

West Wagga Wagga Catholic Parish  
Ashmont, Collingullie, Glenfield, Lloyd, San Isidore

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 171

May 2017

### Coming Events

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Trinity**

- 6 to 7am daily;  
- overnight from 9pm Friday through to 7am Saturdays

**Our Lady of Fatima** Sat 13  
**St Isidore Mon 15**

**Ascension of the Lord** Sun 28

**Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth** Wed 31

**Pentecost** June Sun 4

**Monthly Cuppa, after 9am Mass on last Sunday of the month.**



## Our Lady of Fatima

**First Apparition**

**May 13 1917**

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### Wag Contacts

Email:

westwaggaparish@hotmail.com

Web Page: westwaggaparish.com

Phone: 6931 3601

The date for submissions for the next Wag is: Wednesday May 31st.

## Happy Easter Season!

Yes, the Easter Season, and our Easter celebrations, don't end until the end of Pentecost Sunday, 4th of June.



Photos from Palm Sunday,

Holy Thursday

and

the Easter Vigil.



## Your Prayers Stopped Pirates!

Thank you to all who prayed for the release of the Somali pirates captives. The ship and 8 crew including the captain- father of our novice Br Valentine- were set free on the Feast of St Patrick, who had himself suffered being on a ship having lost freedom.. Thanks be to God.



Thanks for prayers for Confraternity Novice's Father and his crew

Br Valentine would like to thank all those who prayed for the safety of his father, who was captain of a ship which was hijacked by 70 heavily armed pirates off the Horn of Africa on 13th of March. After a dangerous gun battle between the Somali coast guard and the pirates, which led to threats to kill the crew, and then intense negotiations between the pirates, marine forces, and clan elders, the pirates dropped their demands for ransom and gave up the oil tanker and its eight crew members.



Sometimes crew are kept for years until a ransom is paid, and innocent lives are lost if force is used against the pirates. We know many people were praying intensely for God's divine intervention, and were so happy to hear on the Feast of St Patrick, who was taken away by ship, that their prayers were answered!

## pastor's page - Easter!

### The unconquerable hope of the Resurrection touching every part of our life!

Happy Easter to everyone! In the words of the Russian Easter Greeting, "Christ is Risen! He is truly risen!"

Imagine Mary, the Mother of Jesus, how she felt on Holy Saturday... deep sadness and pain at what had happened, and yet, she had faith, she believed Jesus when He said He would not only be put to death but also rise again. Surely that faith was tested hearing, all around her, people mocking and crying out, "Crucify Him"; and as she saw the wounds of the scourging, the crown of thorns, the nailing to the cross and heard His last breath, and then, under the pain she felt as the spear pressed through His side and into His heart.

So, imagine the indescribable happiness when she finally saw what she had believed: her Son really, truly, raised in the flesh, to be touched, hugged again in His glorified yet physical body! We share her happiness, and the more we shared in the passion on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the more joy we will have experienced on Easter.

It is good for us to be moved by the reality of the Resurrection, especially those who find themselves facing trials of one kind or another.

The dawn has already happened, Christ has risen, and this sunlight of His victory over all that is bad and the enemy of true happiness has already begun to shine like rays of morning sun. If you've been camping or had some other reason to be outside after a frosty night as the sun begins to shine, what you have a choice: to remain in the shadows or to find a patch of sunlight. Cats are good at finding a

place sheltered from the wind where the sun will warm them. We have a choice, to be in the cold of unbelief, or to make the most of this Good News and choose to be in the presence of the Resurrection.

Those who choose to seek out the Risen Christ quickly find their hearts stirring, getting stronger, warmed by the knowledge that they are loved by God Himself and the confidence that whatever else happens, they are on the road to heaven, in God's strong and loving hands. They find they are able to overcome depression and what it often leads to: neglect of self and our duties. Instead, a life in the light of Resurrection leads us to work hard and joyfully, making the most of our opportunities as part of our road to heaven, to being with Christ after our own rising from death.

This year, the Easter Candle painted for us by Emily Shaw has a beautiful scene. It captures the meeting between St Mary Magdalen and the Risen Christ. Remember how it happened?

