

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 106

November 2011

## Coming Events

### Month of the Holy Souls

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| ALL SAINTS DAY:                            | Tues 1  |
| ALL SOULS Day Masses:                      | Wed 2   |
| NSW Board of Studies use Ho.T Hall         |         |
| CWL:                                       | Wed 2   |
| Prayer Vigil for Peace:                    | Thurs 3 |
| Divine Mercy Prayer Group:                 | Fri 4   |
| Serra All Night Vigil:                     | Fri 4   |
| Kairos Outside for Women's Weekend:        | 4--6    |
| St Pat's Yanco Mass Centenary:             | Sun 6   |
| Carmelite Ladies Aux:                      | Mon 7   |
| Advent Christmas Faith Development Course: | Wed 9   |
| Young Mothers Rosary Group (2nd Wed):      | Wed 9   |
| Armistice Day:                             | Fri 11  |
| Youth Bush Dance:                          | Fri 11  |
| Prayers for Healing:                       | Fri 18  |
| Christ the King:                           | Sun 20  |
| Presentation of the BVMary:                | Mon 21  |
| Advent Begins:                             | Sun 27  |

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## Wag Contacts

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The due date for the next Wag is:  
**Sunday December 4th**

## Sean Byrne Readers' In-service

*"We read a newspaper ... but we proclaim the readings - that's a very important difference"*



On Tuesday 11 October, Sean Byrne, one of Wagga Wagga's seminarians, gave an in-service to our parishioners who read at Mass.

Sean told us that Pope Benedict has mentioned the importance of readers being well trained: "This training should be biblical and liturgical, as well as technical: "The purpose of their biblical formation



is to give readers the ability to understand the readings in context and to perceive by the light of faith central point of the revealed message. The liturgical formation ought to equip readers to have some grasp of the meaning and structure of the liturgy of the word .... The technical preparation should make the readers skilled in the art of reading publicly..." (Verbum Domini 58)

Here are a few points:

"It's not something we just rock up for and read, it's something we prepare for and pray about."

When you prepare, think about the meaning, and look for words that you might not know how to pronounce, and check up how to say these words at:

<http://netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm>



It is important to warm up the voice.

No coughing, clearing your throat into the microphone.

Follow the punctuation.

Reading speed – don't read fast.

Avoiding extremes of dramatisation and monotony

Don't ad-lib the Prayers of the Faithful.



## pastor's page



A year has swiftly passed and the month of the Holy Souls is upon us again. But for the Holy Souls themselves, there is no time, just an experience of purifying and ardent flame.

Zenit reports that Pope Benedict XVI stated that Purgatory inflames hearts with God's love. In January this year, Pope Benedict continued his recent theme of reflecting on women saints during his weekly audience, highlighting St. Catherine of Genoa and her insights on Purgatory. The Pope said that St. Catherine – a 15th century Italian mystic – didn't focus on the "torments" of purgatory but rather called it an "interior fire" that purifies and inflames our hearts with God's love.

He opened his talk by explaining that St. Catherine was born into a wealthy family and was married at the age of 16. Although she received a Christian education at home, she initially lived a worldly existence and experienced difficulty in her marriage, which caused her great bitterness, coupled with a profound sense of emptiness.

The Pope said, however, that a unique spiritual experience in which she realized not only her own sin but also the goodness of God. This experience, made her decide to change her life. She then began what the Pope called a journey of purification and mystical communion with the Lord.

"The period between her conversion and her death was not marked by

extraordinary events," he said, "but two elements characterized her entire life: on the one hand, the mystical experience, namely a profound union with God and ... on the other, of service to all, especially the most needy and abandoned."

Pope Benedict said that the "place of her ascent to the mystical heights" was the hospital of Pammatone, the largest in Genoa, of which she was director.

During her life, St. Catherine wrote a small book called "Treatise on Purgatory". The Pope reflected on the saint's writings. St. Catherine, he underscored, did not see Purgatory "as a place of transit in the depths of the earth" or as "an exterior fire." Rather, she saw it as "an interior



fire." Her insights do not "recount the torments of Purgatory and then show the way to purification and conversion". Instead, "she began from the interior experience of man on his journey towards eternity."

For St. Catherine, the soul in Purgatory "is aware of God's immense love and perfect justice; as a consequence, it suffers for not having responded to that love perfectly, and it is precisely the love of God Himself which purifies the soul from the ravages of sin."

Pope Benedict recalled that St. Catherine used the image of a thread of gold linking the human heart to God as a depiction of the relationship between a soul in Purgatory and God.

"In this way the heart of man is inundated with the love of God, which becomes his only guide, the

only driving force in his life. This situation of elevation towards God and abandonment to His will, as expressed in the image of the thread, is used by Catherine to express the action of divine light on the souls in Purgatory, a light which purifies and raises them towards the splendor of the dazzling rays of God."

