

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 104

September 2011

Coming Events

Love & Life Catholic Action: Thurs 1
Prayer Vigil for Peace: Thurs 1
Divine Mercy Prayer Group: Fri 3
Child Protection Week: Sun 4 -11
17th Annual Eucharistic Adoration Mass: Mon 5th
Centenary Year of Birth & Feast Day Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: Mon 5
National eConference - Matthew: Tues 6
Parents' Night for Children's 1st Reconciliation: Tues 6
CWL Meeting: Wed 7

Feast Birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary: Thurs 8
Triumph of the Cross: Wed 14
CWL Reflection Day: Wed 14

Our Lady of Sorrows: Thurs 15
Prayers for Healing: Fri 16
Parish Parents & Sex Ed: Mon 19
St Matthew: Wed 21

St Padre Pio: Fri 23
Social Justice Sunday: Sun 25
Celebrate Jesus the Healer: Dr Bonnici MD: Wed 28

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page	2
Biblical Jokes	3
World Youth Day 2011 Madrid	4/5
Pope Benedict at WYDII	6/7

Wag Contacts

Email:
westwagga@exemail.com.au

Phone: 6931 3601

The due date for the next Wag is:
Sunday June

Young Parishioners Return from WYD2011 Madrid



James, Daniel & I (Josie) Kennedy have just returned home from our WYD trip to Spain. We arrived in Spain and were bused off to the township of Talavera for our host stay with our Spanish families. It was a very rewarding and unique experience especially since we did not know how to speak much Spanish. Our Australian group was given the chance to compete in a competition of soccer against other countries which was fun. Both Jimmy & Daniel represented their country but unfortunately we came out on the bottom.



After our host stay we were taken back to the city of Madrid where we, along with 2 million other pilgrims, enjoyed the week long festivities that

WYD had to offer. The highlights included the Australian Pilgrim Gathering, Opening Mass, getting to see Pope Benedict, Stations of the Cross and The Closing Mass. Although challenging at times it was an amazing Spiritual journey of the Faith which helped us all to grow closer to God.



Oscar Cruz having returned from Madrid commented;

"I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped me to go on the pilgrimage.

I prayed for you in the Holy Land. Thank you for helping me to know how amazing God is. Thank you.



Oscar reading at Mass, on the Lake of Galilee with Cardinal Pell.

pastor's page

Every serious and loving parent becomes just a little nervous as their wonderful child moves into pre-puberty. Our modern world with its fast, mobile and easy access to a vast array of media connectivity would make any parent just a little uneasy, and especially if there is open access to the internet in the home. In earlier times there was the danger of children associating with unsavory acquaintances. That hasn't changed. The proliferation of less than wholesome printed material and lurid TV movies hasn't lessened. The prevalence of an over sexualized culture has in no way diminished. So, is it any wonder that good parents concerned for the well-being of their developing children are just a tad anxious? They're anxious not just about the supernatural dangers but also the natural harm sexual stimuli can cause.

Parents, nevertheless, need not be overly alarmed if they follow God's lead and the instructions of the Catholic Church. In particular, parents are asked by God through the Church to teach their own prepubescent children about human love one-on-one. This is the only acceptable "Catholic" way! In fact, an ongoing discussion on life and love with children promotes not only a wholesome formation in their burgeoning youth but also has the beautiful side effect of an open rapport and bonding between parent and child – child and parent. Most parents irrespective of age, knowledge and parental bonding with their growing children lack some confidence and have some hesitation in approaching or responding to questions about the "birds and the bees". Actually if either Dad or Mum are observant, alert to their child's development and are sensitive to verbal and emotional prompts from their children the appropriate time to begin ongoing discussions about love and life are easily discerned. The parent need only seize the moment and begin what can be one of the most satisfying, enjoyable and enduring aspects of their relationship with their pubescent pre-teen. To avoid or procrastinate in this matter is nothing short of parental neglect. Moreover, it is not to be delegated to school teachers, medicos or others.

