

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 112

May 2011

## Coming Events

<b>Craft &amp; Friendship Group</b>	
<b>Mother's Day Stall:</b>	Tues 8
<b>Young Mother's Rosary</b>	
<b>Group:</b>	Wed 9
<b>Ho.T Parish Film Night:</b>	Fri 11
<b>Diocesan Youth Gathering:</b>	Fri 11
<b>Our Lady of the Blessed</b>	
<b>Eucharist Feast Day:</b>	Sun 13
<b>Mother's Day:</b>	Sun 13
<b>Bishop Hanna's 10<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Anniversary:</b>	Tues 15
<b>Ultreya:</b>	Wed 16
<b>Evening with Cecilia Rice:</b>	Thurs 17
<b>Novena to the Holy Spirit</b>	
<b>Begins:</b>	Fri 18
<b>Solemnity Ascension</b>	
<b>of the Lord:</b>	Sun 20
<b>Travelling Monstrance:</b>	Sun 20-27
<b>Solemnity Our Lady Help</b>	
<b>of Christians:</b>	May 24
<b>Men's Conference:</b>	
<b>Patrick Madrid:</b>	Sat 26
<b>Pentecost Sunday:</b>	Sun 27
<b>Ordinary Time Begins:</b>	Mon 28
<b>Christ the Priest Day:</b>	Thurs 31
<b>Feast of Visitation of the</b>	
<b>Blessed Virgin Mary:</b>	Thurs 31
<b>Solemnity of Most</b>	
<b>Holy Trinity:</b>	Sun June 3

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## Wag Contacts

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The due date for the next Wag is:  
**Sunday June 2**

## West Wagga Parish Welcomes New Parishioners

At this year's Easter Vigil Ceremony, the West Wagga Parish welcomed Mr. Daniel Attewell and Mrs. Kathleen Withers as new members of the Catholic Church.

Daniel Attewell lives in Ashmont with his wife Joan of Arc (Jo) and their sons Damien and Alex. Dan is a member of the Australian Defence Force at Kapooka. Dan and Jo are both with the army and come originally from Darwin.

Dan has been particularly keen to learn about the Catholic faith. His instruction was from the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in preparation for the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Among other Catholic books, Daniel read Father Peter Joseph's edition of Apologetics and Catholic Doctrine prior to his baptism. Since becoming a Catholic he is overjoyed with his new found faith and practice.

Mrs. Kathleen Withers and her husband Kevin live in Glenfield Park and raise their grandchildren Brianna and Zane. Both Kath and Kevin were happy to be instructed in the Catholic

faith. For Kevin it was a refresher course and for Kath the fulfillment of a life's dream. Kath professed her acceptance of all that the Catholic Church believes, teaches and proclaims during the Easter Vigil.

Many in the Diocese know Kath as a Wiradjuri Elder who is often invited to give the 'Welcome to Country' at many official religious events representing her Wiradjuri people. Zane, Kath's grandson, served at the Vigil and is a regular altar server at the 9am Holy Trinity Mass. Kath is thrilled with her follow up instructions known as 'Mystagogy' (the study of the mystery), which have followed her reception. Kath is most grateful to God for her reception into the faith with which she has had much association throughout her life.

Miss Sarah Newcombe also took the opportunity of making her first Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil Mass alongside Dan and Kath. The Newcombe family Paul, Carmela, Sarah, Matthew and Lucy, have come to the parish from Wollongong and live in Glenfield Park. We congratulate all three recipients of the Catholic Sacraments.



*Mr. Peter Gooden sponsor for Daniel Attewell,  
Sarah Newcomb, Kath and Kevin Withers.*

## pastor's page



### Mary Help of Christians Australia's Patroness

Each year Australia celebrates Mother's Day in May. This is very appropriate because each of us is born from a mother. This is no small matter given that many women have died in the process of child birth. Motherhood is a very loving, sanctifying and sacrificial action. This is true not just for the period of gestation and birth of the baby but also for the many years of care that follow a child's birth.

