

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 105

October 2011

Coming Events

St Therese Lisieux:	Sat 1
CWL Meeting:	Wed 5
Totus Tuus Youth Group:	Thurs/Fri 5/6
Prayer Vigil for Peace:	Thurs 6
Our Lady of the Rosary:	Fri 7
Divine Mercy Prayer Group:	Fri 7
Serra All Night Vocation Vigil:	Fri 7
Thomas More Day:	Sat 8
MenAlive men's Conference:	Oct 8-9
Parish Readers Professional Development:	Tues 11
Legion of Mary:	Sat 15
St Daniel Camboni Sudanese Feast Day:	Sat 15
Gifts of the Spirit Workshop:	Sat 15
Festival of Flowers, Craft & Music:	Sat 15
Mt Erin Ex-Students Assoc: Annual Reunion Day:	Sun 16
Mission Sunday:	Oct 15
Weekend Parish Retreat ~ Lessons from Great Old Bible Stories:	Fri 21- 23
Marian Hills, Divine Mercy Devotion:	Sun 23
Women's Retreat Day:	Sun 23
SRE Catechists In-Service:	Mon 24
What is Happening to our Girls?	Tues 25

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Wag Contacts

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The due date for the next Wag is:
Sunday June

Oct is the month of the Rosary, and 13 Oct is the 94th anniversary of The Miracle of the Sun

The Miracle of the Sun took place on 13 October 1917.

Between 30,000 and 100,000 people had gathered because three young shepherd children had stated that on the 13th of July, 15th August and 13th September, Our Lady had promised that she would reveal her identity and provide a miracle "so that all may believe."

According to many witnesses, including the anti Catholic newspaper, after a period of rain, the dark clouds broke and the sun appeared as an opaque, spinning disc in the sky. It was said to be significantly duller than normal,

well as the wet and muddy ground that had been previously soaked



because of the rain".

According to reports, the event lasted approximately ten minutes. The three children also reported seeing a panorama of visions, including those of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of Saint Joseph blessing the people.

Mary revealed herself as Our Lady of the Rosary.

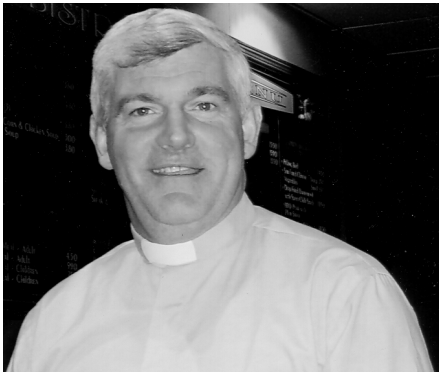
In six years it will be the 100th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima.



and to cast multicolored lights across the landscape, the shadows on the landscape, the people, and the surrounding clouds. The sun was then reported to have careened towards the earth in a zigzag pattern, frightening those who thought it a sign of the end of the world. Witnesses reported that their previously wet clothes became "suddenly and completely dry, as



pastor's page



Sometimes it is said that the Mass is boring or at least ordinary. "It doesn't do anything for me!" it is said. "It's always the same" which is another oft quoted phrase. In a world that craves entertainment, even in the classroom, it is understandable that coming to Catholic Mass might seem a bit of a letdown, especially if one doesn't comprehend the deeper significance and symbolism involved in every Catholic Mass. Mass going is not a passive act it is supposed to be an active participation [CCC 2180]. We are not meant to be "entertained" by God but rather we engage our minds and hearts with heartfelt adoration, reparation, supplication and thanksgiving. Only when we participate in this manner are we fulfilling the love of Christ and in return are profoundly fulfilled.

It certainly helps to understand the Mass. Explanations about the Mass can begin in childhood and should be supplemented throughout growing years and revisited in maturity. A one off explanation of the Mass can never be sufficient because we are all nurtured differently and at different moments of need within our life. Explanations and repetition of Gospel truths are in the homily but sometimes need to be supplemented. Such instructions can be both natural and supernatural.

Helping children relate to the Mass can be an initial step on the road to a deeper understanding of all that Jesus did for us and continues to do for us. He remains for ever to bless us through the Church, its pastors and its catechists. From Heaven, yet through his Church, Jesus "lives forever to intercede for us" before the Heavenly Father [Hebrews 7:25]. Basically the Mass is Jesus Christ's supreme act of reparation and sacrificial supplication, the very re-presentation of Calvary's love offering, when and

where Jesus redeemed mankind and offered himself for all.