In one sense, a parent cannot begin a discussion too early with their child, although one should be very sensitive not to disturb the natural innocence and

awaken the child from its God given sexual latency. Children vary in the onset of sexual awareness depending on their unique circumstances and personality. Generally children from the ages of 8 or 9 benefit from parental interaction regarding this deeply personal and intimate subject. Talks about respect for others and oneself; stranger danger; good touch and bad touch; etc. are all in preparation for later more private details. Start early and it becomes easier as one goes forward. If a parent has not previously had the courage to speak about love and life with their youth it is never too late, even if there remains some embarrassment. Just acknowledge that up front to your youth and follow a good resource. Even more mature youth can benefit from discussions about love and life if they have never had a deep and meaningful one-on-one discussion with either parent. In my earlier years of teaching young men in their late teens and early adulthood about chastity,



celibacy and God's view of human sexuality I never ceased to be amazed at their lack of knowledge regarding human sexuality, even when some had been sexually active. These days I make it a part of every marriage preparation course and spend a good two hours on the subject.

Pre-pubescent youth can often be affected by the overly sensual scenes and sexual messages conveyed in movies, even among child actors living out a story line. Even Walt Disney and DreamWorks movies push the sexual envelop far too far. Today many PG rated children's films will not be free from such sexualized messages. Sadly even some animated cartoons are far too suggestive, not to mention music clips. Adults may think that many messages go over the heads of children but children are not stupid and easily make connections early about romance and the interplay between boyfriends and

girlfriends. It is well known that in more modest cultures and certainly prior to the sexual revolution of the 1960s puberty arrived quite a bit later. Mother Nature always knows best and parents do well to safeguard their child's exposure to sexual imagery. Psychologically when a little person is overtly sexually stimulated by images or observed behaviour, the child's own senses are stimulated. That's what mother nature does and it is a good natural inclination, but too early exposure activates the child's pituitary gland in the front of the brain. When the brain is stimulated early in life through early exposure to sexualized prompts from the media; sexual child's play from older siblings; or the worst case scenario of sexual interference or even abuse; Mother Nature begins the inexorable secondary characteristics of sexual development of body, soul and spirit. There is no turning back! With the onset of puberty's sign, parents need to take note and not 'freak out' but rather act accordingly.

Kids need to be kids for as long as they can. A parent does well to be alert to unhelpful sexual stimuli but not overly alarmed because this can have the reverse affect and make the developing child emotionally neurotic, sexually repressed or addictively preoccupied and even promiscuous. God's way and Mother Nature's inclinations are indeed very very good and need never to be feared or fought.

There is so much to the subject of a wholesome sexual education and formation that even if the parent misreads the signs and gets it wrong beginning prematurely, albeit sensitively, or even leaving it a bit late, the pre-pubescent child or pubescent youth will readily respond to a wholesome, calm and loving instruction, even if they realize Dad or Mum are struggling. There is so much information that can lead into a wholesome talk about love and life. In fact, an anatomical and biological education about sexual organs should always be preceded by a variety of other 'bits' of information about boys and girls, men and women.

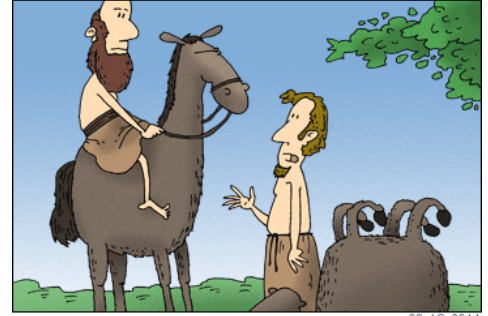
To assist today's parents in the significant and rewarding responsibility of forming and preparing their children for puberty Dr Gerard O'Shea, a lecturer at John Paul II