*But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid Him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said, "Sir, if you carried Him away, tell me where you laid Him, and I will take Him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni,"*



*which means Teacher. (John 20:11-16)*

I really like this painting because it reminds me that the Resurrection is as well as being an historical event, also something very personal. We see this also in the meeting of Our Lord with Thomas,

*"Put your finger into the holes in My hand, put your hand into My side; doubt no longer but believe."*

And in the conversation between Jesus and St Peter by the Lake of Galilee,

*"Peter, do you love Me... Yes Lord, you know I love You... Feed My sheep."*

Our risen Lord knows and cares about each one of us. He wants us to be filled with Faith and love and therefore with Christian confidence. Before becoming witnesses to the joy of the Good News, Jesus wants us to hear us saying to us personally what He said to the Apostles when He met them in the upper room, "Peace be with you".

May the grace of Easter, this Good News that is more powerful than any bad news we may be facing, flood our minds and hearts every day of our life.

*Fr Thomas Casanova CCS*

Fr Gerard wishes to express his sincere gratitude for the prayers and congratulations upon his recent academic degree.

The emails and expressions of felicitation were very much appreciated. He will be back in the parish during the first week of May.

The accompanying shows Fr Gerard defending his dissertations before a panel of three theological professors.

He spoke from the podium in Aula 10 that Pope Saint John Paul II defended his dissertation on 19 June 1948.



# May Merries



Did you hear about the wooden tractor ?

It had wooden wheels, wooden engine, wooden transmission and wooden work.

Ten Technical Terms About Computers And What They Mean To Farmers

**Log on:** when you want to make the homestead warmer.

**Log off:** Timberrrrrrrrrrrr.

**Mega Hertz:** when you not careful getting the firewood.

**Lap top:** where the cat sleeps.

**Hard drive:** manoeuvring thought those rocky fields on the northern range when there is snow in the ground.

**Windows:** what to shut when it's cold outside.

**Byte:** what mosquitoes do.

**Modem:** what I did to the hay fields.

**Keyboard:** where the keys hang.

**Mouse:** critters that eat the grain in the barn.

What do you get when you cross a cow with a duck?

Milk and quackers.

What would you see at a chicken show? Hentertainment

Why do bees have sticky hair?  
Because they have honeycombs

What do bees do with their honey?  
They cell it.

What do you call a pig with three eyes? A piiig

Why do ducks watch the news?  
To get the feather forecast.

Old ranch owner John farmed a small ranch in Montana. The Montana Wage and Hour Department claimed he was not paying proper wages to his workers and sent an agent out to interview him.

'I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them,' demanded the agent.

'Well,' replied old John, 'There's my ranch hand who's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$600 a week plus free room and board. The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$500 a week plus free room and board. Then there's the half-wit who works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board and I buy him a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night.'

'That's the guy I want to talk to, the half-wit,' says the agent.

'That would be me,' replied old rancher John.

Q: Where do sheep go to get haircuts? A: To the Baa Baa shop!

How does a flea get from place to place? By itch-hiking.

What does a dentist call his x-rays?  
Tooth-pics.

Where do you send a frog to get glasses? To a hoptometrist.

What happened when the chicken slept under the car?

She woke up "oily" the next morning.

What's green and loud? A froghorn.

I was driving past a farm the other day and there was a field with loads of sheep in it.

I thought to myself "Wow! Look at all those sheep crammed in there. There's too many to even zzzz..."

Farmers earn a meager celery, come home beet and just want to read the pepper, turn-ip the covers, en-dive into bed.

A farmer tried to save money by building a pig-powered tractor. He had to get rid of it though. Every time he turned a corner, the tires squealed.

A farmer took his cross-eyed dog to the vet. The vet picked the dog up to examine him and said, "Sorry, I'm going to have to put him down."

The farmer said "Oh no! It's not that bad is it?" The vet said, "No, he's just very heavy."

A Texan farmer goes to Australia for a vacation and while he's there he meets an Aussie farmer.

They get talking and the Aussie farmer shows off his big wheat field.

The Texan is unimpressed and says, "We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large as that."

They walk around the ranch a little more, and then the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle.

The Texan is again unimpressed and says, "We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows."

They carry on walking around the ranch when the Texan sees a group of kangaroos hopping through the field.

He asks the Aussie, "And what are those?"

The Aussie replies, "Don't you have any grasshoppers in Texas?"

Q: Why did the scarecrow win the nobel prize? A: Because he was outstanding in his field.



