

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

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 152

October 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

Bishop Hanna and Philippino Community Mass Cathedral 3pm Sun 11

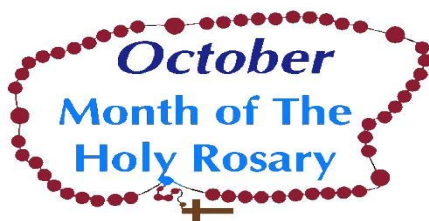
Feast of St Teresa of Avila Carmelite Monastery 10.30 am Thu 15

Philippino Tagalog Mass 5.30 vigil-All welcome Sat 17

Board of Studies exam corrections - Parish Hall unavailable from Oct 18 to Nov 18

St John Paul II Thu 22

Come to Bethlehem Postponed till Dec 2016



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## Wag Contacts

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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: **Wednesday Sept 30.**

## Thank you from the *May they be One* bible campaign!



Dear Fr Casanova,  
Please accept my sincere thanks for [the] parish Community at Holy Trinity - Ashmont – Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist - San Isidore and Loreto Home of Compassion - Ashmont, for the very generous contribution made towards the “May They Be One”

Bible” Campaign on the weekends, 19th & 20th September 2015.

Through their love for those less fortunate, the amount of \$340.00 was raised at Holy Trinity – Ashmont. (Which also included the donations from the Filipino Mass)

At, Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist – San Isidore the amount of \$255.00 was raised.

At Loreto Home of Compassion, Ashmont, the amount of \$425.00 was raised.

Total amount raised: \$1020.00

The Bible Society also thanks you and your Parish Community for this precious gift, which will now enable the distribution of a further 291 Bibles within the Philippines, through the “May They Be One” Bible Project.

This result equates to around 1164 individual family members who will now have access to their own personal written Word of God.

The families who will receive these Bibles will certainly be very grateful for this loving contribution from your Parish.

We do really value your prayers and support for our work.

Sincerely in Christ’s service,

Richard Allcock  
May They Be One NSW Co-ordinator  
BIBLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

Matthew 6:19-20 [Riches in Heaven] *“Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and robbers break in and steal.*



*Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal.”*

## pastor's page

### Becoming a blessing to others

The other day as I was driving home to Wagga from my family home to my parish home, I thanked God for my parents; they're a real blessing in my life. They're a blessing firstly because they gave me life, but in a deeper way they're a blessing because they have always been so close to God and they have shared that with me and my brothers and sisters. They're a blessing because they have always put us first. They have been parents who really lived their vocation to be husband and wife and to be mother and father for us. They have always been people of principle. People that I could rely on to not only give me good advice but also good example.

I'm sure many people in our Parish, probably everyone, can think of people in their lives who have been a real blessing to them: parents, grandparents and very good friends. What makes these people blessings for us? They are all very different, but all the same in that they are people who are humble, people who are reliable and people of practical love. We should really thank God for all of these people who are blessings in our lives, without whom our lives would be much poorer. The people who help us by their encouragement, by their listening ears and by their love.

I hope one day that others will be able to look at all of us, and say

what a blessing we have been in their lives, whether it's children or parishioners or friends. Won't it be nice if there are people who, when they think of us, think the same way that we do about our parents and grandparents and friends? That we were always there, always reliable, always people who did the right thing and lived a life of love.

That's not going to happen by chance, it requires us to be that kind of person. So how do we go about becoming a blessing for other people? It's really not that complicated, it's not as though we need to work out in advance what people need us to be for them. I know with my mother and father, the way they became a blessing for me and my brothers and sisters and for many other people, was by keeping as close to God as they could. Simply by always seeking to do what God wanted, they then naturally were in a position to be a blessing to others, especially by their example.

The greatest blessing that they could be for anyone, is a blessing that would help us always seek God in our life. To always want to do what God wants us to do, to be true to God. And the way that they did that was by doing that themselves. So if we want to be blessings to others, we need to be close to the source of all blessings; that means to be close to God.

