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

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 128

Coming Events

Lectio Divina:	Tues 8	
Parish Film Night:	Fri 11	
Youth Expo:	Fri 11	
Rosary in the Park:	Sat 12	
Pope Francis Consecrates		
World to IHM:	Sun 13	
Home of Compassion		
-	Mon 14	
Prayers for Healing:	Fri 18	
Parish Retreat: Lumen		
Fidei:Fri-Sun 18-20		
Mission Sunday: Su	n Oct 20	
All Saints:	Nov 1	
All Souls Day:	Nov 2	

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Wag Contacts

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Men of God

Last month two men were received into the Church with the assistance of our parish. They were Mr. Rob Hall and Mr. Terry Brown.

Mr. Rob Hall became interested in the Catholic faith through his wife Kristyn and especially as a result of attending Mass at the Cathedral when his son Jake was singing in the children's choir under Mr. Michael Murphy and Miss Mega Liesman. Fr. Gerard instructed Rob in the faith via the Compendium of the

Catechism of the Catholic Church since early 2013. After undergoing the Scrutinies at the Saturday Vigil Mass at the Cathedral with Fr. Brad Rafter, a few weeks later Fr. Gerard Baptised, Confirmed and gave First Holy Communion to Rob. Kristyn was his sponsor and their children and family friends were present for this special Vigil Mass. Rob is a leading senior sergeant with the Wagga Wagga Police who serve our city.

Mr Terry Brown interested in the for years. Raised Community his a Catholic some through the Gabriel Murray Our Lady of Terry and Val children have decided to help



has been Catholic faith in the Anglican wife Val became years back ministry of Fr. who was then at Fatima Parish. whose own adult their own lives, others by

fostering children. Over the last decades they have helped around 30 children and youth from their home. Presently their daughters Chez, Elizabeth, Kathleen and Jessikah attend the 9am Ho.T Mass with Mrs. Louise Bailey. Unfortunately, both Terry and Val do not keep the best of health and are now on our Holy Communion and Anointing rounds which the priests of the parish fulfil each Thursday morning. At the Saturday evening Vigil Mass at the Cathedral, Terry was received into the Catholic faith with Confirmation, First Holy Communion and the Anointing of the Sick. Sadly, Terry is not

well at all and to receive the Anointing of the Sick at his reception was a great blessing. A day after his reception Terry was hospitalized at Calvary and underwent lifesaving therapies. We are happy to known that he is back home thanks to the doctors, nurses and the prayers of many.

We wish both Rob and Terry and their families every happiness and grace as they journey in their faith.



October 2013



Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, October 13, 2013

As the time ticks by we draw ever closer to the centenary of the great miracle of the Sun which happened on October 13, 1917, at Fátima, Portugal. This October 13, 2013 during the Year of Faith, Pope Francis will again consecrate the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as requested by Our Lady on July 13, 1917 to three visionaries; Blessed Jacinta, Blessed Francesco and Lucia who died on 13th February, 2005 at the age of 97.

The consecration of Russia, for world peace was requested by Our Lady of Fátima, in a series of Marian apparitions, in 1917. There was a further apparition in 1925 to Sister Lucia in Pontevedra, Spain. She said: ". It was Our Lady of Fátima ... with a crown of thorns... and said to me: "The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father in union with all the Bishops of the world to consecrate Russia to My Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means."" Sr. Lúcia Santos then revealed Mary's Peace Plan consisting of three elements: 1) Praying the Rosary and wearing the Brown Scapular, which are inseparable. 2) Acts of Reparation for sins against God & the Immaculate Heart of Mary through the First Saturday of the month devotions of Mass & meditation. 3) A public ceremony in which the Pope and the Catholic bishops consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Towards the end of December 1940, Sr Lúcia sent a letter to Pope Pius XII, disclosing for the first time part of the secret about Russia & urging him to consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart.

This first consecration was completed by Pope Pius XII in 1942. After this there were major turning points in World War II. The Virgin Mary promised that there would be world peace if a consecration were performed in union with all the Bishops throughout the world. The consecration was performed by Pius XII via Portuguese radio and was broadcast on Saturday October 31, 1942. But the war made it difficult for all bishops to participate in the consecration.



Pius XII's motto for his pontificate was Opus Justitiae Pax, meaning "Peace is the work of justice". The consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was pronounced at a critical phase of World War II. Just at that time, German troops under General Rommel had conquered strategic parts of North Africa while advancing towards the Suez Canal. In Russia, fighting continued against an expanding German invasion. On October 31, 1942 Pius XII called for a prayer crusade to Mary the Queen of Peace, and stated that only her intercession could save the situation. He then dedicated the whole human race and especially Russia to the

Immaculate Heart of Mary. He renewed the consecration again on December 8, 1942 in Rome. The consecration is noteworthy, because it contains a specific reference to military victory.