Every person should remain grateful to his or her mother. God reminds us in the fourth commandment that we are to be honourable to our mother. Even the book of Proverbs wisely states: 'Hear, my child, your father's instruction, and do not reject your mother's teaching'; [1:8] and 'Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice' [23:25]. We should all try to make Mother's Day a very special occasion for Mums. But this should not just be for one day but every day! Next Sunday May 13 will be Mother's Day. Traditionally, May 13 is also a Feast Day of Mary the Mother Jesus who is God. This is also a special day for our church at San Isidore as it is the day of its Patronal Feast, Our Lady of the Eucharist.

Just as we honour our earthly mothers who honour us with love and care, so too it is very appropriate for us to honour our heavenly Mother; Mary the

Mother of Jesus and the Helper of all Christians. We are privileged to have the Mother of God as a patroness and spiritual protector (Latin Etymology: patronus, protector.). This is no insignificant title. A patron or patrona is a person who supports, maintains or protects another person, project, or enterprise. In Church history patrons were benefactors whose donations and benevolence was greatly esteemed because of the donation of land, the building of a church, or the maintaining of its running expenses. In church law the right of patronage is of a spiritual order and is subject to ecclesiastical jurisdiction. In the early days of Australia given the difficulties and hardships of early settlers and the Church, the first Bishops agreed to seek a heavenly patron. The story of Australia's main Patrona is interesting.

Historically, Australia's mother church in Sydney was named "St. Mary's". Today it is known as St Mary's Cathedral. The foundation stone, actually reminds us that the original title was "Mary, The Immaculate Help of Christians". This is a very wonderful title. It incorporates the Blessed Virgin Mary as both the Immaculate Conception and the Helper of Christians. Just how this title came to be chosen is a puzzle to be pieced together from fragmentary records and conjectures.

It seems likely that it was the choice of lay Catholics themselves, as they leant heavily, as the first church did, on Mary's help for the establishment of the early Australian church. In the founding of Sydney town there was no Catholic priest for some years. It was precisely during this priest-less period (1802-1819) that Pope Pius VII was returned to Rome in 1814 after being exiled by Napoleon Bonaparte. It was on May 24<sup>th</sup> 1815 that Pope Pius instituted the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians in gratitude to his heavenly Mother.

This dramatic episode had deeply impressed and struck a sympathetic chord in the heart of Irish Catholics is proved by the Pope's subsequent letter of gratitude to the Irish Bishops and faithful, thanking them for their loyalty to him in exile, and for their joy on his return to Rome.

Father Therry had been ordained priest the very year of Pius VII's return to

Rome. In 1841 Father Therry wrote to Archbishop Polding requesting that Australia be dedicated to Mary's name. This suggestion was taken up by the first Provincial Synod of Bishops held at Sydney in 1844. It appointed Mary, Help of Christians, subject to the approval of the Holy See, as principal Patroness of Australasia.

The first Catholic settlers here, convict or free, had an instinctive reverence for the Mother of the Church. The vigour and independence of the Australian Catholics found an ideal meeting place in this strong Marian title. For in the early years, through force of circumstances, it was to be a layman's Church. So in their isolated and under-privileged conditions, the Catholic pioneers found this patronal title ideal from both a psychological and historical viewpoint.

It was to the early Australian settler's credit that, despite their fewness and poverty, they were the first nation in the world to erect a national basilica with that title (1821); the first to choose Mary, Help of Christians as principal patroness (1842); and the first to celebrate the feast on a nationwide scale (1852).

One of the most recent significant events of the history of devotion to Mary Help of Christians was the pilgrimage of the Australia bishops to St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney during the Marian Year of 1988.

