

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

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 153

November 2015

## Coming Events

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

**Adoration - 6 to 7am daily, all night Fridays starting 9pm**

**HSC exams - Please pray for students in our schools**

**Our Lady of the Rosary** Wed 7

**Come to Bethlehem**  
**Postponed till** Dec 2016

**All Saints Day** Sun 1

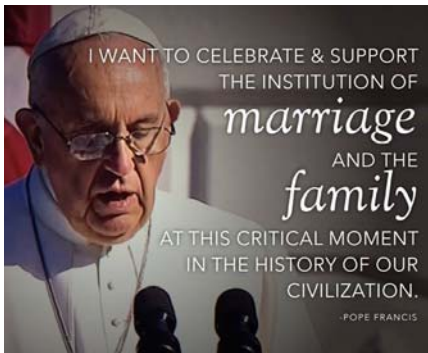
**All Souls Day** Mon 2

**St. Leo the Great** Tues 10

**Parish Council 6.30 pm** Tues 10

**Board of Studies exam corrections—Parish Hall**  
**Unavailable until** Wed 18

**Feast of Christ the King** Sun 22



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## Wag Contacts

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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: **Wednesday Dec 2nd.**

## Greetings from Fr Gerard Ryan

Greetings.

Sorry can't promise any selfies, papal visits or movie clips.

Am a bit busy here unfortunately and the writing of the dissertation has plenty of interruptions.

The house here is good [North American College] and a library which is more than the Convitto had.

There are several other Australian priests here, including Father Stephen Ledinich whom I often eat with. If you're talking to Father Damien Jellett, he stayed here and was particularly popular, well liked and is often asked after.

I really need to get the dissertation finished by November or early December if there is any hope of defending it in February.

Please thank people for their prayers and let them know that I am praying for the parish and all those who have asked for prayers daily.

God bless you all, fraternally in Christ the Priest,

Fr Gerard Ryan CCS



*North American College in Rome*

## Christ the Priest Students Retreat

The Confraternity of Christ the Priest students recently went for a week long retreat under the direction of Fr John Rizzo at the Tyburn Priory, Riverstone, near Sydney. They also had an opportunity for some bush walking in the Blue Mountains.



Ah, November, Lord...  
help me pray this month  
for those I love  
who have died...

**Remember to  
pray for the souls  
in purgatory  
during November**

## Take your children to the cemetery!

When my sister Veronica (now Sr Bridgid MC) was little, she was visiting the cemetery with my father. While dad was mowing, Veronica was wandering. Dad looked back and saw her lying on her grandmother's grave and asked what she was up to. She answered, "I'm lying on Grandma's bed".

The word "cemetery" does actually mean dormitory, a place of resting, before the longed for resurrection. Cemeteries are not places of fear for Catholics. The ground has been blessed with so much holy water and the angels are in that place.

Should children go to funerals? I certainly think so. In my own childhood, I remember funerals as good times, a safe and wholesome place to observe mourning and become familiar with this reality which touches us all. It is safe because of the rock of our faith, the comfort of the Good News of God's mercy. And there is also the food afterwards, and catching up with old friends who are still with us "on the way" to heaven.

Catholic children should also visit the graves of your loved ones.

This November, visit the cemetery, encourage one another, go together.

## pastor's page

Let the Holy Souls see that we care, and allow them to pray for us in a special way to gain faith and wisdom. During the first week of November, you can receive a plenary indulgence when you visit a cemetery and apply it to a soul in purgatory. Pick a relative, or the least noticeable grave, or one near your relatives' graves.

In many countries, millions go to the cemeteries on All Souls Day, even sleeping there. Our cemeteries are too quiet, too empty of the living who love their departed family.

Use Holy Water at the cemetery. It is a good idea to sprinkle holy water on the graves (there is plenty at the back of the church. Bring your own bottles.)

### Take your children to Masses for the Holy Souls

We priests offer three Masses on All Souls day.

The holy sacrifice of the Mass is the chief source of devotion for the holy souls.

So, the most powerful means to relieve or release a soul from purgatory is through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. You'll find that in the Catechism. It says it in 1032:

*"From the beginning, the Church*

*has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God."*

After the Mass, the next most powerful way to help the souls is the Rosary, the most powerful Marian prayer on earth — in her approved apparitions, Mary says pray the Rosary for peace in the world, in your hearts, in your family — and the Stations of the Cross, because they're indulgenced. You have to be in the state of grace to help the souls in purgatory.