If we want to be people who are a blessing to others, we need to be people of faith. People who really live by the faith, who seek to conform our lives to the faith, to always be faithful to God. We need to be people of prayer. People who pray, that is to say, converse with God as their very best and dearest friend. People who are faithful to prayer, who pray every day whether they feel like it or not. People who when we say, "I'll pray for you" mean it and really do it!

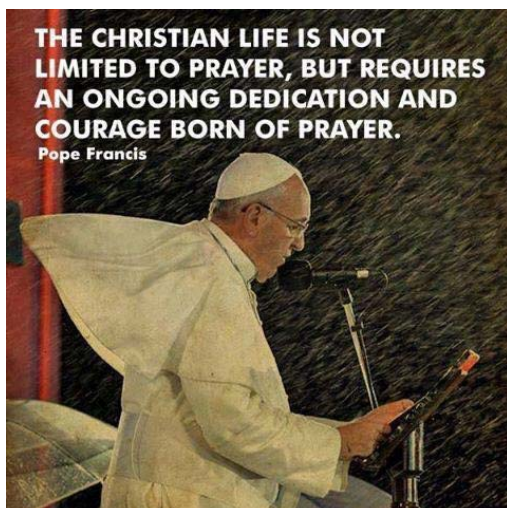
October is the month of Mary, the month of the rosary. It's a



time also to thank God for the blessing that Mary is in our life. After our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, no one has been such a blessing to us as Mary has and is. Mary is a blessing to us because she has brought us to receive the blessed fruit of her womb, Who is Jesus. Mary became a blessing for us because God wanted her to be, because she corresponded 100% with God's plan for her. And so she became a channel of God's grace to us. Very simply without any special plan, except the plan of being always the handmaid of the Lord.

In the end, it is God Who is the blessing for everyone else. God Who has the power to bless, God from Whom all good things come. By being as faithful as we can to God, as close as we can to God, God will bless so many other people through us, even without us realising it. So if we are close to God and, for love of Him, available to others, God will bless them through us, and through us they can come to know, love and serve God better and so be more surely on the road to heaven.

*Fr Thomas Casanova CCS*



**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT LIMITED TO PRAYER, BUT REQUIRES AN ONGOING DEDICATION AND COURAGE BORN OF PRAYER.**

Pope Francis

## October Jokes



**NEVER GIVE UP**

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why," they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."

Sometimes, children can be the source of a surprising amount of wit and hilarity. These jokes told by young kids might surprise you!

My daughter recently told me this joke...

Her: Why did the chicken cross the road?

Me: Why?

Her: To get to the ugly guy's house.

Me: Huh??

Her: Knock knock

Me: Who's there?

Her: It's the chicken.

My youngest daughter, she tells jokes a lot and I love her jokes. She invents them, she doesn't steal other people's stuff.

Her jokes are great because I don't know what's going to happen.

You know jokes after a while.

Someone starts a joke, you know what's going to happen, but not hers.

Here's a joke she told me the other day. She said... "Who told the gorilla that he couldn't go to the ballet?"

Right away I love this, this is a great joke. I don't know this joke!

I said, "Who?"

And she said, "Just the people who are in charge of that decision."

I don't know if my daughter heard this one or came up with it, but she laughed about it for hours.

"What did the farmer say when his hay started blowing away?"

"Hay, come back!  
HAHAHAHAHA!"

I'm not even sure if my son meant for this to be a joke, but it made me laugh pretty hard:

Son: "Can I have a cupcake?"

Me: "Did you finish your grilled cheese?"

Son: "Yes."

Me: "Ok, then you can have one."

Son: "Wait! I have to go hide my grilled cheese!"

There's a fine line between an numerator and a denominator - only a fraction of you will get this.

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The Ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: "Does this taste funny to you?"

I went to a seafood weightlifting club last week... and pulled a mussel.

A farmer named Clyde had a tractor accident. In court, the trucking company's fancy hot shot lawyer, was questioning Clyde. "Didn't you say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine,'" asked the lawyer.