# Relativism is Not Neutral: The Intolerance of ‘Tolerance’

Edward Sri

Imagine if the next time someone says to you, “Don’t be so judgmental,” you gently pushed back and said, “Excuse me. Are you judging me?”

Imagine the conversation going something like this:

Friend: “Don’t be so judgmental.”

You: “Excuse me. Are you judging me? I’m feeling judged right now. Are you saying I’m a mean, intolerant, judgmental person?”

Friend: “Uh, no ... I’m not quite saying that ...”

You: “But you just told me not to be judgmental.”

Friend: “Well, when you say something is immoral, it sounds like you’re judging others.”

You: “Look. You’re free to believe whatever you want. If you want to believe there’s no truth, no moral right or wrong, you can do that. I’ll disagree with you because that doesn’t make any sense to me. But if you want to have faith in moral relativism and believe that there is no moral order to the universe, you’re free to do that. But whatever you do, please do not impose your belief in no truth — your faith in relativism — on me! Please don’t make me have to follow your religion of relativism!”

Friend: (Silence)

You: “Now, tell me about your relativism. I’m curious: Do you really believe that there is nothing at all that is morally wrong for everyone? How about murder? Rape? Genocide?”

The benefit of this approach is that it quickly turns the conversation to

a fundamental issue: Is there moral truth? Too often, we Christians are having to do all of the explaining — answering point by point people’s questions about our faith. Let’s turn the tables and start asking our relativistic friends to defend their position. “Tell me about your relativism. Explain to me why you think that there’s no real right or wrong in the universe. How does that work if each individual makes up his own morality?”

## Listen to them.

Let them talk. After a while, ask them a question like, “If a man says, ‘For me, kidnapping is okay and rape is a good thing,’ does that make it okay for him to kidnap children and rape women?”

Most people have never stopped to think about their relativistic assumptions. It’s just something they’ve taken in from the culture. Fewer people have ever had to give a rational account for this position. So when they actually have to talk about and explain their relativistic worldview, they often admit at least some things are morally right or wrong (“You shouldn’t hurt other people”) or they start talking in circles and realize they are skating on thin ice. And when that happens, then they might be more open to hearing an alternative way of looking at the world.

This approach is likely to be more fruitful than most discussions about morality today, which remain on a heated personal and emotional level: “What are you saying about me? Who are you to judge? Who are you to say what’s right and wrong?”

Relativists aren’t expecting a Christian to play their own “Don’t Judge” trump card on them. And when that happens, it might get them to think about deeper issues. And you might have the chance to have a more rational conversation.

Relativists like to portray themselves as holding a neutral position. It’s better to be open-minded toward all points of view, they say: Since we can’t know truth, no one is right. No

one is wrong. All groups can come together under the one big tent of relativism.

At first glance, this seems like a good way to promote tolerance of diverse views. But we must understand very clearly that relativism, in fact, is not value-neutral. Relativism itself is a certain way of looking at the world. And this view — that there is no right or wrong — is being imposed on us.

In other words, the belief that there is no moral truth is itself a point of view. And those who do not agree with this relativistic perspective are being forced to play by its rules or risk being labeled as “judgmental” if they uphold traditional moral values.

As Pope Benedict once observed, “The more relativism becomes the generally accepted way of thinking, the more it tends toward intolerance, thereby becoming a new dogmatism ... it prescribes itself as the only way to think and speak — if, that is, one wishes to stay in fashion. Being faithful to traditional values and to the knowledge that upholds them is labeled intolerance, and relativism becomes the required norm.”

He encourages us to push back: “I think it is vital that we oppose this imposition ... which threatens freedom of thought as well as freedom of religion.”

For relativism is “a kind of new ‘denomination’ that places restrictions on religious convictions and seeks to subordinate all religions to the super-dogma of relativism.”

Relativism is not moral Switzerland. It is not a neutral, impartial, unbiased position. It is a certain point of view, a way of looking at the world, and we should not allow others to force this worldview upon us.

*Edward Sri is a professor of theology at the Augustine Institute. This article is based on his latest book and video study program, *Who Am I to Judge?: Responding to Relativism With Logic and Love* (Ignatius Press).*



# Muslims turn to Christ in record numbers because of TWO MIRACULOUS REASONS

March 19, 2017

Muslims around the world have been turning to Jesus as Christ sends his amazing messages of faith, love and hope.