At that time Australia was rededicated to Mary, Help of Christians, before a large crowd in the Basilica specially dedicated to Mary Help of Christians. On that Sunday April 14, Cardinal Clancy led the Bishops of Australia to rededicate Australia to the care and protection of Mary Help of Christians. This is the faith of our Fathers, let us embrace it and dedicate ourselves to our heavenly Mother, our Help.

Pray the Rosary every day, especially within the family and make our heavenly Mother proud. Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

*Fr Gerard*

# May Jokes

## And God Said It Was Good!

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

And God said that it was good. On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I



give you back ten like the dog did?"

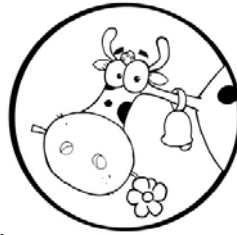
And God, again said that it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the

farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed it was good. On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life.



For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it." So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone. Life has now been explained to you. There is no need to thank me for this valuable information.

I'm doing it as a public service. If you are looking for me I will be on the front porch.



## Province of Mpumalanga Ministry of Fish and Wildlife Nkomazi Municipality

### WARNING

Due to the rising frequency of human – lion encounters, the Ministry of Fish and Wildlife, Province of Mpumalanga, Malelane Branch is advising hikers, hunters, fishermen and any motorcyclists that use the out-of-doors in a recreational or work-related function to take extra precautions while in the bush

We advise outdoorsmen to wear

little noisy bells on clothing so as to give advanced warning to any lion that might be close by so you don't take them by surprise.

We also advise anyone using the out-of-doors to carry Pepper Spray with him or her in case of an encounter with Lions.

Outdoorsmen should also be on the watch for fresh lion activity and be able to tell the difference between lion cub dung and big

lion dung. Lion cub dung is smaller and contains lots of berries and dassie fur. Big Lion dung has bells in it and smells like pepper .

Enjoy your stay in Mpumalanga.



A policeman stops a lady and asks for her license. He says "Lady, it says here that you should be wearing glasses."

The woman answered "Well, I have contacts."

The policeman replied "I don't care who you know! You're getting a ticket!"

A man in a hurry taking his eight-year-old son to school made a turn at a red light where it was

prohibited.

"Uh-oh, I think I just made an illegal turn!" the man said.

"It's okay, Dad," the boy said, "The police car right behind us did the same thing."

### Police Stop at 2 am

An elderly man is stopped by the police at 2 am and is asked where he is going at this time of night. The man replies, ' I am on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse

and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late.'

The officer then asks, 'Really? Who is giving that lecture at this time of night?'

The man replies, 'That would be my wife.'

"When I saw you driving down the road, I guessed 60 at least."

"You're wrong, officer, its only my hat that makes me look that old."



# The Cross in our Bodies

This is a pretty neat story and an interesting thing that few of us know. It's brief, so please read. (FROM A DOCTOR)

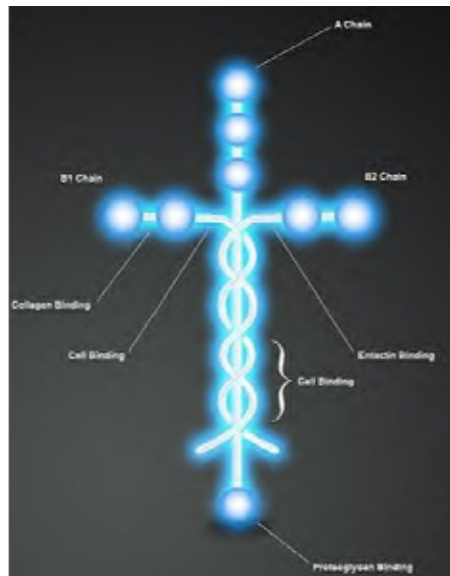
A couple of days ago I was running (I use that term very loosely) on my treadmill, watching a DVD sermon by Louie Giglio... And I was BLOWN AWAY! I want to share what I learned.