Institute on the Family in Melbourne has been invite to come and speak to parents in our parish on an easy and thorough method of teaching Sex Ed to their children. Dr Gerard has written a book entitled "As I Have Loved You". Dr Gerard will explain to parents the best way to go about preparing children for puberty. He is a father of five grown children and has been a teacher and a principal of primary schools. He has written his book out of personal experience and a desire to assist other parents. There is no cost to participants for the input sessions and Dr Gerard will have his book "As I Have Loved You" available on sale after his presentation for \$19.95. Parents can attend the talk on **Monday September 19 either** at Holy Trinity Primary School from 1.45pm – 2.45pm or at in Conference Room at the Diocesan Offices at McAlroy House, Tarcutta Street on **Monday evening** from 7.30pm – 8.30pm. More info email mjicasanova@yahoo.com or call Michael on 6931 3601. I wish to finish this page with a personal plea to all parents with growing children to take very seriously the responsibility and privilege of instructing their children in love and life formation. If you don't - usually some lesser person will. As a priest, I have found that those individuals that struggle with their sexuality almost never received any input from a parent. Of the entire child sexual abuse cases that I have assisted with, and the number is not insignificant, in each case the child victim (I am not referring to infants) did not received any Sex Ed preparation from their parent. Conversely, every parent that has taken the trouble to begin and continue a mature conversation with their growing youth know the extremely joyful and enduring reward they have received, along with the ongoing respect and love they received from their child. This honour endures even into the child's marriage and beyond. It is simply God's plan for His children. "Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight; for I give you good precepts: do not forsake my teaching." (Proverbs 4:1-2)

Fr Gerard

September Jokes

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



08-19-2011

DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE JUMPER CABLES?

"Mr. Goldblatt," announced little Joey, "there's somethin' I can't figger out."
 "What's that Joey?" asked Goldblatt.
 "Well accordin' to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"
 "Right."
 "An' the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?"
 "Er--right."
 "An' the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?"
 "Again you're right."
 "An' the Children of Israel fought the 'gyptians, an' the Children of Israel fought the Romans, an' the Children of Israel wuz always doin' somethin' important, right?"
 "All that is right, too," agreed Goldblatt. "So what's your question?"
 "What I wanna know is this," demanded Joey. "What wuz all the grown-ups doin'?"

Bible Q&A

Q. Why was Goliath so surprised when David hit him with a slingshot?
 A. The thought had never entered his head before.

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he got married?
 A. Ruth-less.

Q. Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?
 A. When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

Q. Which Bible character had no parents?
 A: Joshua. He was the son of Nun.

Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?
 A. The area around the Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.

Q. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?
 A. Moses. Because he broke all 10

commandments; at once.

Q. Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?
 A. David. He rocked Goliath to sleep.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?
 A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?
 A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?
 A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q: Why did Moses wander in the desert for 40 years?
 A: Even then men wouldn't ask for directions!

.....

Our Religious Ed teacher told the class about Lot being told to take his wife and flee out of the city. "Lot got away, but his wife disobeyed divine orders by looking back and was turned into a pillar of salt," the teacher explained. One little boy asked, "What happened to the flea?"



Rain Fails to Dampen Spirits at WYD Madrid

Monday 22 August 2011

By Gretchen R. Crowe and Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

Hours after firefighters doused overheated pilgrims with much-



needed jets of water, the heavens added to their efforts by driving rain and wind onto the more than 1 million young Catholics camping at Cuatro Vientos airbase for the World Youth Day vigil.

But the rain did not dampen the spirits of the pilgrims, who sang and chanted all the louder for Pope Benedict XVI, who entered the airbase to cheers and applause. The pope, however, skipped the longer speech he had prepared in favour of short addresses to pilgrims in Spanish, French, English, German, Italian, Portuguese and Polish.

In the different languages on Saturday night (20 August), he told the young people to be proud of the gift of their faith and they should "gather with others to deepen it, be faithful to the celebration of the Eucharist, the mystery of faith par excellence."

Pope Benedict asked that the youths, during the Eucharistic adoration that

followed, "raise our minds and hearts to Jesus Christ" so he "may he pour out his Spirit upon us and upon the whole church, that we may be a beacon of freedom, reconciliation and peace for the whole world."

He encouraged them to seek their vocation and to "persevere in it with joy and fidelity, knowing that he never abandons you or betrays you."

"Guard the flame which God has lit in your hearts tonight. Never let it go out, renew it each day, share it with your contemporaries who live in darkness and who are seeking a light for their way," he said. "This vigil will remain as an unforgettable experience in your lives."