Indeed the battlefield situation improved markedly for the allies. Shortly afterwards, in the battle of El Alamein, British forces achieved a major breakthrough. Accordingly Winston Churchill, who was not Catholic, said, "one can almost say, before El Alamein, we did not have a single victory, and afterwards not a single defeat". In the Pacific, the Japanese defenders were decisively beaten during the Guadalcanal Campaign, as part of the larger land and sea battles in the Solomon Islands

Campaign, with a few days after the consecration. The downfall of Stalingrad began a few days later as well with its encirclement November 19, 1942. Stalingrad surrendered on the Marian feast day, the Presentation, February 2, 1943.

Pope Pius XII entrusting not only the Catholic Church but the whole human race to the Virgin Mary, did so as the "Father of Christianity" and as the Vicar of Christ, who has "all power in

heaven and on earth", (Mt 28:18). A decade later in July 1952 he specifically consecrated the Peoples of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by his apostolic letter *Sacro Vergente* Anno. Pius XII stated: **J**ust as a few years ago We consecrated the entire human race to the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, so today We consecrate and in a most special manner We entrust all the peoples of Russia to this Immaculate Heart..."

On March 25, 1984, the feast of the Annunciation, Pope Blessed John Paul II also consecrated the world and Russia in a public ceremony. In 1989, after 28 years (November 9) the

pastor's page continued

Berlin Wall fell because Russia had undergone "perestroika" the policy of reconstructing the economy, politics and government of the former Soviet Union under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachov. At the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, there is a segment of the Berlin Wall intended to emphasize the belief that Blessed John Paul II's Consecration of Russia and all Rosary prayers influenced the fall of the Berlin Wall because of the Our Lady of Fátima messages.

Only two popes have made a worldwide consecration. Interestingly, Pope Pius XII was appointed an Archbishop at the Vatican Sistine Chapel on May 13, 1917, the same day as the Fátima apparitions were reported. The other was Pope John Paul II who was shot in Rome on May 13, 1981 and later credited Our Lady of Fátima with his recovery, saying that it was "in mysterious coincidence with the anniversary of the first apparition". In 2010, Benedict XVI Pope Emeritus announced that we are mistaken if we think the prophecies of Fátima have yet been fulfilled. Pope Francis who most concerned for world peace, especially in the Middle East, will consecrate Russia and the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We will do the same in our parish on Sunday October 13 at all the weekend Masses.

Fr Gerard

Bible Salesmen

A pastor concluded that his church was getting into serious financial troubles. While checking the church storeroom, he discovered several cartons of new Bibles that had never been opened and distributed.

So at his Sunday sermon, he asked for 3 volunteers who would be willing to sell the bibles door-todoor for \$10 each to raise the necessary money for the church.

Jack, Paul & Louie all raised their hands to volunteer for the task. The minister knew Jack and Paul earned their living as salesmen and were likely capable of selling some bibles.

But he had serious doubts about Louie, a local farmer who always kept to himself because of his speech impediment.

Poor Louis stuttered badly. But, not wanting to discourage him, the minister decided to let him try anyway. He sent the 3 away with the back seat of their cars stacked with bibles, asking them to meet him to report the results of their efforts the following Sunday.

Eager to find out how successful they were, the minister immediately asked Jack, "Well, Jack, how'd you make out selling bibles last week?" Proudly handing the reverend an envelope, Jack replied, "Using my sales prowess, I was able to sell 20 bibles, & here's the \$200 I collected on behalf of the church."

"Fine job, Jack!" The minister said, vigorously shaking his hand. "You

are indeed a fine salesman and the Church is indebted to you."

October Jokes

Turning to Paul, "And Paul, how many bibles did you sell for the church last week?" Paul, smiling & sticking out his chest, confidently replied, "I'm a professional. I sold 28 bibles on behalf of the church, and here's \$280 I collected."

The minister responded, "That's absolutely splendid, Paul. You are truly a professional salesman and the church is also indebted to you."

Apprehensively, the minister turned to Louie and said, "And Louie, did you manage to sell any bibles last week?" Louie silently offered the minister a large envelope.

The minister opened it & counted the contents. "What is this?" the minister exclaimed. "Louie, there's \$3200 in here! Are you suggesting you sold 320 bibles for the church, door to door, in just one week?"

Louie just nodded. That's impossible!" both Jack & Paul said in unison. "We're professionals, yet



you claim to have sold 10 times as many bibles as we could."