St Paul writes to the Thessalonians that we are to "stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word." [2 Thess 2:16-17] The Mass has both good words and good works. Every Mass consists of the Liturgy of the Word – when God literally speaks to us united with the Liturgy of the Eucharist where Christ as God gives himself to us as food for eternity [CCC 1212].

Good teaching always moves the student from the more known to the less known. It is no different when teaching about the Mass. There are so many parts of the Mass that can be paralleled with many normal and daily events and things in life. For example, just think about any ordinary day and the actions of that day. When we first rise in the morning it is common courtesy to give an expression of greeting to parents or spouse, brothers and sisters; such as "hi" or "good morning"! Similarly in the Mass the priest greets the people by giving them a supernatural greeting from the New Testament such as the Lord be with you. Or [1 Cor 16:23] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. There is also a longer formula such as: [2 Cor 13:14] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. To each of these greetings we respond "and with your spirit". It is true that these responses are more formal than "hi, how ya goin!" but appropriately the Mass elevates the ordinary natural greeting of friends to an altogether supernatural height that transcends our daily colloquialisms to the rarefied and reverential heights of God and yet at the same time remain beautifully human.

When we rise in the morning we feel the need to go to the bathroom and to wash our face and see to our ablutions. In this way we will feel ready to face the world fresh, clean and with self-respect. For heavy duty washing we might even have a shower or bath before beginning the day. Similarly at Mass at the very beginning, the priest invites us to wash

our souls so that we can face God afresh and clean from the various small sins that we may have committed since the last time we went to Mass. This moment at the beginning at Mass is called the Penitential Rite. If we need heavy duty cleaning we need to go to more trouble and use the Sacrament of Penance, [reconciliation]. The Sacrament of Penance is meant to be received regularly, that is once a month. Imagine if we only washed or showered once a month – phew!

At the start of the day we think about what we are going to do for the day, or what we have to planned or is appropriate. So too the Opening Prayer of each Mass sets the scene for the continuation of thought, prayer and action not only for the Mass but also for our immediate life's activity. At the end of the prayer, with its particular theme by which the priest leads us - we all respond "Amen"; that is, yes I agree "let it be so"!

At this point follows the Liturgy of the Word, or the Sacred Scripture readings. It is not uncommon for most adults when they get up in the morning to listen to the news on the radio or the TV or even perhaps read something of the newspaper. Sadly most of yesterday's news is not all happy news. Conversely, at Mass we read the Word of God which is alive and active [Heb 4:12]. Through it we are encouraged, formed and informed, consoled, instructed and get in touch with some really good advice for the day. The Liturgy of the Word is always Good News [CCC 3].

In the morning as we are listening to the morning news we are also probably preparing breakfast. Mum usually prepares the cereal, toast and drink for the family. At the offertory the priest prepares the gifts for consecration so that the bread and wine brought forward by the people during the offertory procession can become the body of blood of Christ during their consecration by the priest. So during the offertory at Mass the priest prepares the offerings for the holy meal part of the Mass. The bread and wine are offered up in readiness for their miraculous transubstantiation into the Body and Blood of Christ.

pp's page continued

Also at the Offertory on Sundays a money collection is taken up not only to house and feed the priests of the diocese but also to provide money to keep the parish going and even put a little aside to help those less fortunate.

God gives us parents and others so that our meals are beautifully prepared and nourishing. Similarly God gives the world priests to prepare the bread and the wine by a special Eucharistic Prayer that has power to change the substance of bread into living flesh and wine into revitalizing blood. The priest is trained to do this and blessed by God to do it. Only the ordained priest can really bring about this change [CCC 1552].

In the morning we eat our morning meal which sustains us for work, study or play. This meal is called breakfast. The word breakfast takes its origins from the Catholic Mass of old. In the pre-Vatican II days people fasted from midnight until receiving Holy Communion. There were no or very few evening Masses because of the long fast from the night before. After the morning Mass people would go home and "break the fast". They would have a hearty morning meal. At Mass those who are able to receive the Eucharist are offered the Body and Blood of the Lord. We call this Holy Communion because we commune with the holy, that is God himself; Jesus who is really, truly and substantially present in the Eucharist [CCC 1374]. The Eucharist is our daily bread. This is what the Our Father means. We receive from God both a daily serve of both ordinary and extraordinary Bread. Daily morning Mass is a most blessed start to any and every day.