To gain the Plenary Indulgence for the Souls in Purgatory, we need to go to Mass or visit the cemetery, or spend half an hour in before the Blessed Sacrament; we also need to have gone to Confession within a week before or after the time of the Plenary Indulgence and if possible go to Holy Communion on the day of the Indulgence. We also need to pray for the intentions of the Pope, for example the creed or an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

*Fr Thomas Casanova CCS*



## Prayers at the Graveside

*All make the Sign of the Cross:* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

Praise be to God our Father, Who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Blessed be God for ever.

*All respond:*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*The following Scripture text may be read: 2 Cor 5: 1*

**We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.**

*After a time of silence, all say the*

*Lord's Prayer: Our Father.*

*Then the leader prays:*

Lord Jesus Christ, / by Your own three days in the tomb, / You hallowed the graves of all who believe in You / and so made the grave a sign of hope / that promises resurrection, / even as it claims our mortal bodies.

Grant that our brother (sister) N. may sleep here in peace / until You awaken him (her) to glory, / for You are the resurrection and the life. / Then he (she) will see You face to face / and in Your light will see light / and know the splendour of God, / for You live and reign for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O

Lord,

**R. And let perpetual light shine upon them.**

V. May they rest in peace.

**R. Amen.**

V. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**R. Amen.**

*All make the Sign of the Cross as the leader concludes:*

May the peace of God, / which is beyond all understanding, / keep our hearts and minds / in the knowledge and love of God / and of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**R. Amen.**



# November Jokes



## Fishy Facts and Jokes

Q: How do you communicate with a fish? A: Drop it a line!

Q: Why did the fish cross the road?  
A: Cause it was hooked!

Where do goldfish go on vacation?  
Around the globe!

## Ten Interesting Trivial Fishy Facts

1. A biologist who studies fish is called an ichthyologist.
2. The most poisonous fish in the world is the Stone fish.
3. The more sardines that are placed in a can, the greater the profit as sardine oil costs more than the sardines.
4. Minnows have teeth in their stomach; the better to digest their food.
5. The sturgeon is considered the largest of all freshwater fish and have weighed in at 2,250 pounds.
6. All the sturgeon [the fish from which we get caviar] caught in British waters are property of Elizabeth II, Queen of England.
7. Atlantic salmon are able to leap as high as 4.5 metres.
8. The largest known fish in the sea is the whale shark. It weighs up to 20 tons and can grow to a length of 17 metres.
9. Fish can get seasick when kept aboard a rolling ship just as much as people.
10. The red fire-fish can fly and emits sounds like a crow.

The priest was a fisherman, but he hadn't fished in months. One perfect Sunday morning he couldn't resist. He called up the Bishop and claimed he had laryngitis. The priest then headed out to his favourite fishing spot. The hook

hadn't been in the water five minutes before he got a strike, and landed the biggest fish he had ever caught-- although he had seen bigger ones. A half hour later he caught the biggest fish he had ever seen. Another forty-five minutes later he landed a fish that broke the world record.

All this time Saint Peter and God had been watching the priest from heaven. Saint Peter turned to God and said, "How can you reward this priest? He lied. He let down his congregation." God smiled at Saint Peter and replied, "I am punishing him." Saint Peter was confused, so God continued, "Well after he finishes, who can he tell his fish story to?"

## Sick Jokes

After the First Aid Course  
A woman had just finished a first-aid course and was eager to try out her skills.  
Coming out of a shop one day, she saw a crowd gathered round a man on the ground. She rushed over, got down and began to take his pulse. Just then, a huge policeman tapped her on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, madam, do you realise I'm trying to arrest this man?"

An element of the admission procedure in the hospital where consultant Tim Westwood worked, was to ask the new patients if they suffered from any allergies. If they did, Tim got it printed on a special 'allergy band' which was then placed on the patient's wrist as a reference for all other hospital employees.

On one particular occasion Tim asked an elderly woman if she had any allergies. The old dear responded by saying that she was unable to eat bananas.

Tim received a considerable surprise later in the day when a very irate son came out of the ward demanding, 'Who's responsible for labelling my mother 'bananas'?'

## Holy Jokes

A mother was teaching her three-year-old daughter the Our Father.

For several evenings at bedtime, she repeated it after her mother. One night she said she was ready to try it on her own. Her mother glowed with pride and listened to each word right up to the end. "And lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail. Amen."

At the close of a Lenten course, Fr invited participants to write prayers down. Here are some of them:  
"Lord, help me to relax about insignificant details - beginning right now, at 7:41:23 pm"  
"Dear God, help me to consider people's feelings, even if most of them are hypersensitive."  
"Father, help me take responsibility for my own actions, even though they're usually not my fault."

If your troubles are deep-seated and long-standing, try kneeling.