"Yes, this does seem unlikely," the minister agreed. "I think you'd better explain how you managed to accomplish this, Louie."

Louie shrugged . "I-I-I re-re-really do-do-don't kn-kn-know f-f-f-for sh-sh-sure," he stammered.

Impatiently, Peter interrupted. "For crying out loud, Louie, just tell us what you said to them when they answered the door!"

"A-a-a-all I-I-I s-s-said wa-wawas," Louis replied, "W-w-w-wwould y-y-y-you 1-1-1-1-like t-t-to b-b-b-buy th-th-this b-b-b-bbible f-f-for t-t-ten b-b-b-bucks---o -o-o-or--- wo-wo-would yo-you j-jj-just 1-like m-m-me t-t-to st-ststand h-h-here and r-r-r-r-read it t -to y-y-you??"

Q: Why did the birdie go to the hospital? A: To get a tweetment.

Q: Why did the cross-eyed teacher lose her job? A: Because she couldn't control her pupils?

Q: What season is it when you are on a trampoline? A: Spring time.

Q: Where did the computer go to dance? A: To a disc-o.

Q: What has one head, one foot and four legs? A: A Bed

Q: What do you call a bee that lives in America? A: USB

Q: Why didn't the skeleton go to the dance? A: Because he had nobody to go with.

Report to the Parish from your local St. Vincent de Paul Society

We have been kept very busy during the past financial year: We were involved in 1088 visits, involving families and individuals who were suffering - for a myriad of reasons - varying degrees of stress, alienation and rejection.

The vast majority [415] were single mothers with children. Persons on Disability Support Pension [253], and Newstart [227] also sought our assistance. Again, the vast majority of our visits [559] were made to families who live in Public housing, with 384 visits being made to families who live in rented accommodation.

Private rentals are very high, around \$260 per week for a modest fibro cottage in Ashmont.

Even with Federal Government rental assistance, we have found that many of those we visit struggle to meet weekly living costs, and more and more they are turning to the Society for assistance. As well, for many families, visits by Society members is their only contact with a Christian community, and I suspect many of those we visit and seek to assist wonder what makes us tick, and why we do what we do. Of those we visited throughout the year, 555 were calls for food support, and 383 were calls for assistance with bills - rent, electricity, gas, water, medical, etc. Of these, on your behalf, we gave electricity and gas assistance totalling \$32,880; food and fresh vegetables totalling approximately \$30,000; and, most ominously, rental help totalling \$11,041.

Rental assistance has increased alarmingly in the years following the G.F.C., and starkly shows the increasing degree of financial stress under which many families live.

Just before Christmas, we prepared 87 hampers containing food and toys, and delivered them to families throughout the Parish area.

Our twinning programme is going well. We support two St. Vincent de Paul Conferences on the Indian sub-continent, sending each \$80-00 each quarter; their Government will not permit us to send any more.

We wish to thank Father Gerard for his counsel and support throughout the year. Thank you to all parishioners who have helped us, especially through the poor boxes in all our Parish Centres. Thank you



also to Mr. Paul Jenkins, Principal of the Ho.T primary school, teachers and students for their gifts for our Christmas hampers.

We wish to specially thank those who contribute to the twinning programme; please continue to do so as we could not assist our Indian Vincentians without you.

We are considering sponsoring a third Conference, but we would need more parishioners to contribute one dollar every month to the programme. Can you help us? If you can, please contact Father Gerard or a Conference member for more information.

Judy Lyons. Conference President.



Parish Spiritual Retreat: Lumen Fidei

Friday October 18, 7pm; and from 9am on Saturday and Sunday 19th & 20th.

Holy Trinity Church, Bardia Street, Ashmont

Info. 02 6931 3601; www.westwaggaparish.com/retreat

Topics

Friday *Believing is a touch of the heart

Saturday *Love is Believed *Belief Illumines *Faith Enflames

Sunday

*Will He find any faith?

*Faith is Foundational

Scientists: Brain Wave Patterns Show Unborn Children Recognize Words in the Womb

by Steven Ertelt | LifeNews.com

It may seem implausible that unborn babies can listen to speech within the womb, but the soundprocessing parts of their brain become active in the last trimester of pregnancy, and sound carries fairly well through the mother's abdomen. "If you put your hand over your mouth and speak, that's very similar to the situation the unborn baby is in," says cognitive neuroscientist Eino Partanen of the University of Helsinki. "You can hear the rhythm of speech, rhythm of music, and so on."