He (Louie) was talking about how inconceivably BIG our God is... How He spoke the universe into being... etc. etc. Then He went on to speak of how this universe-creating God ALSO knitted our human bodies together with amazing detail and wonder. At this point I am LOVING it (fascinating from a medical standpoint, you know.) And I was remembering how I was constantly amazed during medical school as I learned more and more about God's handiwork. I remember so many times thinking... 'How can ANYONE deny that a Creator did all of this???'

The God who created all this, also has the power to hold it all together when things seem to be falling apart...how our loving Creator is also our sustainer.

And then I lost my breath. And it wasn't because I was running my treadmill, either!!!

It was because he started talking about laminin. I knew about laminin. Here is how Wikipedia describes them: 'Laminins are a family of proteins that are an



integral part of the structural scaffolding of basement membranes in almost every animal tissue' You see....

Laminins are what hold us together... LITERALLY. They are cell adhesion molecules. They are what holds one cell of our bodies to the next cell. Without them, we would literally fall

apart. And I knew all this already. But what I didn't know is what they LOOKED LIKE . . .

But now I do. And I have thought about it a thousand times since (already)....Here is what the structure of laminin looks like... AND THIS IS NOT a 'Christian portrayal' of it... If you look up laminin in any scientific/medical piece of literature, this is what you will see....

Now tell me that our God is not the coolest!!! Amazing. The glue that holds us together.... ALL of us..... Is in the shape of the cross.

Immediately Colossians 1:15-17 comes to mind.

He is before all things, and in him All things HOLD TOGETHER.'

Colossians 1:17

Thousands of years before the world knew anything about laminin, Paul penned those words. And now we see that from a very LITERAL standpoint, we are held together... One cell to another.... By the cross.

You would never in a quadrillion years convince me that is anything other than the mark of a Creator who knew EXACTLY what laminin 'glue' would look like!!



## Ho.T FILM NIGHT



Friday May 11th 7.30 pm — Join together to watch:

**COME WHAT MAY**

(Film Rated -family friendly)

If college student Caleb Hogan argues what he truly believes, he stands to lose the most important competition of his life—and the support of his mother. If he softens his stance, he might win the coveted title...but lose the heart of his teammate Rachel in the process.

COME WHAT MAY is a vivid reminder that choosing what's right is never easy...but it's always worth the cost.

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

# St Joseph and the Staircase

Matthew Hanley

Santa Fe's old town square district is charming and lively. Only a few blocks away from the cathedral stands one of the oldest churches in the US — the San Miguel chapel. ... constructed in 1610. ...

Only a few steps away lies the chapel of Loretto, which, by contrast, looks transplanted directly from Europe, built in the 1870s. In fact, ... its real claim to fame — as I was to discover only upon visiting — is its remarkable wooden, spiral staircase.

Here's how it came to be. The recently arrived sisters of Loretto were pleased with the progress of the chapel — quite a sophisticated undertaking in such a remote corner of the new world — whose construction they had placed under the patronage of St. Joseph .

Only as construction was winding down did everyone realize that they had not devised a means for the nuns on the ground floor to access the choir loft above. They needed stairs of some sort, but given the height of the loft, a typical staircase would necessarily invade too much space below and seriously detract from its intimacy and integrity.

The sisters consulted with local carpenters, but none could provide a feasible proposal. They were in a bind. So they decided to pray a novena to St. Joseph. And on the ninth day, a man showed up on a donkey and offered to do the job. He had with him only a saw, a T-square, and a hammer. He worked alone. Accounts differ as to how long he took to complete the task, but it was likely at least several months.

The man solved the dilemma by creating a spiral staircase that made two complete 360 degree rotations. Typically such circular staircases require a vertical pole for support down the center, but he did it without one. He used no nails or screws — only wooden pegs as fasteners. At every step, the wood is perfectly curved. He'd soaked his wood in tubs of water the sisters had

provided — but how exactly did he get all the curves just right? Well, the net result, by all accounts, was a true masterpiece of craftsmanship and beauty — staggeringly produced with the most rudimentary instruments by a single, supremely skilled man. When it was all finished, the ecstatic nuns went to pay the man. But they could not find him. He had simply left. They checked with the local lumber suppliers, thinking that at least they could pay for the wood. But they didn't know what the sisters were talking about.