Christians are persecuted in the Middle East, where they are a minority and Muslims are the majority – but all things are possible in Christ.

Through the miracles of dreams and visions, many Muslims are converting to follow the Great I Am.

Open Door USA shared the story of Amir and Rasha, both of whom are using assumed names for their protection.

Amir and Rasha fled their homes in Homs with their two children.

“Since 2012, we have been living in a tent,” Amir shared. “It’s not an easy life. About a year ago my wife’s mother was killed by a sniper when she went out to have some fresh air. My wife’s brother was killed on his way home.”

Rasha shared how difficult their lives were but admitted: “About three months ago, I was given a vision of Jesus Christ. I was sleeping and all of a sudden I saw Jesus Christ in white. He said, ‘I am Christ. You will have a beautiful daughter.’”

“I was eight months pregnant, and a month later we received our beautiful daughter.”

Amir shared he had a dream at around the same time.

“I saw Jesus Christ. He was dressed in white. He said to me, ‘I



am your Savior. You will follow me.”

Amir and Rasha, who were Muslims when Christ approached them, made a monumental decision.

“We decided to follow him. We named our baby Christina. We left our old Islamic customs.”

Amir stopped going to the mosque but Rasha continues to dress as a Muslim woman with her head covered by a veil.

“Our clan is very big; we’re afraid now. They might kill us,” Rasha explained.

Amir admitted: “Our family knows we are Christians now. Becoming a Christian is, for them, the same as if I had destroyed the Kaaba in Saudi Arabia. It is because we walked in the darkness and are now in the light. I want to protect my family.”

Christians in India face much discrimination and danger. Christians in India face much discrimination and danger.

Rasha said they were no longer safe in their community. “We now have no fixed place to life, we go from place to place,” she described.

In Syria, Amir worked as a carpenter but said: “I have no work in Lebanon. Our financial situation is bad. Now, because we are Christians, others don’t want to help us. The church is helping as much as possible.”

Knowing their future is uncertain, they still hold hope.

Amir explained: “The most important thing is that we know Jesus Christ as our Savior. He will save us. We regularly pray to the Lord, we freely worship Him, and He protects us. God is with us. God will resolve our situation.”

Many others have shared their stories of hope and faith in the Lord as well.

Abu Radwan, a Muslim man who



says Jesus appeared to him in a dream, told PRI: “I started going to church. I believed that Jesus was coming to help us, to save us... Of course it was a difficult decision. I was born into a Muslim family.”

Knowing the dangers of converting to Christianity, Radwan threw caution to the wind and faithfully followed Jesus. He was accepted as a member of the Christian church and was baptized with his wife and children.

Bishop George Saliba reported he has baptized roughly 100 Muslim Syrian refugees since 2011.

“Because [of] the constitution of Lebanon, they have the right to change their religion [here]. But in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, it is impossible.”

It is illegal for Muslims to convert in Muslim-majority countries and many refugees are desperate for something real, something their faith can’t fill, so when Christ offers them hope, love and eternity, they accept.

According to Christian Headlines, one former ISIS militant admitted he had a dream of a man in white saying, “You are killing my people.”

He was given a Bible by a Christian man he killed and, later, he began to read it. It was then he received the dream where Jesus invited him to become a follower of Christ.

Please pray for Muslims around the world. Ask for more dreams and visions for these lost souls. Turn the tide of the world with miracles and conversions to Christ.

By Kenya Sinclair

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any sin, you who are spiritual should recall him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

(Gal 6:1-2)

# The Thief on the Other Cross

Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

I am — I was — an armed robber, I guess you'd call it. Me and Jake and the others would live in caves in the Judean hills near the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. We made our living by violence. We wouldn't take on people in the big groups that passed. They traveled together for safety. But a family alone would be an easy mark, as well as anyone fool enough to travel by himself.

Brandishing a strong staff would usually do the trick. Threaten them with a beating and they'd give up without much of a fight. But I've been known to break a few bones in my day, God forgive me. I don't think I actually killed anyone, but then I never stayed around long enough to find out.

