as Vatican Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, now ranks second in the Vatican behind Pope Francis.

No Australian churchman has risen to such authority before. Retired Cardinal Edward Cassidy, 89, served as president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in the 1980s and 90s.

And James Knox, a former archbishop of Melbourne, headed the Pontifical Council for the Family and the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments in the 70s and 80s.

Pell has loved Rome since he first arrived there in September 1963 to complete his training for the priesthood at the Pontifical Urban University.

Almost 50 years after his ordination in St Peter's Basilica in 1966, and 18 years at the helm of Australia's two largest archdioceses, Pell had no



trouble on Monday nominating his proudest achievements: 'The young priests and the new RE (religious education) program' he told The Australian, without a moment's hesitation.

The 'young priests' are the generation of 20-something to 40-something priests throughout Sydney, Melbourne and Rome who were drawn to the seminaries Pell reformed after the postmodern upheavals of the 60s and 70s. Prayer, doctrinal orthodoxy and academic rigour re-emerged.

To the chagrin of modernists, a new wave of candidates, many with professional careers and several university degrees behind them, arrived and stayed the course.

In 2001, when Pell was appointed to Sydney, the city had just 10

seminarians at one seminary. He leaves the archdiocese with 48 seminarians at the Good Shepherd Seminary at Homebush and 23 at the Redemptoris Mater missionary seminary at Chester Hill.

Pell has also devoted much of his priestly life to tertiary education, overseeing the establishment of Notre Dame University in Sydney, and the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and the Family in Melbourne.

Efficient administration have been a prominent part of Pell's success.

News Corp's executive chairman Rupert Murdoch tweeted yesterday that Australia would miss Pell 'but world will benefit.'

Pell is 'no shrinking violet,' Jesuit Thomas Reese wrote in the influential National Catholic Reporter overnight: 'He will be a formidable opponent to anyone who tries to oppose him.'

He'll need to be. The Cardinal is too wily a politician and too loyal a team player to talk publicly about the state of the Vatican's finances and administration, admitting only there is a need to improve accountability and transparency.

Full article in The Australian

Can you find 21 Books of the Bible

There are names of 21 Books of the Bible mentioned in the paragraph below. See how many you can find. Some are in one word; some are a part of two or three words.

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts. For others it was a real revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books are not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. It should be a most fascinating few moments for

you. Yes there are some books that will be a hard job to find, but those are the most fun. Can a human being really find all twenty-one of them? At the worst, you should find fifteen. No defect in the genes is required, although I will admit it usually takes

a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. What will keep you from answering this challenge? A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. How long you keep working on it only you can judge, so long as you try to compete. Remember, we've had fun seeking out twenty-one books of the Bible, but it is by far more important to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." It's always true, God loves you.