As we prepare to leave the home for our days duties we often say thanks for the breakfast and offer our goodbyes, and in some cultures even receive the father's blessing. So too in the Mass, we offer thanks in the final prayer, receive a blessing and say our farewell. We go out to the world to proclaim who we are and what we stand for until we return home at the end of the day. We need to return to our home church weekly to be instructed, informed and formed by Jesus himself in the Eucharist.

Fr Gerard

October Jokes

Q. Who designed Noah's ark?

A. An ark-itect!

Q. Who is the fastest runner in history ?

A: Adam - because he was the first in the human race.

A school teacher decided to have her 2nd grade class memorize Psalm 23, one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. She gave the children a month to learn it. One little boy was excited about the task, but he just couldn't memorize the Psalm. Although he practiced and practiced, he could hardly get past the first line. The day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the parents. The little boy was nervous. His turn came, he came up to the microphone and proudly said, "The Lord is my Shepherd and that's all I need to know!"

A mother was teaching her three year old daughter The Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she repeated it after her mother. One night she said she was ready to solo. The mother listened with pride, as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end..."And lead us not into temptation", she prayed, "but deliver us from e-mail, Amen."

The priest and the old farmer
One day a priest was filling in for his priest friend. One of the churches he was to say Mass at was away from town and not many people attended there. This Sunday, the priest found that apart from himself, there was only one other person, an old farmer. So he decided to skip the sermon, which was a mistake! After Mass the old farmer came in a grumpy mood into the sacristy. He said, "I'm not too smart, but if I went to feed my

cattle and only one showed up, I'd still feed him."



The next Sunday the priest came back and found that it was just him and the farmer again. This time he gave his whole sermon – a good 25 minute sermon.

After Mass the old farmer came into the sacristy again, just as grumpy as last time. He said, "Well, I'm not very smart, but if I went to feed my cattle and only one showed up, I wouldn't feed him the whole haystack!"

Father O'Malley answers the phone.

"Hello, is this Father O'Malley?"

"It is"

"This is the Australian Taxation Office. Can you help us?"

"I can"

"Do you know a Ted Houlihan?"

"I do"

"Is he part of your congregation?"

"He is"

"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?"

"He will!"

TRY THIS! AND THIS!

Ask someone to spell shop— they'll say "S-H-O-P". Then ask: "what do you do when you come to a green light?"

Ask someone else how to spell silk— they'll say "S-I-L-K" Then ask: "what do cows drink?"

Prayer & fasting making big impact on abortion



From Sept 28 to Nov 6, in more than 300 places around the world, including five in Australia, people are joining in **40 DAYS FOR LIFE** to help stop abortion.

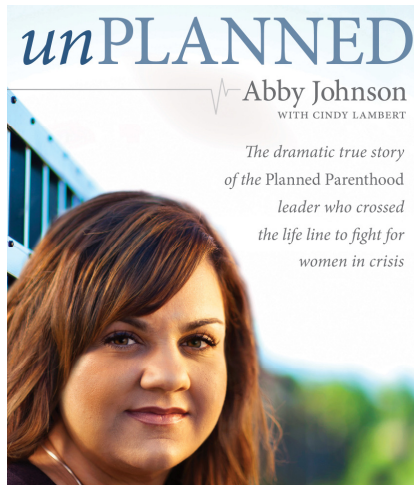
With 16 abortion centres closed, **40 DAYS FOR LIFE** has proved how effective love, prayer and fasting are in the fight to save babies and mums from abortion.

In FLORIDA, volunteers arriving to pray at an abortion center found a sheriff's notice on the front door of the facility. Legal proceedings had begun against the abortion business, and a judge ordered the center CLOSED.

In OREGON, the local **40 DAYS FOR LIFE** team confirmed that the owner of the abortion center had CLOSED this facility -- and one of his other locations as well. Volunteers told me the signs are down, the building is empty -- and a phone call confirmed the permanent closure.