The pilgrims began arriving in the morning – some on foot, some via Metro, some by bus – at the airbase baking in the Spanish desert. Using sleeping bags and tarps, they staked their claims for sleeping space. Throughout the day, firefighters hosed off grateful crowds, and pilgrims clamoured for drinking water. As the sun lowered in the sky, anticipation began to build for the arrival of the Pope, who entered Cuatro



Vientos in his popemobile to shouts of joy and welcome.

The storm arrived shortly after the Pope did and caused a temporary pause in the proceedings. Once the skies cleared, however, Eucharistic



adoration continued as planned, and pilgrims dropped to their knees in reverence in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

A deep silence followed, during which pilgrims prayed quietly, either standing or kneeling on the ground. Cheers erupted again for the Holy Father as he left the stage.

Despite the hardships of getting to the Cuatro Vientos military air base in blistering heat and the downpour during the vigil with the Pope, the young people spent the night on the open field, praying, singing and perhaps trying to snatch a few hours' sleep.

But they were up, ready and rowdy when the Pope arrived for the closing Mass on Sunday.

The pope noticed.

At the Mass, the Pope challenged the Catholic pilgrims to take that faith, make it grow and share it with the world.

In his homily, he said, the vision of that sea of happy souls "fills my heart with joy."

continued ...

"I think of the special love with which Jesus is looking upon you. Yes, the Lord loves you and calls you his friends," the Pope told the young.

To the joy of the crowd, particularly the Brazilians present, at the end of the Mass, the Pope announced that the next international gathering of World Youth Day would be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2013.

In his homily at the Mass, Pope Benedict said faith is not about understanding a bunch of facts, "it is an ability to grasp the mystery of Christ's person in all its depth."

Even if it feels like a struggle at times, faith is not primarily about people working out their thoughts about God; it starts with the gift of God's love and God's reaching out to each person, he said.

Faith entails "a personal relationship with Christ, a surrender of our whole person, with all our understanding, will and feelings," he said.

But the Pope went even further, telling the young that a personal relationship with Jesus always must be transformed into action, service and love for others. In addition, it must be lived within the church, the community of believers to whom Jesus entrusted



his message and his mission of salvation.

"We cannot follow Jesus on our own," he said. Those who try "approach the life of faith with the kind of individualism so prevalent today" and risk not encountering the real Jesus or "following a counterfeit Jesus," he said.

Christ asks each person, "Who do you say that I am?" the pope said.

"Respond to him with generosity and courage, as befits young hearts like your own," he told the young.

"Let me urge you to strengthen this life of faith which has been handed down from the time of the apostles," he said. "Make Christ, the Son of God, the centre of your life."

Pope Benedict told the young people, who had been texting, tweeting and posting Facebook updates about their adventures, that whenever we really "like" anything, we share it, and that must hold true for faith as well.

"You, too, have been given the extraordinary task of being disciples and missionaries of Christ in other lands and countries filled with young people who are looking for something greater," the pope said.

Share the faith, he said, and help them see they are right when "their heart tells them that more authentic values do exist" and they resist being "seduced by the empty promises of a lifestyle which has no room for God."

Even before Mass began, officials of World Youth Day broadcast another challenging message to the crowd, telling them that most pilgrims would not be able to receive Communion during Mass, and asking them to offer it up as a sacrifice for the pope.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the plan was to distribute Communion from 17 chapels set up on the perimeter of the airfield. Saturday's storm destroyed several of the chapel-tents, and police asked organizers to dismantle most of the others because they posed a danger in the wind.

Yago de la Cierva, director of World Youth Day Madrid, told CNS the event was planned to be "more religious and less entertaining" than some previous youth gatherings.

"We are proud of our Catholic identity. This is who we are. It is what we wanted people to know and what we shared," he said. "It was really moving how people participated."



Pilgrims not Tourists



For the duration of our trip, "I'm a pilgrim not a tourist" has replaced the ubiquitous "offer it up" in the Catholic lexicon. This has the added advantage of being generally addressed to oneself, rather than addressed to another.

That's an important difference I think. It seems to have contributed to a distinct esprit de corps among the pilgrims in my group. Joining them as a latecomer, I'm able to step back and observe a difference in the group.