Clyde responded, "Well, I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favorite cow, Bessie, into the..." "I didn't ask for any details", the lawyer interrupted. "Just answer the question, ...please. Did you, or did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!'?"

Clyde said, "Well, I had just got Bessie into the trailer behind the tractor and I was driving down the road...."

The lawyer interrupted again and said, "Your Honor, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Highway Patrolman on the scene that he was just fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question."

By this time, the Judge was fairly interested in Clyde's answer and said to the lawyer, "I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite cow, Bessie".

Clyde thanked the Judge and proceeded. "Well, as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favorite cow, into the trailer and was driving her down the highway when this huge semi-truck and trailer ran the stop sign and smacked my John Deer Tractor right in the side. I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I was hurting, real bad and didn't want to move.

However, I could hear old Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans.

Shortly after the accident a Highway Patrolman came on the scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning, so he went over to her. After he looked at her, and saw her fatal condition, he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes. Then the Patrolman came across the road, gun still in hand, looked at me, and said, "How are you feeling?"

"Now tell me, what on earth would you say?"



# How to raise a moral child - by Tamara Rajakariar



As a parent, would you rather raise a successful child or a moral child? In a recent article in the NY Times, parents surveyed the world over put greater importance on their child caring rather than achieving. That's all well and good – but what next? How can parents do their best to ensure that their child turns out “good” rather than “bad”?

There's no simple answer, with everything from nature to nurture having an influence. But the article did have three main pointers that definitely make sense:

### Reinforcing the good

Praise good behaviour, but in a way that commends good character, rather than good actions. Phrases like “you're a nice and helpful person” are more effective than “that was a nice and helpful thing to do”. This is because praising character helps kids to internalise it as part of who they are – and if actions reflect character, one is more likely to act well. And if one's actions are consistently repeated, they will become moral habits.

### Responding to bad behaviour

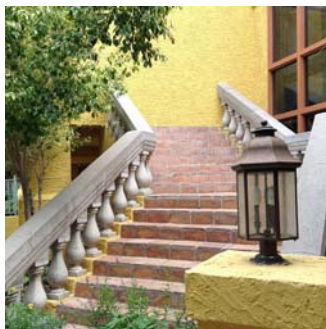
The goal here is getting the kids to feel guilt rather than shame. Guilt is

the feeling of having done a bad thing, whereas shame is about feeling like a bad person – which can make them feel small and like the damage is irreparable. Research shows that an angry reaction will bring about shame, while a disappointed reaction brings about guilt. A disappointed reaction should express this sentiment as well as what was wrong about the behaviour, how it affected others, and how to rectify.

### Actions speak louder than words

It's always been said, but now the research backs it up. Kids will mimic the adult behaviour that they see, whether or not the adult's words matched what they said. Looks like the most effective way to bring up a moral child is to live in the way that you'd want them to live!

## Building mistakes



# The Benefits of Gratitude

by Ashley Crouch



Sitting around the crowded dinner table at Thanksgiving, my family has a tradition of sharing things from the last year for which we are thankful. My mind recalled a cold afternoon, up to my knees in dust and tiles, shovelling through the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. "Thank you for helping to clean up my town!" one woman said to me, emotion filling her voice. Despite the chill temperatures, her heart was warm. I was so moved by the glimmer of hope that people clung to as they surveyed their shattered lives. It was easy for me to be grateful.

Turns out, gratitude plays an important role, not only in rebuilding broken walls, but also in expanding our hearts and improving life satisfaction. A report from the Harvard Medical Association found that gratitude helps us refocus on what we have instead of what we lack. Those who count their blessings have less likelihood for depression, anxiety, or envy, while possessing stronger social connections, greater relationship satisfaction, and a real leg up in the workplace.

While fostering positive thought patterns conjures up images of Bob Wiley in *What About Bob*—"I feel fine, I feel fine, I feel really fine"—the decision to choose gratitude goes

much deeper and is a reflection of character. Gratitude is derived from the Latin word, *gratia*, meaning grace or graciousness. A gracious heart is one that gives life to others and is rooted in a gracious mind.