Add to that, the many women who decided not to have their baby aborted, because of the prayer and fasting of thousands,

and because of the loving presence of people outside abortion centres, AND... the conversion of directors of two abortion centres, including Abby Johnson, who was the director of an abortion clinic in Texas who left in about 2009 when **40 DAYS FOR LIFE** was happening at her



abortion clinic.

Abby has since become a Catholic and joined the fight for life.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE is a worldwide pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion.

Even if we're too far from those places where **40 DAYS FOR LIFE** is happening, we can join in through prayer and fasting where we live.

Jesus said some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God's will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God's help.

Fasting is not a Christian diet; it is a form of physical prayer. You can fast from food, a TV show, an afternoon coffee, ... and especially things that separates you from God.

People have found participation in **40 DAYS FOR LIFE** very fulfilling, one person said it was one of the best things she's ever done. It's likely we'll find the same thing.

Some of us have started already, but it's not too late to begin, and perhaps to make one of the biggest differences in the fight against abortion possible.

More info: <http://40daysforlife.com/location.cfm>

SEPTEMBER 28 TO NOVEMBER 6, 2011

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

HOW MOTHER TERESA LIVED

This following story was told to me (Sr. Patricia) by Fr. Langford, the cofounder of the Missionary of Charity priests in a radio interview:

One day in the mother house in Calcutta there were about three hundred novices and they were all out for the morning. One of the novices working in the kitchen came up to Mother Teresa and said, “We’ve planned poorly; we have no flour to back these chipatias for lunch.” Chipatias are little flour and water pancakes. The situation looked bleak—three hundred plus mouths are coming to be fed in about an hour and a half and there’s nothing to cook with. There’s no food.

“What I would expect Mother Teresa to do,” Fr. Langford explained to me, “was that Mother would pick up the telephone and call some of her benefactors and mobilize them to

find some way to feed her daughters.

Instead, her reaction—her spontaneous reaction—was to say to this little one, ‘Sister, you’re in charge of the kitchen this week? Well then, go into the chapel and tell Jesus we have no food. That’s settled. Now let’s move on. What’s next?’”

Lo and behold, ten minutes later there was a ring at the door and Mother Teresa was called downstairs. A man she had never seen before was standing there with a clipboard.

He addressed her saying “Mother Teresa, we were just informed that the teachers at the city schools are going on strike. Classes have been dismissed and we have 7,000 lunches we don’t know what to do with. Can you help us use them?”
God provided for the needs of his children.



Mother Teresa’s sanctity was built on a very simple foundation of deep faith and trust in God. Mother Teresa turned to Him in prayer, not only in need, but also to rest in the arms of the Father—body and spirit.

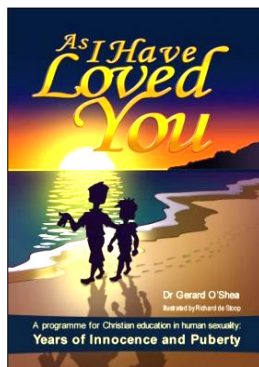
That is how Mother Teresa lived each day of her life.

This is an excerpt from the book, Let the Fire Fall, by Michael Scanlan, TOR, Servant Publications.

Birds and the Bees book and DVD

Dr Gerard O’Shea gave great talks at Holy Trinity Hall and McAlroy House on 19th Sept.

A couple of the most appealing aspects of the program are how thoroughly the program avoids embarrassment for child and parent, and how it creates a bond between child and parent that will be bigger than any temptation against faith or morals. Dr Gerard said it’s very much



better to get the conversations going before the hormones are racing.

Books \$19.95 each (then claim up to half back via Education Tax Refund).

We’ve recorded Dr Gerard’s talk and we’ll be making a DVD, so that you’ll be able to see how easy and simple the program is to use.

Ph parish: 6931 3601

Inservice for Readers

Parish Readers

Professional Development

Tues 11 Oct 7.30 - 8.30 pm sharp, Holy Trinity hall. All readers kindly asked to attend this significant inservice by Mr Sean Brynes..

Some things we’ll be looking at:

- Why read well?
- Reading speed – fast or slow
- Approaching and leaving the altar
- The dangers of unprepared readings
- Warming up the voice
- Microphone technique
- Biblical Pronunciations (check out <http://netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm#> to hear the pronunciations of the tough words!)