By way of example, when my group arrived at our Madrid accommodation on Monday, it quickly became apparent that we were going to really bake through the nights.

But instead of complaining, a few pilgrims took the initiative to go shopping, and later in the afternoon a production line was formed in the hallway to assemble dozens of electric fans. By the time I arrived from the airport, fans were installed in every room.

Another example: I am luckier than many pilgrims who have lost luggage. I've lost only one item; there are others who have had all their luggage disappear. It will be recovered no doubt, but in the meantime they've suffered considerable discomfort. But complaints have been scarce. Essentials have been purchased and pilgrims have been generous in sharing other provisions.

The pilgrims' catchcry seems not only to foster a determined and sincere cheerfulness, but it also encourages an attentiveness to the needs and comfort of others.

There's never any shortage of reasons to complain on a WYD trip. But the pilgrims I have spoken to seem to have a very supernatural attitude about it. They were reminded during catechesis, delivered with passion by Archbishop Coleridge, that the privations of pilgrimage are tastes of Calvary, which is a necessary detour en route to Paradise.

But a few pilgrims have also suggested to me that they have found new meaning in the idea of Mary's docility. Not a passive docility, or something merely reactionary, but a docility which is embracing and somehow positive. I hadn't considered that before. Which just goes to show that a self-styled chaplain can learn more from pilgrims than they can learn from me!

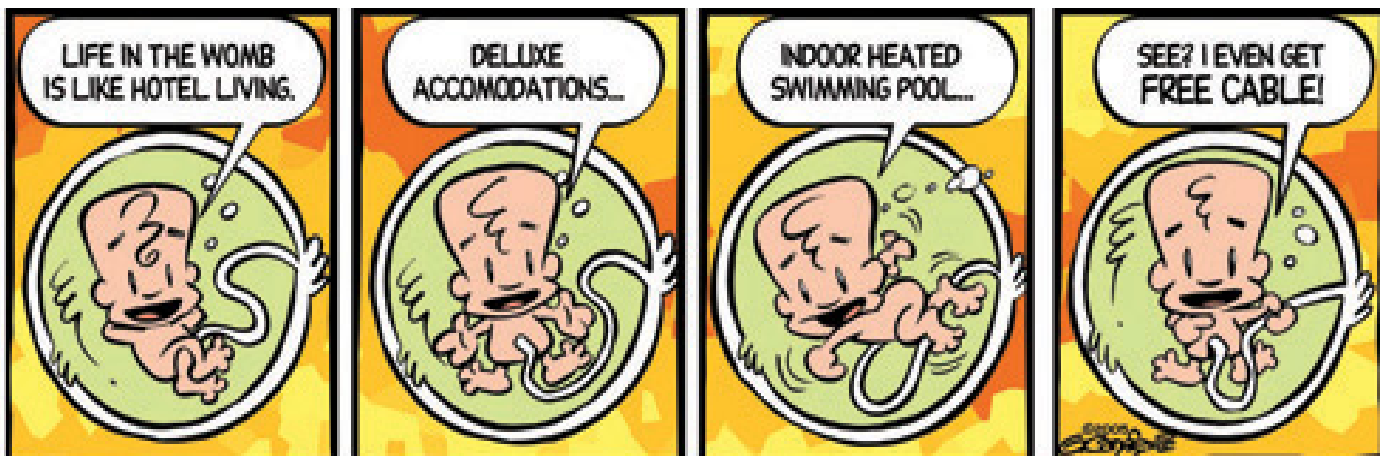
Deacon John Corrigan is a Ballarat seminarian studying at Corpus Christi College, Melbourne.

MadridBlog - Pilgrims not tourists
Published: August 17, 2011 BY
DEACON JOHN CORRIGAN

On the one hand, half my luggage is stranded at Rome airport. I've had to scale a fifth floor window ledge to break into a room whose door couldn't be opened. And only two of the showers on my floor are operating, serving 40 people.

On the other hand, the hot summer weather is great. The tapas are plentiful, and the beer is cheap. And it's amazing how positive people are.

"I'm a pilgrim, not a tourist." How many times I have heard that said in the last few days! I've uttered it myself a few times, but more often I've heard it said by others - often in cheerier tones than I can muster, it must be said.