By training ourselves to identify points of gratitude, we focus less on the past or future, and more on embracing the present moment. Rather than bonding over shared gripes and annoyances, recognizing the positive helps us turn towards one another in our relationships and fosters stronger connections. While it may seem fake at first, exercising the gratitude muscle can pay lasting dividends.

For instance, although graciousness is lacking in many workplace settings, recent studies by Bersin and Associates found that employers who offer their employees recognition and gratitude are 12 times more likely to generate strong business results than their peers. Jay Love at Inc. Magazine suggests that supervisors try to catch a team member doing something right and then point them out in front of everyone to boost team performance. It seems that sincere positive affirmation can turn a cold cubicle into a place brimming with productivity and innovation.

The benefits of expressing gratitude are not limited to the workplace. In fact, what if there is a "secret formula" for transforming your love life from stagnant to sensational? World-renowned psychologist Dr. John Gottman studied thousands of couples and found that those who practiced a 5:1 ratio of positive compliments and behaviors to

negative ones reported the highest satisfaction. Couples who regularly take time to consider those qualities that they appreciate about their significant other put stock in what Gottman calls the "emotional savings account," that helps them be more resilient during times of stress.

Conflict will happen in any relationship, but major research on emotional psychology discovered that it can be easier to offer criticism when both parties rest secure in their affection and goodwill towards one another. By contrast, Gottman found that couples headed towards divorce or in a strained relationship exhibit a ratio of just under 1:1.

So get out that pen and paper and start making a list of all those qualities you just love about your significant other! Sprinkle compliments throughout your conversations, in small notes, or in a special text in the morning. And remember, women need love, men need respect.

Overall, fostering an attitude of gratitude helps expand our hearts to love. Whether facing major tragedies or coasting through life successfully, we could all use a little more graciousness. Let's take Thanksgiving with us, long after the leftover turkey has been put away.



## Q. What is Virtue? A. Strength!

CCC 1803 "Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4:8

A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions.

# Archbishop Julian Porteous on “Don’t Mess with Marriage” Booklets



*The ABC recently reported that Tasmanian Martine Delaney is taking the Catholic Archbishop of*

*Hobart to the Anti-Discrimination Commission over a booklet about same sex marriage.*

*The booklet, 'Don't Mess With Marriage', was sent to Catholics around Australia earlier this year. In Tasmania it went out to churches and the parents of children at Catholic Schools.*

*Archbishop Porteous has made the following Statement in response to complaint lodged with Anti-Discrimination Commissioner*

## **Statement in response to complaint lodged with Anti-Discrimination Commissioner**

“The Catholic Church has a positive vision of human sexuality, marriage and family life, which we believe provides the way to authentic human happiness. It is the role of Catholic schools to promote this positive vision. Indeed parents choose to send their children to Catholic schools because of Catholic teaching.

Recently the Catholic Bishops of

Australia produced a pastoral letter to the Catholic faithful to better explain this teaching in light of efforts to change the current legal definition of marriage. In order to assist the Catholic community in Tasmania to better understand why the Church has sought to defend the current legal definition of marriage, I asked Catholic Schools in Tasmania to distribute this booklet to parents with children in our schools.

I asked that the booklet be delivered in a sealed envelope to parents and guardians, as I believe it is parents who are the best educators of their children in cases such as this.

It is important to make clear that the Bishop’s Pastoral letter on Marriage affirms the dignity of all human beings regardless of their physical characteristics, gender or the orientation of their sexual attraction. And condemns in the strongest terms any form of unjust discrimination.

I am aware that there are some in society who would seek to silence the Church on this issue, and indeed prevent Christians expressing their beliefs in the public square on important social issues. Increasingly they are trying to manipulate anti-discrimination legislation to achieve



this end.

This represents the rise of a new intolerance against Christianity in Australian society, and more generally a threat to freedom of speech. It is important in a democratic society like Australia that every person is free to present what they believe to be true. There should not be threats or intimidation against anyone who expresses a view in favour of traditional marriage.