"In their experience of union with God, saints achieve so profound an 'understanding' of the divine mysteries, in which love and knowledge almost become one, that they can even help theologians in their studies," Benedict noted.

"St. Catherine's life teaches us that the more we love God and enter into intimate contact with Him through prayer, the more He makes Himself known and inflames our hearts with His love. By writing about Purgatory, the saint reminds us of a fundamental truth of the faith which becomes an invitation for us to pray for the dead, that they may achieve the blessed vision of God in the communion of the saints."

In his closing remarks, Pope Benedict highlighted the saint's "lifelong humble, faithful and generous service" in the hospital of Pammatone, calling her life "a shining example of charity towards everyone."

He also said that St. Catherine's work at the hospital is "a special encouragement for women who make a fundamental contribution to society and the Church with their precious efforts, enriched by their sensitivity and the care they show towards the poorest and those most in need."

We too can exercise charity by praying for the Holy Souls and having Masses offered for them. In return they assist us exceedingly.

*Fr Gerard*

## November Jokes

What's small and cuddly and bright purple?  
A koala holding his breath!

What happens when a cat eats a lemon?  
It becomes a sour puss!

What is a crocodile's favorite game?  
Snap

What do you get if you cross a fish with an elephant?  
Swimming trunks!

Why do elephants never forget?  
Because nobody ever tells them anything!

What day do fish hate?  
Fry-day.

What do you call an elephant in a phone box?  
Stuck!

Where do cows go on Saturday nights?  
To the MOOO-vies!

Why is it hard to play cards in the jungle?  
There are too many cheetahs!

When is it bad luck to see a black cat?  
When you're a mouse!

What time is it when an elephant sits on your fence?  
Time to get a new fence!

What does a kitten become after it's three days old?  
Four days old!

What do you get when you cross a parrot with a centipede?  
A walkie talkie!

How do you find where a flea has bitten you?  
Start from scratch!

What kind of animal goes OOM?  
A cow walking backwards!

What animal has more lives than the cat?  
A frog, he croaks every night.

Why are elephants wrinkled?  
Have you ever tried to iron one?

What happens when a frog's car breaks down?  
He gets toad away.

What do you get when you cross a parrot with a pig?  
A bird who hogs the conversation.

What did one flea say to the other flea?  
Shall we walk or take the dog?

What do you get if you cross a crocodile with a flower?  
I don't know, but I'm not going to smell it!

What's the difference between an injured lion and a wet day?  
One pours with rain, the other roars with pain!

What is the strongest animal?  
A snail. He carries his house on his back!

What is the difference between a flea and a wolf?  
One prowls on the hairy and the other howls on the prairie!

What did the clean dog say to the insect?  
Long time no flea!

What do you get when you cross a porcupine with a balloon?  
POP!

Why are igloos round?  
So polar bears can't hide in the corners!

What do call a bear with no ears?  
B!

### PIRATE

A seaman meets a pirate in a bar. The pirate has a hook and an eye patch.



"How'd you end up with a peg-leg?" asks the sailor.

"I was swept overboard in a storm," says the pirate.

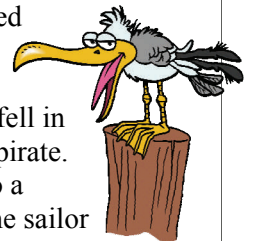
"A shark bit off me whole leg."

"Wow!" said the seaman. "What about the hook?"

"We were boarding an enemy ship, battling the other sailors with swords. One of them cut me."

"Incredible!" remarked the seaman. "And the eye patch?"

"A seagull dropping fell in me eye," replied the pirate. "You lost your eye to a seagull dropping?" the sailor asked incredulously.



Said the pirate.

"It was the first day with the hook."



# EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE IN POLAND

Jesus said to St Thomas, who doubted the Resurrection, “Blessed are those who believe and yet have not seen.” And so it is with the Blessed Sacrament: we are blessed for trusting Jesus’ own words when He said that it is Him.



Yet sometimes Jesus reveals to human senses what we know already by faith.

In Poland on Oct. 12, 2008, a host fell out of the hands of the priest distributing holy Communion. The host was picked up and placed in a vasculum (a sort of small ciborium) in the tabernacle. After Mass, the vasculum and its contents were transferred to the safe in the sacristy.

Seven days later, after opening the safe, a red stain was seen on the host. Ten days after that, the vessel with the host was transferred to the tabernacle in the chapel of the rectory. The next day, the host was removed from the water and placed on the corporal in the tabernacle.

On Jan. 7, 2009, a sample from the host was sent to the University in Bialystok for

analysis. According to two medical professionals, professor Maria Sobaniec-Lotowska and professor Stanislaw Sulkowski, the sample, in their opinion, most resembled the myocardial (heart) tissue of a living organism.