Pope Quotes - World Youth Day 2011

"I would say that these WYDs are a sign, a cascade of light -- they give visibility to the faith, visibility to the presence of God in the world, and thus give the courage to be believers," he said. "Often, believers feel isolated in this world, somewhat lost. Here they see that they are not alone, that there is a great network of faith, a great community of believers in the world."

"There is no reason to lose heart in the face of the various obstacles we encounter in some countries. The yearning for God which the Creator has placed in the hearts of young people is more powerful than all of these".

"God never tires of forgiving. We all need forgiveness; without changing our past. It brings a hope-filled future."



"The cross was not a sign of failure, but an expression of self-giving in love that extends even to the supreme sacrifice of one's life,"

"Separating truth from ethics and from man's great problems, the Pontiff warned, leads to "exposing man to the will of those who have power."



"You are open to the idea of sharing your lives with others, so be sure not to pass by on the other side in the face of human suffering, for it is here that God expects you to give of your very best: your capacity for love and compassion,"

"We must always be in search of truth, of values, ... to seek truth and man's dignity is the best defense of liberty."



"We cannot follow Jesus on our own. Anyone who would be tempted to do 'on his own' or to approach the life of faith with the kind of individualism so prevalent today will risk never truly encountering Jesus, or will end up following a counterfeit Jesus."

"Do not keep Christ to yourselves. Share with others the joy of your faith,"

Dear young people, do not be satisfied with anything less than Truth and Love, do not be content with anything less than Christ.

"Spain is ... capable of moving forward without surrendering its profoundly religious and Catholic soul".

"Now those young people are returning home as missionaries of the Gospel..."

Introducing -

LOVE & LIFE CATHOLIC ACTION

The battle is on in Australia right now for marriage, the unborn and the dying. We're going to spend 1.5 hours one Friday a month to do our bit, and we'd love to have your company.

Prayer, discussion, cuppa and action.

1st Fri 7.30 to 9 pm sharp; 13 Warrambool Crescent Glenfield Park; RSVP: Leanne 6931 6250

"The future of humanity passes by way of the family."

~ Blessed John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio 86

Forming children in Christian Sexuality - TRAINING FOR PARENTS



MONDAY 19 September
EITHER AFTERNOON
1.45—2.45 pm
 Holy Trinity Primary School
OR EVENING
7.30—8.30 pm

Conference Room at the Diocesan Offices at McAlroy House, Tarcutta Street
 More info: 6931 3601 or mjicasanova@yahoo.com

The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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



"Help me to forgive others as you have forgiven me."

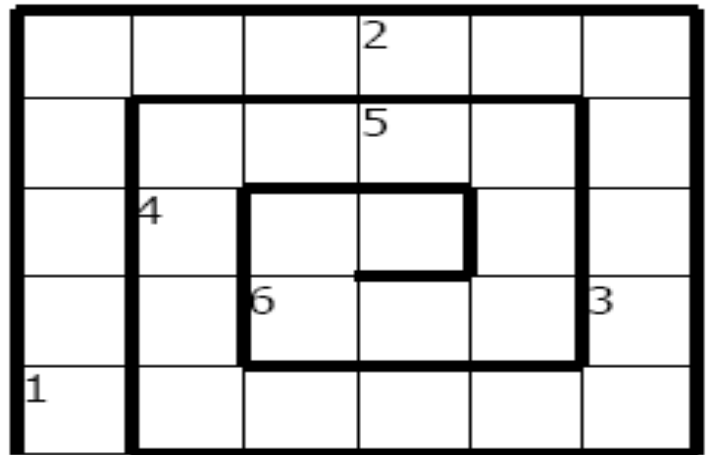
Keep On Forgiving

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" Matthew 18:21 (NLT)

Look at the numbered clues, determine the correct word, and write that word in the spiral puzzle. Each numbered square will begin a new word.



1. A male who has the same parents as another person
2. The number equal to $4 + 3$
3. To excuse someone for an offense
4. To break God's law
5. One of Jesus' disciples
6. To seek an answer to a question



ASK	SEVEN	BROTHER
PETER	SIN	FORGIVE