The St. Joseph staircase at the Loretto Chapel

Speaking of the wood, the Mother Superior in 1960 reported: "Many experts have tried to identify the wood and where it came from. No one has ever been able to give a full report on it." The one thing they knew by then was that this particular wood did not come from New Mexico.

Since then, a forester and wood specialist was given a sample of the wood, and spent over a year scientifically analyzing it. He

produced a technical report, which I picked up in the gift shop. He was first able to determine that it was a cone-bearing evergreen, and later, a spruce. But what kind of spruce — which subspecies? Further molecular investigation revealed that it came from an extremely cold climate. This only confirmed it was definitely not local.

Ultimately, he could find no specific match in the scientific record for this particular type of wood. It has no known origin.

There are skeptics of this entire narrative, of course. But they have not provided an irrefutable explanation for this "miraculous staircase" — as it is commonly called. The subject of television movies and specials — even an "unsolved mystery" segment (none of which I've seen). It remains a source of fascination and wonder.

It's hard not to notice that the carpenter left without saying a word, just as St. Joseph is silent throughout the Scriptures. Many feel that St. Joseph himself actually built it. The sisters and the entire local Church, however, were always properly reluctant to comment definitively — saying only that they knew it was somehow an answer to their prayers. In her autobiography, St. Teresa of Avila could not have been more effusive in testifying to St. Joseph's capacity for intercession; she obtained through him not only healing of temporary paralysis but also countless other and what she regarded as greater benefits for her soul. She regularly took to making requests of him on his feast day, which were granted without fail or at least, as she puts it, redirected for her greater good.

Having received blessings that far exceeded what she had asked of him, she wanted to convince everyone to be devoted to St. Joseph, imploring: "I only beg, for the love of God, that anyone who does not believe me will put what I say to the test."

That inviting challenge remains before us, with all our needs and uncertainties, to be accepted.



**Wagga Wagga  
Sat 26 May 2012**

All Catholic men of the Wagga Wagga Diocese are invited to join together for a day of discovering Christ – of making a start to become The Man Christ wants You to Be!

Be part of an event the likes of which are becoming a huge movement across America – the spiritual mobilisation of lay men! This is not just for the guys already in the pew – bring your fathers, brothers, sons (16yrs+) and your mates to experience this incredible opportunity to find true fulfillment in this life and the next.

### Conference Speaker

We are excited to present internationally renowned American author and apologist Mr Patrick Madrid. Don't miss this rare chance to hear one of the world's foremost Catholic speakers on men's personal spirituality, inspire you to take on the particular role God has entrusted to you alone, so you can help yourself, your family and build up the body of Christ. Patrick Madrid is presented by the Catholic Adult Education Centre, Archdiocese of Sydney in conjunction with the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

### Cost

This conference, including smoko and lunch, is provided FREE of CHARGE as an initiative of the Wagga Wagga Diocese. Opportunity for donations to be made on the day.

### Registration is Essential

To establish numbers for catering purposes it is essential that men wishing to attend register by clicking on the button at the top of this page. For those unable to register online phone Dominic 02 6933 4368 or email [together@wagga.catholic.org.au](mailto:together@wagga.catholic.org.au)

**Registrations required by Monday 21 May 2012**

## St. Vincent de Paul West Wagga Wagga twinning programme - We need your help!

Our West Wagga Wagga Conference is currently twinned with 2 Conferences on the Indian sub-continent and we support each of them financially to the tune of 80 dollars every quarter. To do this, a group of Parishioners contribute one dollar every month through our twinning envelope programme which is put in the second collection at any Sunday Mass in any Wagga parish. We have been doing this for many years now & have supported our Indian

Conferences in many endeavours. However, over the years, the

number of contributors has dwindled & we ask that Parishioners who may not be aware of the programmes' existence and who may wish to do so, consider contributing one dollar every month [\$12-00 every year] to the programme. A receipt is issued at the end of each financial year.