The first time I meet Jesus is when I am invited to a party in his honor in Jericho at the home of a rich tax collector named Zacchaeus. I am introduced, we shake hands, and Jesus looks me in the eye for a long moment. He can see right into me, who I am, every crime I have ever committed. Then he smiles this big friendly smile. "You know," he says, "there's forgiveness for you in my Kingdom. How about it?"

I drop my eyes, say something non-committal, and shuffle away. The next day I'm in the crowd, hanging on every word he says. Jesus is talking about his Kingdom, comparing it to a mustard seed, calling it the Kingdom of Heaven. I want so much to go up to him after he has finished and take him up on that forgiveness thing, but I just can't bring myself to do it.

I wish I had. It isn't much later when me and my friend Jake -- the guy on the third cross -- get caught by a Roman patrol. The others run off, but they catch us, beat us silly, drag us into Jerusalem, and throw us in prison. No mercy for the likes of us.

And so it happens that on the same

day that they crucify Jesus, they crucify me and Jake -- one of us on his left, the other on his right. This isn't any normal crucifixion. Mobs of people are there just because of Jesus. Self-righteous Pharisees are swaggering and mocking. "If you're some kind of messiah," one sneers, "come on down from that cross. If you're a savior, save yourself — if you can!"

Jake begins cat-calling, too, if you can imagine that. I yell over at him, "You miserable thug, don't you have any fear of God? Can't you see that we're going to die just like he is? Show a little decency! We're getting exactly what we deserve, but he ain't done nothing wrong."



Jake quiets down and the Pharisees lose interest. But I can't get Jericho out of my mind. I can't forget Jesus' eyes, his words, his invitation. And so I call over to him, though it's getting hard to breathe and talking makes it that much harder.

"Jesus!" I say. He turns his head towards me. "Jesus, I was there in Jericho. I met you at a party at Zacchaeus' house. Remember?"

He looks at me for a moment and then nods his head just a little. He does remember.

"I never forgot what you said. I

wanted to say yes, but just couldn't. And now look at me — look at us!"

He is in bad shape — exhausted, in excruciating pain, back oozing, breath labored. He isn't going to last long. I can see that. But somehow I can see beyond all that. He was the Messiah, is the Messiah, no matter what those priests and Romans and Pharisees have done to him. And when he dies, he will be with God. In a few hours, maybe less, he will be vindicated. He will reign in that Kingdom he told us about.

"Jesus," I call again, quieter now.

He opens his eyes. They are the same eyes, the same piercing, loving, honest eyes.

"Jesus," I say, "when you come into your Kingdom, would you remember me?"

His words are labored, his lips parched, but I can still hear him pretty well. "Truly, I say to you...." His voice cracks, then is stronger for a moment. "Truly, this very day you will be with me in Paradise."

His eyes droop. He is fading quickly now. But I believe him. I do! That's what gets me through those next few hours until they break my legs to kill me. I do believe him!

And then I find myself here in heaven, in Paradise. I sure don't deserve to be here, but here I am anyway. I guess that's what a man like me gets when the King himself grants a pardon. Full forgiveness. Pretty amazing, don't you think?

*This story is fictional, of course, though it is based on the account in Luke 23:32-43. The criminals are described by the Greek word *lestes*, "robber, highwayman, bandit." In this story I take the thief as a highwayman or bandit, like the one who had robbed the man in Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)*

# 18 Inspiring Quotes from Narnia's CS Lewis

C.S. Lewis is widely considered to be one of the best Christian apologists of the 20th century.

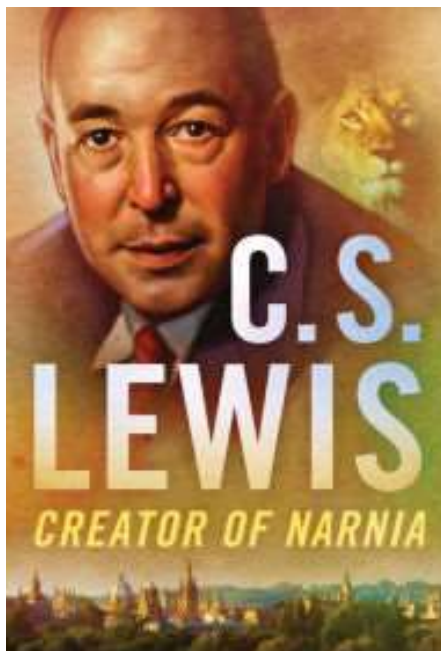
Though he was led to Christianity by his Catholic friend J.R.R. Tolkien, Lewis became Anglican and remained one the rest of his life. Nonetheless, his writings have helped lead innumerable people to the Catholic Church he never joined himself.