Dad was listening to his child saying her prayers. "Dear Harold ..."  
"Wait a minute, sweetie, how come you called God 'Harold'?"  
The little girl looked up and said, "That's what they call Him at the church. You know the prayer we say, 'Our Father, who art in heaven, Harold be Thy name.'"  
And then there was this particular four-year-old who prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

"Dear God, so far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been selfish, grumpy, nasty, or overindulgent."  
"But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot of help."







# HALLOWEEN- THE CATHOLIC WAY

What is  
**HALLOWEEN?**



"ALL HALLOWS' EVE" is where the name of halloween comes from. A hallowed person is another name for a saint.

We call October 31 - All Hallow's Eve because it is the eve of All Saints' Day which is on November 1



The mass that the Catholic Church celebrated on Nov. 1 was called "Allhallomas". This meant mass of all the hallowed (saintly people). It was commonly called "All Hallows' Day".

The night before Nov.1 became known as *Allhallowe'en*, which was short for "evening before All Hallows' Day." It was then shortened to what we now know as Halloween.



1

## Why do we celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day?



2

November 1 is a special day called the feast of All Saints. It is the day the Church celebrates with all the people who have died and are now with God in heaven. Everyone who has lived and died in Jesus' love is a saint. We do not know the names of all the saints. Some of these people were so much like Jesus that after they died, the Church said they were definitely in heaven.



November 2 is a special day called the feast of All Souls. It is celebrated in honor and remembrance of the souls of our dearly departed loved ones, and to pray for other souls that still need our prayers. The Church honors this day as a solemn day for all souls in purgatory who are being cleansed before entering Heaven.



## How can we celebrate Halloween?

1. Dress up like "Little Saints"



Let's do our best to remind everyone that this day is the eve of the feast of All Saints. We honor the saints by dressing up like them instead of dressing up as anything that glorifies sin, horror or rebellion from God. By our good example, people will be curious to learn more about "All Hallows' Eve" and may even study the lives of the saints.



3. Go to Mass

On Nov.1 and Nov.2, the most important thing we can do is to attend the Holy Mass and offer it for all the Holy Saints, and our dearly departed loved ones. By doing this, we give honor to them.

2. Visit the graves of our dearly departed

On Nov.1 and Nov.2, let's go to the cemeteries to pray at the graves of our dear departed. We can also adorn it with flowers and lighted candles.



4. We say a prayer

While we celebrate Halloween, we pray to and honor our saints and pray for our dearly departed. We can say the rosary or other prayers at home or upon visiting the grave of our departed loved ones.





## Conscience = “con+scientia” = with knowledge

Catechism of the Catholic Church on conscience, with some comments in brackets by Dr. Taylor Marshall

Conscience is a word formed by two Latin words: con/cum (with) and scientia (knowledge). It is the judgment of reason by which we knowledgeably judge our moral actions. Here is what the Catechism says about conscience [with my comments in square brackets]:

**1796** Conscience is a judgment of reason by which the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. [*conscience judges certain concrete acts – not tendencies or lifestyles*]

**1797** For the man who has committed evil, the verdict of his conscience remains a pledge of conversion and of hope. [*conscience*

*is a pledge toward conversion*]

**1798** A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. [*conscience must be well-formed*] It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator. Everyone must avail himself of the means to form his conscience.

**1799** Faced with a moral choice, conscience can make either a right judgment in accordance with reason and the divine law or, on the contrary, an erroneous judgment that departs from them.

**1800** A human being must always obey the certain judgment of his conscience.

**1801** Conscience can remain in ignorance or make erroneous

judgments. Such ignorance and errors are not always free of guilt.

**1802** The Word of God is a light for our path [*the Word of God, the Bible is our path – so a pastor or bishop should read the word of God to us in each of these moral dilemmas so that we can make a right and true judgment*]. We must assimilate it in faith and prayer and put it into practice. This is how moral conscience is formed.

Taylor Marshall goes on to say:

The conscience is “man’s most secret core, and his sanctuary.” Yet sanctuaries must be designed, decorated, and maintained.



## Pope, Pell, and Pope on Conscience

**Pope Francis**, October 9th 2015, explains how a person can move from a true conscience to an anesthetised conscience:



“The Evil One is hidden; he comes with his very educated friends, knocks at the door, asks for permission, comes in, and lives with that person. Drop by drop, he gives him instructions” leading us to “do things with relativism”.

Once such access is given, such relativism is embraced, the loss of a sense of sin is a great surrender to evil: “Anesthetize the conscience. This is a great evil. When the Evil

Spirit succeeds in anesthetizing the conscience, it is then he can claim a true victory, for he has become the master of that conscience.”