A 1988 study suggested that newborns recognize the theme song from their mother's favourite soap opera. More recent studies have expanded on the idea of fetal learning, indicating that newborns already familiarized themselves with sounds of their parent's native language; one showed that American newborns seem to perceive Swedish vowel sounds as unfamiliar, sucking on a high-tech pacifier to hear more of the new sounds. Swedish infants showed the same response to English vowels.

But those studies were based on babies' behaviours, which can be tricky to test. Partanen and his team decided instead to outfit babies with EEG sensors to look for neural traces of memories from the womb. "Once we learn a sound, if it's repeated to us often enough, we form a memory of it, which is activated when we hear the sound again," he explains. This memory speeds up recognition of sounds in the learner's native language and can be detected as a pattern of brain waves, even in a sleeping baby.

The team gave expectant women a recording to play several times a week during their last few months of pregnancy, which included a madeup word, "tatata," repeated many times and interspersed with music.



Sometimes the middle syllable was varied, with a different pitch or vowel sound. By the time the babies were born, they had heard the made-up word, on average, more than 25,000 times. And when they were tested after birth, these infants' brains recognized the word and its variations, while infants in a control group did not, Partanen's group reports online today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Babies who had heard the recordings showed the neural signal for recognizing vowel and pitch changes in the pseudoword, and the signal



was strongest for the infants whose mothers played the recording most often. They were also better than the control babies at detecting other differences in the syllables, such as vowel length. "This leads us to believe that the unborn baby can learn much more detailed information than we previously thought," Partanen says, and that

the memory traces are detectable after birth.

Research shows babies can distinguish between their native language and foreign languages when they're just a few hours old. A study earlier this year found that and suggests they start absorbing language before birth.

The report shows sensory and brain mechanisms for hearing develop by 30 weeks of the gestational age. The study's authors said the unborn child starts listening to the mother's voice during the last 10 weeks of pregnancy.

"The mother has first dibs on influencing the child's brain," said the University of Washington's Patricia Kuhl, co-author of the study. "The vowel sounds in her speech are the loudest units and the unborn baby locks onto them."

"This is the first study that shows unborn babies learn prenatally about the particular speech sounds of a mother's language," said Christine Moon, lead author. "This study moves the measurable result of experience with speech sounds from six months of age to before birth."

"A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it." GK Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man*, 1925

Nuns are so Cool! by Vanessa Gonzalez Kraft

1. Habits – The habits that nuns wear are awesome. Especially the really old school ones. There is something so bold about the public witness of a nun wearing her habit.

I believe that symbols are important & a habit is such a beautiful symbol. When we see a nun out & about, our mind is brought to God. It reminds me that I have no idea what work God is performing through the people around me & reminds me that we are all "walking around shining like the sun." The beauty of their holiness, of their vocation, is not only inward but an outward reflection as well.

One time when Brandon & I were in Rome we had taken a wrong turn & ended up in a pretty dangerous part of town. I started feeling nervous, but then I spotted a group of nuns walking down the street. I was immediately calmed. ... There was no doubt in my mind that they would take care of us.

In Catholicism, physical symbols of our faith are important. While I may not wear a habit, I try to make sure there are reminders of our faith around our home. We have slowly been collecting beautiful icons of saints that are important to us to hang in our home, especially in our daughters' rooms. ... These things help us draw our minds back to God throughout the day.

2. True Freedom – What I love about the vocation to be a Religious is the freedom that comes with it. Not the kind of freedom that lets us do whatever we want. But true freedom that allows us to do the work of God at all times without inhibitions. To be a nun, these women must be so detached from everything that our society so prizes. They are not attached to material goods. They can travel to far off-places & help people in the most desperate of circumstances. As a nun, your whole being is dedicated to service & prayer at all times, & the community around you expects nothing less. When held to this high standard of holiness, one must rise up to meet it.

It was hard for me to reconcile a desire to work with the poorest of the poor & have a family. ... But I've realized that will not always be the case. At the moment I can figure out what I can do and what I can involve my kids in. ... What I have also come to realize is that my intense desire to serve the poor maybe isn't my calling but rather my calling may be to nurture this desire in my children.

3. Holiness – Nuns make me more holy. I am sure if I were to tell any nun that I am impressed by their holiness, they would laugh and tell me they are no more holy than I, or maybe even less so. They do not walk around feeling like they are paragons of virtue, but they probably are even if they don't admit it. They make me accountable to God & make me want to love God as much as they do.

I don't want to romanticize their lives too much. They face all the same frustrations & temptations that we do. But their work to make God the center of their lives makes me want to put God more at the center of my life.

Even if I'm not a nun, at the core of the Religious vocation is dedication to God and service to others. If I make that the center of my life, then I will grow in the same holiness that is so readily seen in Mother Teresa.