It is important that Australia has the opportunity for an open and free debate about the nature of marriage leading up to a plebiscite. It should be conducted in an atmosphere of respect and where all arguments can be presented and exposed to rigorous scrutiny.”

*Archbishop Julian Porteous, 28 September 2015*

**marriage =** A Relationship with a Special link to Children

**marriage =** A Union of Spouses

**marriage =** Permanence, Monogamy & Exclusivity

**marriage =** 

THE BEST EXPLANATION  
**OF MARRIAGE**

Model of a complete family

Maturity

Transition


A new family

“THIS IS WHY A MAN LEAVES HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BECOMES ATTACHED TO HIS WIFE, AND THEY BECOME ONE FLESH”

Genesis 2: 24

Deep intimacy between two people

A process of learning, friendship and trust

 CatholicLink



# Pray More Novenas!

by Sarah Reinhard

In 2011, I joined a few thousand or so other people and signed up for a newish service that, I thought, might be handy.

The idea behind it was to get email reminders for novenas as you prayed them in a virtual community. It was pretty straightforward.

In the four years since, Pray More Novenas, run by husband-and-wife team John-Paul and Annie Deddens, has turned into one of the best prayer efforts I make. It also serves almost 200,000 people around the world.

Asked how this effort started, John-Paul Deddens shares:

“My wife and I had recently started dating and she asked me to pray the Immaculate Conception novena with her. Several of her friends at the Newman Center were planning to pray it together. I thought about it for a minute and turned her down. I could tell that she was disappointed, but I had always been disappointed by novenas in the past. Actually, I wasn't disappointed in the novenas themselves, but rather in my own discipline to complete an entire

novena. Not exactly the best reason not to pray with my future wife! After that novena was already underway I realized that there were probably other people who struggled to finish novenas as well. That's when I got the idea to send reminder emails out with the prayers for each day in them. I launched the website a few weeks later.”

Pray More Novenas started not long after, in 2010, with the Christmas Novena. The intention was for an end to abortion, and more than 500 people were on board. “With that much interest starting out,” Deddens recounts, “I knew that I had found a need.”

He set the goal of one novena a month and what started as a side project for him has turned into full-time work for both him and Annie.

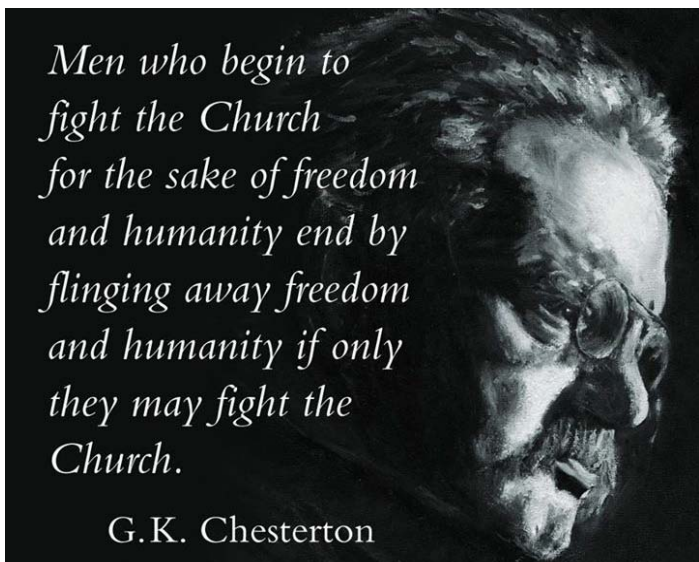
“The greatest blessing for me,” he shares “has been being able to see how God answers prayers in a powerful way. Annie and I get to see big answered prayers every day.”

After each novena, they invite participants to share answered prayers. John-Paul and Annie then share those answers with the larger Pray More Novenas community. “We've found it to be so uplifting, and it gives us a moment to reflect on the power of prayer when we all come together for each novena. It also gives us a moment to truly be

in awe of what God is doing with these prayers.”