Archbishop Fulton Sheen credited with baby's stunning recovery



Sep 22, 2011 - Bonnie Engstrom remembers praying silently to Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen over and over again after her baby son was born lifeless and without a pulse for 61 minutes.

"I held him for a moment, he was blue and limp," she told CNA. "I just kind of sat there in shock."

Little James Fulton was the third child that Bonnie and her husband planned to give birth to at home, and everything had been going perfectly in the early hours of Sept. 16, 2010.

But what the couple and attending midwife and birth assistant did not know was that there was a knot in James' umbilical chord.

Bonnie held her motionless baby for a few brief moments before he was quickly taken away for CPR while an ambulance was called.

"I have a memory of repeating Sheen's name, in my head, not out loud, but just kind of saying over and over again 'Fulton Sheen, Fulton Sheen' while they were still doing CPR," she said.

Bonnie's husband also baptized the baby James Fulton—"the name we had agreed upon"—before he was rushed to the St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

In the ambulance, paramedics gave the baby two doses of

epinephrine to try to restart his heart, "and neither one of those worked," Bonnie said.

But at the hospital, a full 61 minutes after he was born and while doctors were preparing to declare the time of death, James Fulton suddenly had a pulse.

Although the medical team was stunned, they refrained from being optimistic and simply told Bonnie's husband that the baby had a heartbeat, but that was all they could say.

Doctors expected James Fulton to die within the week, or at the very least, be on a ventilator or feeding tube—blind and strapped into a wheelchair—for the rest of his short life.

What happened in the following days, however, was nothing short of extraordinary.

"Two days after he was born, we had a Mass and a Holy Hour at the cathedral where Sheen was ordained, and we prayed the intercessory prayer asking for Sheen's prayers that James would be completely healed," Bonnie said.

The Engstrom family was surprised to be surrounded by over a hundred people gathered together with them at Mass that day.

Over the next few days, friends and strangers alike held Holy Hours at Newman centers and parishes across the U.S.

"There were people from all over the world ... saying 'we're ... asking for Sheen's intercession,'" Bonnie said.

Within a week of his birth, doctors were shocked to find that James Fulton was breathing on

his own.

"Everyone was just amazed by that—that wasn't supposed to happen."

And day by day, after all of his vital organs were seen to be functioning properly, it became more apparent that little James Fulton was going to be just fine.

When the follow-up MRI came in three months later in December 2010, the medical team was extremely pleased by what they saw.

James Fulton, a normal, happy little boy, celebrated his first birthday on September 16, 2011.

The Engstrom's were recently sworn into a tribunal of inquiry where members of Bishop Sheen's cause for beatification and canonization will investigate the alleged healing.

"Because my family believes that James was healed in part because of the intercession of Sheen, there is now an investigation into whether or not this is a real miracle," Bonnie said. "We don't know what's going to happen, but they are investigating for the beatification."

Archbishop Sheen died in 1979 and his cause for sainthood was officially opened in 2002. He is presently referred to as a "Servant of God." The next major step toward being declared a saint would be his



Pearls of Wisdom

Prayer: God answers Knee-Mail.

The Boss: Under the same management for over 2000 years.

Come As You Are: You are not too bad to come in Church and you are not so good you can stay out.

Insomnia Cure: If you can't sleep, try counting your blessings.

Nutrition: The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.

Cosmetic Surgery: Come in and have your faith lifted.

Refunds: Try Jesus. If you don't like Him, the devil will gladly take you back.

Seating Arrangements: Where will you be seated in eternity?
Smoking or non-smoking?

Tithing: Give God what's right -- not what's left.

Which Way? : Man's way leads to a hopeless end -- God's way leads to an endless hope.

Two Ears: Since God gave us two ears and one mouth; He must have wanted us to do twice as much listening as talking.

Stand: If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything.

Flying: If God is your Co-pilot, you're in the wrong seat!

Unconditional Love: Yes, God loves us all, but He favors "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts!"

The Message: Our job isn't to change the message. Our job is to let the message change us.

Promises: God didn't promise a calm passage. He promised a safe landing.

Praying: When you pray, don't give God instructions. Just report for duty!

Forbidden Fruit: A forbidden fruit will create many jams.