*Ron Helyer, Paul Smyth, Ann Helyer, Judy Lyons, Jim McLeod, Pat Danvers and Sabina MacIntyre*

If you would like to know more, please have a talk to Father Gerard, Jim McLeod, or a member of our Conference, or ring our President Judy Lyons on 6931



# Australian Seminaries on a Roll as Numbers Rise

Over the past 3 years, Cardinal Pell has ordained 14 men for the Archdiocese of Sydney. Also, in 2011, 8 more were ordained as Deacons, 4 from the Archdiocese's own seminary and another 4 from the Neocatechumenate Seminary.

In the normal course of events, these 8 Deacons will be ordained priests this year which means that the Sydney archdiocese has gained a significant boost in younger priests these last 4 years. In fact, around Australia seminary numbers are rising.

In August 2012, Corpus Christi seminary, Melbourne, will host the 14th National Inter-Seminary Soccer Tournament. Over 200 seminarians from the Australian east coast will attend this annual event which affirms their vocations and gives them a sense of the significant numbers of men preparing for the priestly ministry.

There are 3 seminaries in Sydney: the Archdiocesan Seminary, the Neocatechumenate seminary & Parramatta diocese's Holy Spirit

Seminary— overall, some 60 men. At Holy Spirit Seminary there are 11, 5 of whom have just entered this year.

Melbourne has 53 seminarians in residence. 15 are new for 2012 and 9 are in First Year. There are also 3



studying in Rome & 5 deacons in awaiting ordination later this year. Meanwhile, there are another 20 seminarians at Vianney College, 5 of whom commenced recently.

Brisbane has 32 seminarians and in Perth, there are 22 at St Charles Seminary and 5 studying overseas. At the Neocatechumenate Seminary in Perth, there are 17 seminarians including 4 men who commenced training recently.

The seminary enthusiasm is reflected in the increased numbers of young men seeking admission to Religious Orders and Congregations such as the Missionaries of God's Love, the Franciscan (Capuchins), the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter and the Dominicans.

The Missionaries of God's Love, founded in Canberra by Father Ken Barker, have 30 seminarians at Burwood in Melbourne.

Father Tony Percy, Rector of the Good Shepherd seminary says that these increasing numbers will gradually address the challenge of the priest shortage in Australia. There is definitely a renewed interest in the Church and in the priesthood,' he says. 'World Youth Days in Sydney 2008 and Madrid 2011 have helped.'

## Presentation Sisters Celebrate Jubilees

A Mass of celebration for Sr Ambrose (platinum, 70 years), Sr Bernadette Creede (diamond, 60 years) and Srs Judith Kohlhagen, Frances Dengate and Kaye Bryan (golden, 50 years) was held at Sacred Heart Parish, Koorinal on Saturday, April 28. Afterwards, there was a lunch at the RSL for family, friends, Presentation Sisters and clergy.

This was an inspiring occasion when one remembers that collectively they have spent 280 years in the consecrated service of Jesus Christ. That is longer than white settlement in our great land of the Holy Spirit. A power point display on each of the jubilarians. One can only marvel at the

extended years of teaching and various apostolates and ministries



in which each of the sisters were engaged during their long years of service. Sr Ambrose, Sr Frances and Sr Kaye are well known to many since they attend Mass at the Home of Compassion frequently.

Only Sr Bernadette Creede was unable to be present. Sr Bernadette has the distinction of coming from a family of three priests and five religious sisters. All eight siblings had vocations. Their shining example is of high commendation and an inspiration to all of their dedication to God and their will service to neighbour. Let us offer a prayer of thanks for each one of them.