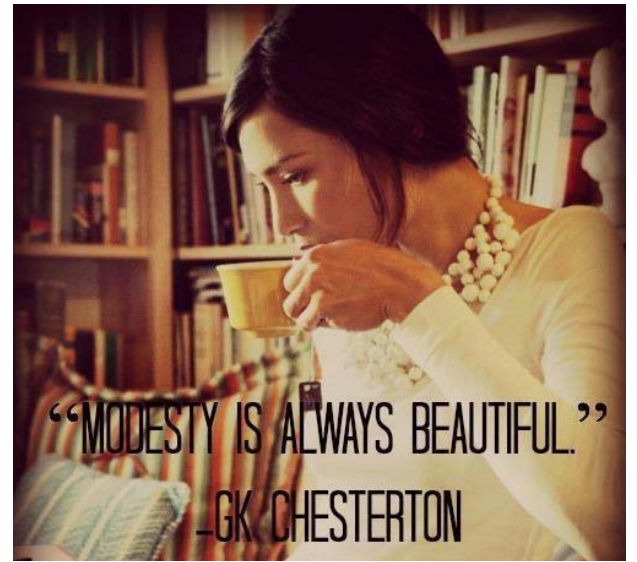
Deddens also cites another blessing that's come from his and Annie's work with Pray More Novenas: “how we, even just the two of us, have been able to grow in our faith because of these novenas and the community that has grown over the years. Even when our prayers aren't answered, we're learning more about how to cling to our faith in those times, just as many other members of Pray More Novenas do with their unanswered prayers. And the more that we pray, the more that those prayers have changed us; we used to come to prayer asking God for what we want, but we're learning more how to pray and ask for God's will. That has been very transformative for us.”

The Deddenses also manage a few other websites, including Pope Quotes and Catholic Wife, Catholic Life. You can join the Pray More Novenas community by going to [PrayMoreNovenas.com](http://PrayMoreNovenas.com) and entering your email. It seems like such a small thing...and it is. But the rewards, if you open the emails and pray along, are eternal.



*Men who begin to fight the Church for the sake of freedom and humanity end by flinging away freedom and humanity if only they may fight the Church.*

G.K. Chesterton



“MODESTY IS ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL.”  
-G.K. CHESTERTON

# The West Wagga Wag

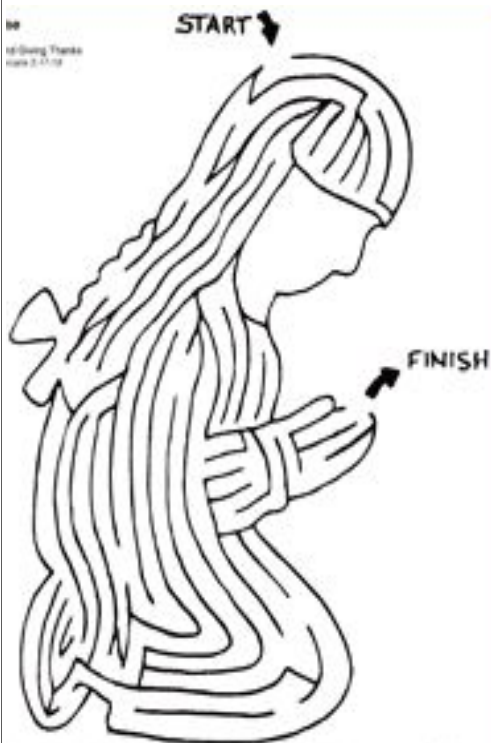
West Wagga Parish



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

## They Are Precious in His Sight

And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 3:16 (NIV)



G	W	M	C	V	L	A	Z	B	J	K	M	B	H	J
O	X	M	P	R	N	A	R	M	S	E	G	U	Z	F
K	J	C	H	X	X	Y	P	L	L	E	Y	N	J	C
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K	B	P	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	H	B	R

JESUS	CHILDREN
PEOPLE	DISCIPLES
BLESS	TRUTH
COME	REBUKE
ARMS	KINGDOM
TOUCH	HANDS
HINDER	BELONGS
LITTLE	