**Cardinal Pell**, in 2005 gave a talk on “Newman and the Drama of True and False Conscience”:

"Good conscience" simply means good grasp and good application of moral truths.

No one -- at least, no Christian -- believes conscience simply asserts the first thing that comes into our heads. Conscience looks for real answers to our questions; and where can it look except to the truth? But then the value of conscience surely lies not in conscience itself but in the objective truth to which

conscience looks for answers. It is the truth that is primary, and it is from the truth that conscience takes its value.

**Pope John Paul II**, in 1993, said "it is always from the truth that the dignity of conscience derives. In the case of the correct conscience, it is a question of the objective truth received by man; in the case of the erroneous conscience, it is a question of what man, mistakenly, subjectively considers to be true. It is never acceptable to ... make the moral value of an act performed with a true and correct conscience equivalent to the moral value of an act performed by following the judgment of an erroneous conscience" (*Veritatis Splendor* 63).

## Blessed John Henry Newman on what Conscience is Not

“Conscience is not a long-sighted selfishness, nor a desire to be consistent with oneself...”

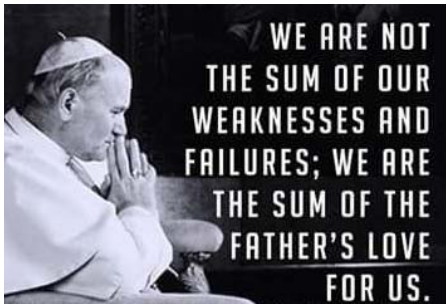
“Conscience is a stern monitor, but in this century it has been superseded by a **counterfeit**, which the eighteen centuries prior to it never heard of, and could not have mistaken for it, if they had.

[**Counterfeit conscience**] is the right of self will ... the right of thinking, speaking, writing, and acting, according to [one’s] judgment or [one’s] humour, without any thought of God at all ... [such that it is the] very right and freedom of conscience to dispense with conscience”.



# 13 Surprising Facts from the Inspired Life of St. John Paul II

by ChurchPOP Editor Paval Hadzinski



October 22nd was the feast of the great St. John Paul II! Here are 13 amazing facts about his incredible life that you may not have known:

**1) At age 15, he was almost killed in an accidental shooting by a friend**

His friend was showing him a gun that he thought was loaded. When the friend jokingly pulled the trigger with the gun facing him from just a few feet away, the gun fired. Thankfully (miraculously?), the bullet just barely missed him.

**2) He had a Jewish "girlfriend" as a young man**

Her name was Ginka Beer, and she was "a Jewish beauty, with stupendous eyes and jet black hair, slender, a superb actress." Though "dating" might not accurately describe their relationship, she was the first and possibly only young woman with whom he had a romantic relationship.

**3) He was an actor and playwright**

A member of an acting troupe, he considered acting as a career before being called to the priesthood.

**4) By age 21, he had lost his entire immediate family**

His mother died when he was 8 from complications in child birth, his three siblings died during his childhood, and his father died of a heart attack when he was 21.

**5) He was run over by a Nazi truck during WWII and almost killed**

In February 1944, while walking home from work, he was struck and knocked down by a German truck. The German officers stopped and, seeing that he was unconscious and badly injured, commandeered a passing vehicle to use as an ambulance to take him to the hospital. He spent two weeks in the hospital. The harrowing experience, and his unlikely recovery, confirmed to him his call to the priesthood.

**6) He escaped arrest by Nazi soldiers once by hiding behind a door**

In August 1944, during a Polish uprising, Nazi soldiers swept through his town looking to arrest all young men. As they entered his house, he hid behind a door somewhere. The soldiers searched the house but didn't find him, so they left. He then escaped to his Archbishop's residence, where he stayed until the end of the war.

**7) He attended Vatican II as a bishop and helped draft several documents**

He contributed to the final text of Dignitatis humanae, the Decree on Religious Freedom, and Gaudium et spes, the Pastoral Constitution on

the Church in the Modern World.

**8) He was the first non-Italian pope since the 16th century**

John Paul II was Polish. And, of course, we haven't had an Italian pope since: Benedict XVI is German, and Francis is Argentinian.

**9) As Pope, he spoke 9 languages fluently**

He knew Polish, Latin, Ancient Greek, Italian, French, German, English, Spanish and Portuguese. As a young man, he may have known up to 12 languages.

**10) He visited 129 countries during his pontificate**

This makes him one of the most travelled world leaders in history.

**11) He beatified and canonized more people than all other popes before him combined**

He beatified 1,340 people and canonized 483 people as saints.