Greatness: You can tell how

great a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

God's Will: The will of God will not take you to where the grace of God will not protect you.

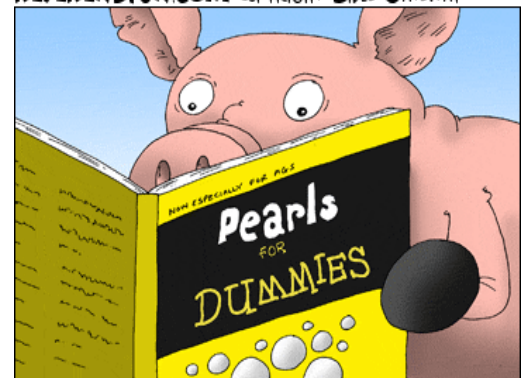
Best Formula: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

Problems: The problem ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

Peace: Peace starts with a smile.

Benefits: Working for God does not pay much, but His retirement plan is out of this world.

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(See Matthew 7:6)

09-23-2011

Woman Who Rejected Abortion During Cancer Wows X-Factor



Pamela Cook wowed the X-Factor Australian audience with her soulful rendition of Kelly Clarkson's hit "Because of You" but what wows me is her pro-life testimony at the beginning.

Pamela explained that last year she was diagnosed with breast cancer while being 16-weeks pregnant.

Pamela said the doctors encouraged her to terminate the pregnancy but that wasn't an option for her and they said it would be much easier to treat (the breast cancer) but she had lost a baby the year before and that just made it not even on the table.

It's a testament to her courage that she underwent life-saving

chemotherapy and had to endure having her baby delivered nine weeks early. She asks, "what's worse than not having a mum?" (if she hadn't beaten the cancer). The little boy is growing up completely healthy!