Free Ho.T FILM NIGHT



Friday October 11th, 7.30 pm - Join together to watch:

God is the Bigger Elvis PG

2011 documentary film about actress Dolores Hart. During her Hollywood days, blonde beauty Hart, known for her starring roles, acted alongside Elvis in hit movies such as "Loving You" and "King Creole." At 23 years old, Hart gave up her life in Hollywood and moved to Connecticut to become a Benedictine nun. The film documents Hart's unusual journey from Tinseltown to the Benedictine Abbey of Regina Laudis.

Followed by an Elvis movie with Dolores Hart called "King Creole" 1958

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

Pope Francis to consecrate world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

by PETER WESTMORE

n 13 October, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima and the anniversary of the final apparition of Mary to the three peasant children at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, Pope Francis will dedicate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Church has always understood that devotion and consecration to Mary are certain means of approaching Jesus, the Son of God.

The scriptural foundations of this belief are to be found in the words which Mary used at the wedding feast in Cana where Jesus performed his first miracle – apparently unwillingly – at the urgent request of his mother.

Mary alerted Jesus to the embarrassment of the hosts that the wine was about to run out, to which he responded, "What is that to me? My hour has not yet come." Mary then said to the servants at the marriage feast, "Do whatever he tells you!"

Jesus next told the servants to fill several large water jars to the brim, to draw out some and take it to the chief steward who tasted, not water, but the finest wine.

The Church interprets this extraordinary miracle as evidence that Jesus will do anything his mother asks of him.

At the foot of the cross, Jesus gave his faithful apostle John, representing the Church, to Mary: "Behold, this is your mother." And referring to John, he said to his mother, "This is your son."

Year of Faith

The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima announced in early August that Pope Francis had asked for the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima to be brought to the Vatican for the dedication.

It said, "In response to the desire of Pope Francis, the Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima ... will be brought to Rome on 12-13 October to be present at the Marian Day promoted by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation.

"On 13 October, next to the Statue of Our Lady, Pope Francis will consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

The Marian Day is a culmination of the Year of Faith which will bring to

Rome hundreds of movements and institutes devoted to Mary.

This dedication also reflects the deep personal devotion which Pope Francis has to the Blessed Virgin.

Personal dedication to Mary has been a characteristic of religious orders such as the Cistercians, Benedictines and Carmelites for many centuries. But dedication to the Immaculate Heart of Mary began more recently, and was developed by a great master of the spiritual life, St Louis de Montfort.

It was further encouraged when Our Lady appeared to St Catherine Labouré in 1830, and asked that a medal be struck showing a picture of Our Lady on one side, and on the



back, 12 stars, the cross and the capital letter M, along with the heart of Jesus enclosed in a crown of thorns and Our Lady's heart pierced through by a sword.

This recalled the words which Simeon said to Mary when the baby Jesus was presented in the Temple: "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed – and a sword will pierce your own heart so that the secret thoughts of many may be revealed."

During her apparitions at Fatima at the height of World War I, Our Lady prophesied that unless the world returned to God, Russia would become a centre of revolution across the world, an even worse war would break out and the Church herself would be persecuted. She told the three children, "God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace."

The apparitions at Fatima were later endorsed by the Church, and commended by successive popes.

In her messages, the Virgin Mary specifically asked for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart and based on these messages, Popes Pius XII and John Paul II consecrated Russia and the world to the Virgin Mary.

In July 1952 Pope Pius XII specifically performed the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary via the Apostolic Letter, Sacro Vergente.

On 13 May 1967, the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Paul VI visited Fatima, and issued the Apostolic Exhortation Signum Magnum in which he asked "all sons of the Church to renew their consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary".

On 13 May 1982 in Fatima, Pope John Paul II again consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and said: "Consecrating the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary means drawing near, through the mother's intercession, to the very fountain of life that sprang from Golgotha. This fountain pours forth unceasingly redemption and grace. In it reparation is made continually for the sins of the world. It is a ceaseless source of new life and holiness."

In the Jubilee Year 1984, Blessed John Paul II arranged for the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima to be brought to St Peter's in Rome, where he consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

On Sunday, 8 October 2000, upon the completion of the ceremonies for the Jubilee of the Bishops, John Paul II and the bishops consecrated and entrusted themselves and the Catholic Church in the new millennium to Mary.

And on 12 May 2010 at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Fatima, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the beatification of Jacinta and Francisco Marto, Pope Benedict XVI consecrated all priests to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Following the actions of his predecessors, Pope Francis is confirming and enhancing the Church's dedication to the Virgin Mary, on this very special occasion during the Year of Faith.

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