**12) He was a Marvel comic book hero in the 1980s**

Yep, you read that right. And he wasn't alone: Bl. Mother Teresa and St. Francis of Assisi also had comic books.

**13) He's the fourth pope to have the title "the Great"**

Though bestowal of the title has no official process and is only by popular usage, only three other popes in history have merited such an honour: Ss. Leo the Great (440–461), Gregory the Great (590–604), and Nicholas the Great (858–867).

**St. John Paul II, pray for us!**

The Refugee Committee is appealing for a **fridge, washing machine, and dining table and chairs.**

If you can help please contact Peggy, 60313059, or Joan, 69313048



**DO MORE  
OF WHAT  
MAKES YOU  
HAPPY.  
HOLY**



# Be humble, respect those around you

A lady worked at a meat factory. One day, when she finished with her work schedule, she went into the meat cold room (Freezer) to inspect something, but in a moment of misfortune, the door closed and she was locked inside with no help in sight.

Although she screamed and knocked with all her might, her cries went unheard as no one could hear her. Most of the workers had already gone, and outside the cold room it's impossible to hear what was going on inside.

Five hours later, whilst she was at the verge of death, the security guard of the factory eventually opened the door.

She was miraculously saved from dying that day.

When she later asked the security guard how he had come to open the door, which wasn't his usual work routine.

His explanation: "I've been working in this factory for 35 years, hundreds of workers come in and out every day, but you're one of the few who greet me in the morning and say goodbye to me every night when leaving after work. Many treat me as if I'm invisible.

Today, as you reported for work, like all other days, you greeted me in your simple manner 'Hello'. But this evening after working hours, I curiously observed that I had not heard your "Bye, see you tomorrow".

Hence, I decided to check around the factory. I look forward to your



'hi' and 'bye' every day because they remind me that I am someone.

By not hearing your farewell today, I knew something had happened. That's why I was searching every where for you."

Be humble, love and respect those around you. Try to have an impact on people who cross your path every day, you never know what tomorrow will bring.

# How a Pagan Magician Was Converted By the Sign of the Cross



It was end of the 3rd century in the Roman Empire, and Christians were still a persecuted minority. The terrible Diocletian

persecution was on the horizon and Emperor Constantine's edict of toleration was still decades away. Paganism was still operating in full force.

**Cyprian** (not to be confused with the north African bishop by the same name) was a pagan magician. Not the kind of magician that entertained people, but the kind that dealt with demons to harm people. He had given himself over to demonic force so much that he regularly interacted with demons face-to-face, and possibly even Satan himself. He was powerful and feared.

Until he met his match.

**Justina** was a beautiful virgin. She was also the follower of the strange Christian sect. Seeking to bring her to ruin, Cyprian sent

demons after her three times. Yet each time they were unsuccessful. When the demons returned, they explained why they were unable to harm her: she made the **Sign of the Cross**.

Perplexed that she possessed a power greater than his own, he made the Sign of the Cross and was immediately freed from the demonic influence in his life. He decided to become a Christian and was baptized.

He was a holy man, and was soon ordained a deacon, then a priest, and finally a bishop. Justina, on the other hand, became the head of a convent.

During the great Diocletian persecution of the early 4th century, both Cyprian and Justina were arrested and tortured.

At one point, since they refused to renounce their faith in Christ, they were thrown into a boiling cauldron, and yet were unharmed. A nearby pagan priest declared that his pagan god could also protect him from the boiling cauldron and throw himself in as well, but he immediately died. The torturer, now

scared and confused, sent Cyprian and Justina back to the local ruler, who ordered that they be beheaded.

Justina was beheaded first. She was so calm and graceful in accepting the martyrdom that a bystander, Theoctistus, was convicted by Christ in his heart. He threw himself down at the feet of Cyprian and proclaimed himself a Christian. The executioner then beheaded both of them.

Ss. Cyprian and Justina, please pray for us!



# The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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

Eternal rest grant to the Holy  
Souls in Purgatory, Lord!



Can you find these saints  
in the word search area?

|           |            |          |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| AGNES     | JOSEPH     | BRIDGET  |
| ANNE      | CLARE      | ISIDORE  |
| PAUL      | HELEN      | PATRICK  |
| ROSE      | GEORGE     | STEPHEN  |
| LUCY      | CECILIA    | THERESE  |
| JOHN      | THOMAS     | DOMINIC  |
| JUDE      | MARTIN     | BENEDICT |
| PETER     | FRANCIS    | ANTHONY  |
| ELIZABETH | AUGUSTINE  |          |
| CATHERINE | BERNADETTE |          |

# All Saints Day and All Souls Day



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