Here are 18 of his most powerful quotes:

- 1) "If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."
- 2) "I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity."
- 3) "There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal."
- 4) "The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us."
- 5) "God can't give us peace and happiness apart from Himself because there is no such thing."
- 6) "A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word 'darkness' on the walls of his cell."
- 7) "It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but

too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and ... and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea."

8) "True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less."



9) "Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy."

10) "A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is... A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply

does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in."

11) "God is no fonder of intellectual slackers than He is of any other slacker."

12) "No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good."

13) "Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth 'thrown in': aim at Earth and you will get neither."

14) "Progress means getting nearer to the place you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turning, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man."

15) "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

16) "Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until he has something to forgive."

17) "Love may forgive all infirmities and love still in spite of them: but Love cannot cease to will their removal."

18) "I know now, Lord, why you utter no answer. You are yourself the answer. Before your face questions die away. What other answer would suffice?"



# The West Wagga Wag

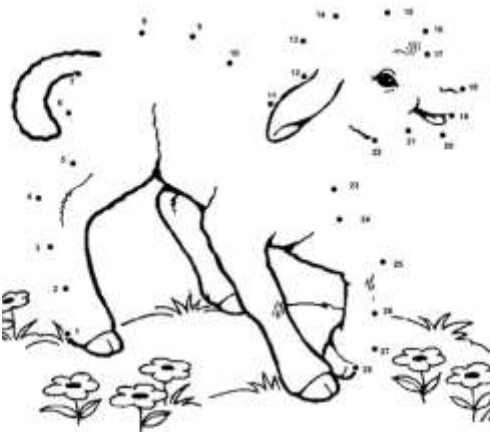
West Wagga Parish



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

## The Shepherd and His Sheep

Connect the dots to complete the picture.



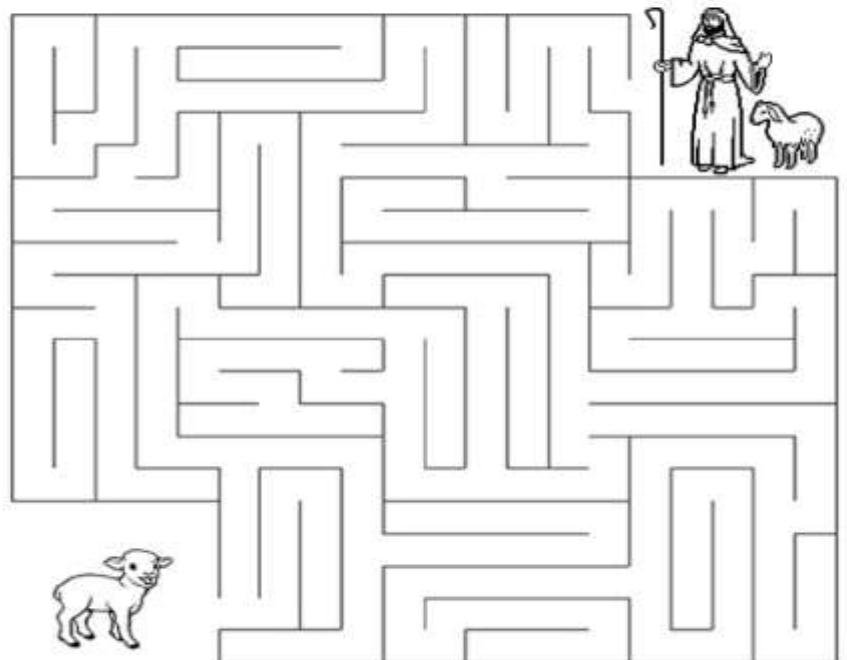
# The Shepherd and His Sheep

His sheep follow him because they know his voice.  
John 10:4b (NIV)



## The Shepherd and His Sheep

Help the lost sheep find his way to the shepherd.



**The oldest computer  
can be traced back to  
Adam and Eve.**

**Surprise! Surprise!**

**It was an Apple.**

**But with extremely  
limited memory.**

**Just 1 byte.**

**Then everything  
crashed.**