As part of its investigation, the commission interviewed witnesses and pathomorphology experts. The commission determined that there was no third-party intervention. The case has been forwarded to the Apostolic Nunciature in Warsaw.

While unusual in this day and age, the Church has a long history of Eucharistic miracles. The Vatican International Exhibition’s “Eucharistic Miracles of the World” documents more than 130 worldwide miracles of the Eucharist, demonstrating that Jesus Christ in the Eucharist — body, blood, soul and divinity — continues to make his presence manifest at unique times and places in history.

Recently over 25,000 people gathered for a special procession and day of adoration in the Polish town of Sokółka, where Jesus has made His Eucharistic presence



visible.

Back in 2008, a group of rationalists had complained about the matter,



and called on authorities to



investigate if a murder or other crime was involved if human flesh was indeed found. Police said they have no evidence of any crime. Jesus’ act of love was no crime.



Make God your Steering Wheel,  
not your spare wheel.

# HOW TO PLANT YOUR GARDEN

First, you come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses. For the garden of your daily living,

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind  
Peace of heart  
Peace of soul



Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip  
Squash indifference  
Squash grumbling  
Squash selfishness



Plant four rows of lettuce:

Let us be faithful  
Let us be kind  
Let us be patient  
Let us love one another



No garden is without turnips:

Turn up for meetings  
Turn up for service  
Turn up to help one another



To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

Time for each other  
Time for family  
Time for friends  
Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

-- Author Unknown



# THE FIVE FINGERED PRAYER



**3. The next finger is the tallest finger.**

It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the prime minister, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

**5. And lastly comes our little finger**

- the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie can remind us to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective, and you will be able to pray for

**1. Your thumb is nearest you.**

So begin your prayer by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

**2. The next finger is the pointing finger.**

Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and priests. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

**4. The fourth finger is our ring finger.**

Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble, or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

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(See Daniel 6)

10-17-2011

REMEMBER THAT TIME WHEN YOU GOT THROWN IN OUR DEN AND EVERYBODY THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO EAT YOU ... THAT WAS AWESOME!

# PRIEST RECALLS THE FAITH OF HIS GRANDFATHER, JOHN WAYNE

10/02/2011

John Wayne, for many, was a Hollywood legend who symbolized true masculinity and American values. To Father Matthew Muñoz, though, he was simply “granddaddy.”

“When we were little we’d go to his house, and we’d simply hang out with granddaddy; and we’d play, and we’d have fun: a very different image from what most people have of him.”

Father Muñoz was 14 years old when his grandfather died of cancer in 1979. In his lifetime, “The Duke” won three Oscars, the congressional Gold Medal, and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Of all those achievements, though, Father Muñoz is most proud of just one: his grandfather’s conversion to the Catholic faith.

“My grandmother, Josephine Wayne Saenz, had a wonderful influence on his life and introduced him to the Catholic world,” said 46-year-old Father Muñoz, a priest of the Diocese of Orange in California.

“He was constantly at Church events and fundraisers that she was always dragging him to, and I think that, after a while, he kind of got a sense that the common secular vision of what Catholics are and what his own experience actually was were becoming two greatly different things.”

Father Muñoz’s grandparents married in 1933 and had four children, the youngest of whom—Melinda—is his mother. The couple civilly divorced in 1945, although, as a Catholic, Josephine did not remarry until after Wayne’s death. She also never stopped praying for her husband’s

conversion, a prayer which was answered in 1978.

“He was a great friend of the archbishop of Panama, Archbishop Tomas Clavel, and he kept encouraging him, and finally my granddaddy said, ‘Okay, I’m ready.’”

By the time of Wayne’s request, however, Archbishop Clavel was too ill to make the journey to the film star’s residence.

“So Archbishop Clavel called Archbishop McGrath,” Father Muñoz said, explaining that Archbishop McGrath was the successor to Archbishop Clavel in the Archdiocese of Panama.

“My mom and my uncle were there when he came. So there’s no question about whether or not he was baptized. He wanted to become baptized and become Catholic,” Father Muñoz said. “It was wonderful to see him come to the faith and to leave that witness for our whole family.”

Father Muñoz also said that his grandfather’s expressed a degree of regret about not becoming a Catholic earlier in life, explaining “that was one of the sentiments he expressed before he passed on, ‘blaming’ a busy life.”

Prior to his conversion..., Wayne’s life was far from irreligious.

“From an early age he had a good sense of what was right and what is wrong. He was raised with a lot of Christian principles and kind of a ‘Bible faith’ that, I think, had a strong impact upon him,” said Father Muñoz, recalling that his grandfather often wrote

handwritten notes to the Almighty.