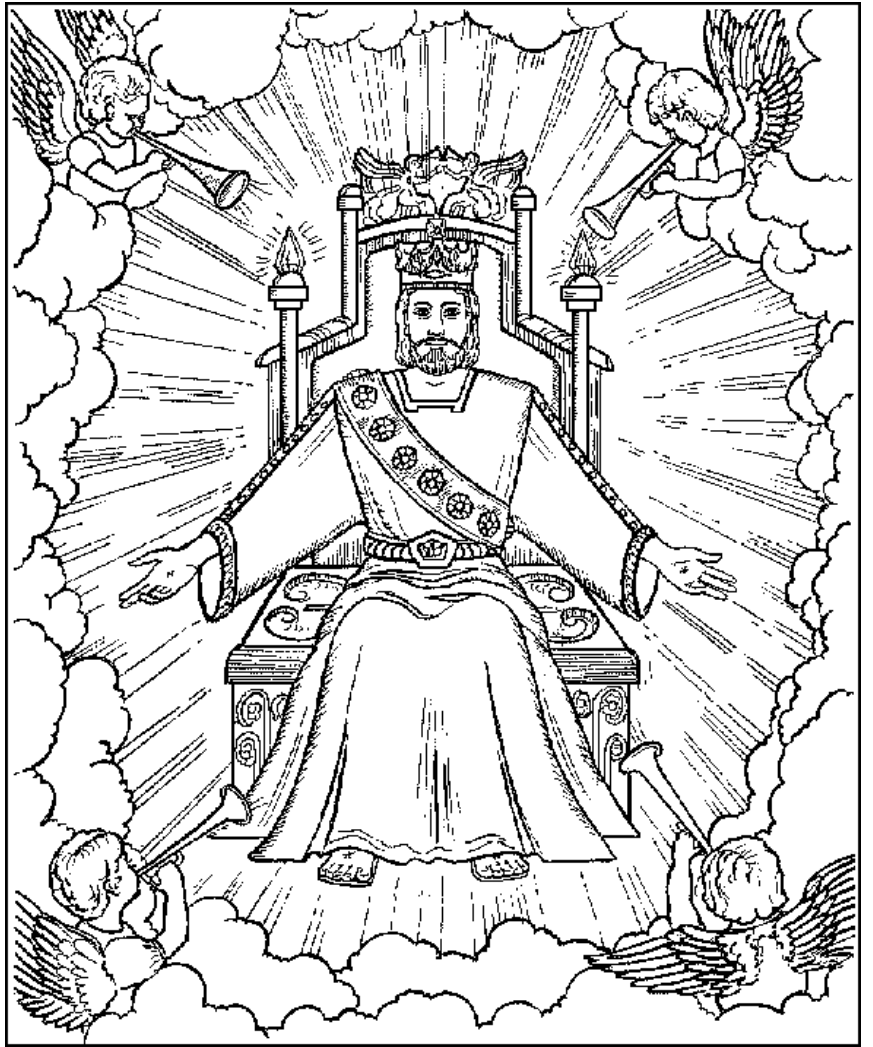


The West Wagga Wag

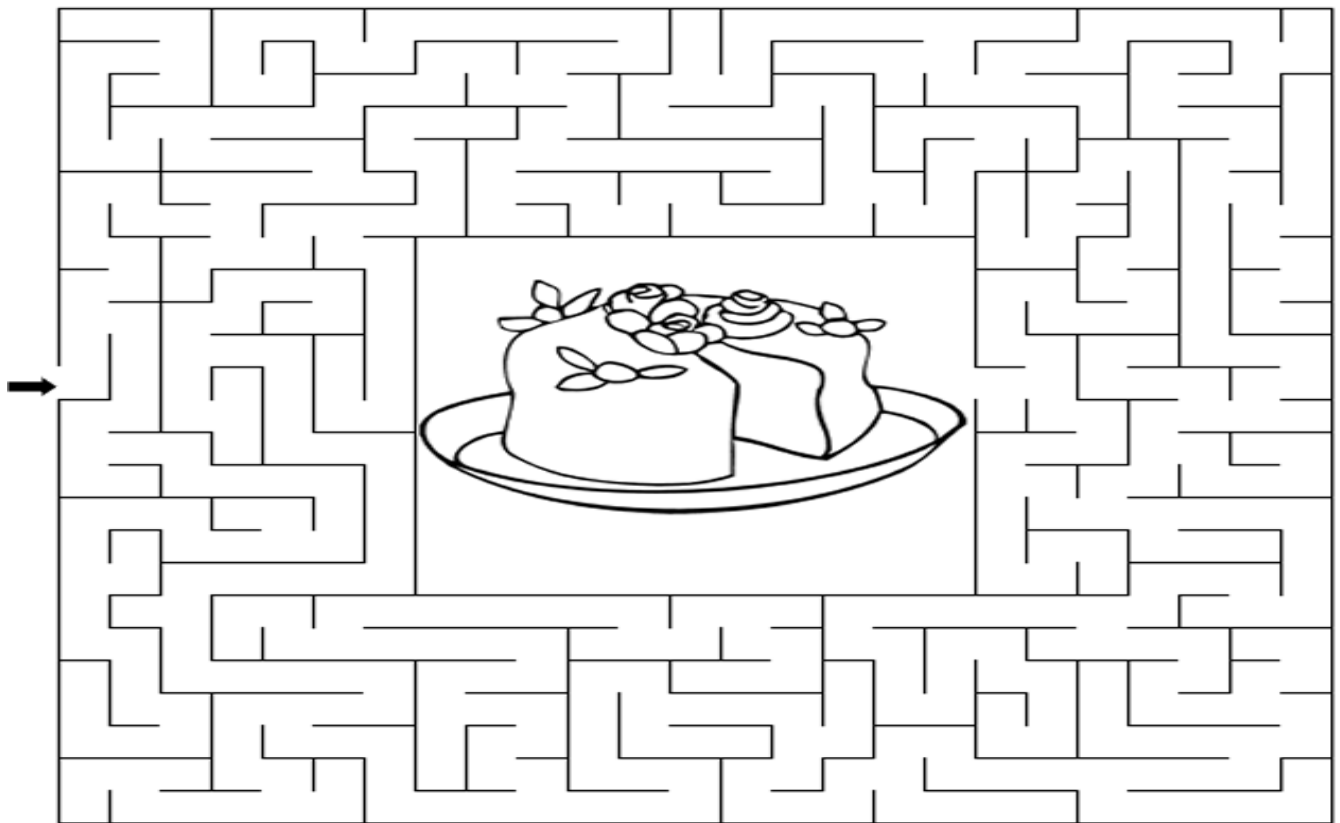
West Wagga Parish



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



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE WEDDING FEAST!



Can you find your way to the wedding cake?