“He wrote beautiful love letters to God, and they were prayers. And they were very childlike, and they were very simple but also very profound at the same time.” Sometimes that simplicity was looked at as naivety, but there was a profound wisdom in his simplicity.”

Father Muñoz summed up the hierarchy of his grandfather’s values as “God coming first, then family, then country.” He believes those values are much needed in Hollywood today, and, if “the Duke” were still here, he’d be leading the charge.

“My grandfather was a fighter. I think there would be a lot of things he’d be disappointed and saddened over. But I don’t think he would lose hope. I think he would look at the current time as a moment of faith. People are in crisis, and they’re looking for something more meaningful, more real.” “So, I think he would look at the situation and say, ‘Don’t get discouraged!’ I think he would say, ‘Get involved... and be an agent for the good,’” Father Muñoz said.

John Wayne was a movie star. He was in over 100 movies. He had seven children. He died on June 11 1979 due to stomach cancer.



## A Parent's Poem

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray my sanity to keep.  
For if some peace I do not find,  
I'm pretty sure I'll lose my  
mind.

I pray I find a little quiet  
Far from the daily family riot  
May I lie back--not have to  
think  
about what they're stuffing  
down the sink,  
or who they're with, or where  
they're at  
and what they're doing to the

cat.  
I pray for time all to myself  
(did something just fall off a  
shelf?)  
To cuddle in my nice, soft bed  
(Oh no, another goldfish--  
dead!)

Some silent moments for  
goodness sake  
(Did I just hear a window  
break?)  
And that I need not cook or  
clean--  
(well heck, I've got the right to

dream)

Yes now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray my wits about me keep,



## OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE & DIVINE MERCY IMAGES



On the evening of Tuesday 25th October, our parish had the privilege of having an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which had touched the original image made by God (yes! Check the history out) back in 1531. We also had a replica of the

original Divine Marcy image painted in the Polish town of Vilnius.

There was a DVD presentation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, and veneration of the images.

### DID YOU KNOW...

**THAT** Our Lady actually described herself with the Aztec-Nahuatl word-name "Coatlaxopeuh", the one "who crushes the serpent"?

**THAT** the shrine with the original image is one of the most visited Catholic shrines

in the world?

**THAT** millions of Mexicans converted when they saw the image—not only was it produced miraculously, it had a myriad of significant symbols for them?

**THAT** in the image Mary is pregnant with Jesus?



## TWO DVDS AVAILABLE TO BORROW

Talks by Dr Gerard O'Shea and Sean Byrne will soon be available on DVD.

Sean Byrne spoke about preparing for reading at Mass (see front page). If you missed Sean's talk, you can get right up to speed and catch up with the other readers with the Sean DVD.

Dr Gerard O'Shea gave a talk on how parents can easily teach their children about the birds and the bees. Find out why the Church thinks parents teaching their kids is about a 1000 times smarter, get some tips you can apply right away, see if the booklet "As I Have Loved You" is for you.

Call Michael at the parish: 6931 3601 ; or email [mjccasanova@yahoo.com](mailto:mjccasanova@yahoo.com)



*The West Wagga Wag*

West Wagga Parish



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



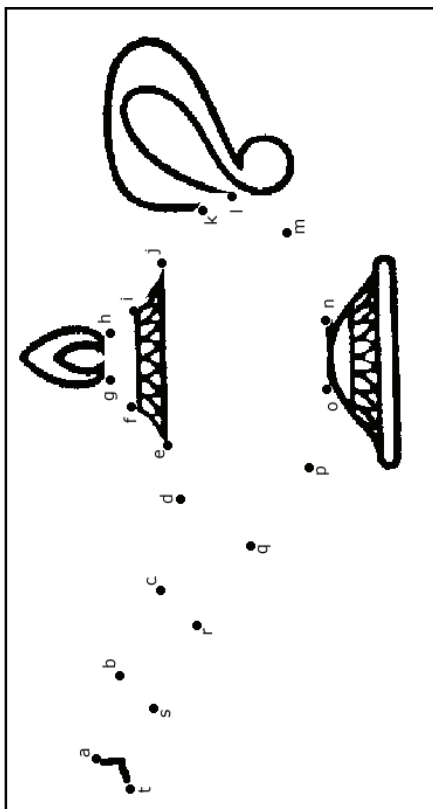
# The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

Matthew 25:1-13



**Can you learn this off by heart?**

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."  
Matthew 25:13



|            |         |         |         |         |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| FOOLISH    | MEET    | DROWSY  | VIRGINS | BANQUET |
| MIDNIGHT   | WEDDING | TRIMMED | RANG    | KINGDOM |
| BRIDEGROOM | LAMPS   | WISE    | WATCH   | COME    |
| DOOR       | ASLEEP  | HEAVEN  | OIL     | WOKE    |