

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 116

September 2012

Coming Events

Father's Day:	Sun 2
Adult Learner's Week:	Sept 1-8
Serra Mass for 18th Year of Eucharistic Adoration:	Mon 3
CWL Group:	Wed 5
Feast of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta:	Wed 5
Prayer Vigil for Peace:	Thurs 6
Divine Mercy Prayer Group:	Fri 7
Serra All Night Vigil:	Fri 7
Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary:	Sat 8
Child Protection Sunday:	Sun 9
Home of Compassion Auxiliary:	Mon 10
Feast of Exaltation of the Cross:	Fri 14
Movie Night:	Fri 14
Parent's 1st Reconciliation Instruction:	Tues 18
Feast of St Matthew:	Fri 21
Prayers for Healing:	Fri 21
Police Remembrance Day:	Fri 28
Feast of Archangels:	Sat 29
Serra Club Wagga: October	Fri 5-Sat 6

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The due date for the next Wag is:
Sunday October 7th

Congratulations!

Baptisms, First Reconciliations, First Holy Communions and Confirmations! Last evening Saturday August 25, Tullulah Richardson and Sharni-Lee Pendrick were baptized at the Vigil Mass at San Isidore. Later they, Shontay McKenzie, Jena and Lacey Metz made their 1st Reconciliation and all



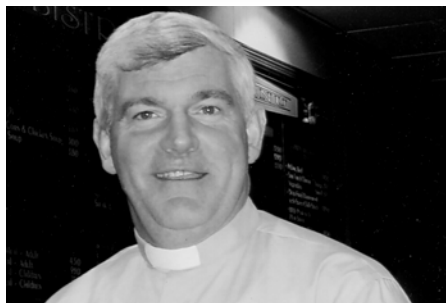
received first Holy Communion with Tioni Frost-Hocking. Vivienne and



Anastasia Strong, the Missionaries of Charity and the Priests all helped to instruct them. On Friday evening August 31, 50 young people from Holy Trinity, Ashmont Public and other school children were confirmed by Bishop Gerard Hanna at St Michael's Cathedral. Congratulations to all.



pastor's page



The use of "Father" in the New Testament

"God the Father" is a title given to the First Person of the Blessed Trinity by Jesus. "Father" is a proper way to refer to and address God. In Judaism, God as father is one of many metaphors or titles used for God. Few other religions refer to god as father; but the polytheistic Greek god Zeus is described as "father of men".

In Jesus' time Judaism described God as father because he was said to be the creator, life-giver, law-giver, and protector. In Catholicism God is called Father for the same reasons, and because he is the Father of Jesus.

The title "God the Father" refers to the First Person of the Trinity (CCC 239). This doctrine teaches that God, although single, is made up of three distinct Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In general, the title Father (capitalized) signifies God's role as the Creator of all life, the authority, and powerful protector. He is rightly viewed as immense, omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent with infinite power and charity which goes beyond our human understanding. The word omnipotent means all powerful. All our potential comes from God who is "Pure Act". Men in union with their wives as procreators, have the privilege of sharing in the power of the Fatherhood of God by bringing new life. This life although it begins in time will never end in eternity. This is a great and beautiful power always to be

respected and for which all should be grateful.

By calling God "Father," the language of faith indicates two main things: that God is the first origin of everything and transcendent authority; and that he is at the same time goodness and loving care for all his children (CCC 239).

God's parental tenderness can also be expressed by the image of motherhood, which emphasises God's immanence; the intimacy between Creator and creature.

The language of faith thus draws on the human experience of parents, who are in a way the first representatives of God to their children. But experience also tells us that human parents are fallible and can disfigure the face of fatherhood and motherhood. We ought therefore to recall that God transcends the human distinction between the sexes. He is neither man nor woman: he is God. He also transcends human fatherhood and motherhood, although he is their origin and standard: no one is father as God is Father. (CCC 239)

Spiritually Jesus teaches that no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. To know the Father is a good thing to ask Jesus for in daily prayer. That's one reason we are encouraged to pray the Our Father every day. Even, after completing his monumental work *Summa Theologiae*, Saint Thomas Aquinas concluded that he had not yet begun to understand God the Father.

Some of the ways in which Jesus referred us to His Father were:

The Father is greater than I. (John 14:28) Go, to my brothers and tell them: "I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." (John 20:17)

The righteous will shine like the Sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Matthew 13:43)

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, Who is unseen. Then your Father, Who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:6) Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (Matthew 6:8)

Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matt 6:32-33)

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

When you pray say: "Our Father, Who is in heaven, hallowed be your name." (Luke 11:2)

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:36)

For if you forgive people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (Matthew 6:14)

It is fitting to recall with thanksgiving and prayer all that God the Father has done for us in giving us our fathers, grandfathers, Godfathers, foster fathers, and spiritual fathers in Christ Jesus.

Fr Gerard



September Stitches

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES!!

LOT'S WIFE—The Catechism teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted. "My Mum looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "And she turned into a telephone pole!"

DID NOAH FISH? - "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No, How could he, with just 2 worms?"

HIGHER POWER—A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

MOSES AND THE RED SEA
9-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in school. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."
"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his Mother asked. "Well, no, Mom, but, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it"

UNANSWERED PRAYER—The preacher's 5 year-old niece noticed that her uncle always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day she asked him why. "Well," he began, proud that his niece was so observant of his message. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.

UNTIMELY ANSWERED PRAYER—During the priest's homily one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?" Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

TIME TO PRAY—A priest asked a boy if he said his prayers every night. Yes, sir." the boy replied. "And, do you always say them in the morning, too?" the pastor asked. "No sir," the boy replied. "I ain't scared in the daytime."

ALL MEN / ALL GIRLS—When Kelli said her bed time prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend and every animal. For several weeks after we had finished night time prayers she would say "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. Her mother's curiosity got the best of her and she asked, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?" "Because everybody always finishes prayer by saying 'All Men!'"

SAY A PRAYER—Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated round the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. "Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer" said his mother. "I don't need to" the boy replied. "Of course, you do." his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "That's at our house." Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!"

A mother was telling her little girl what her own childhood was like:

"We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her father's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

The Priest was wired for sound with a lapel mike, and as he was giving his homily he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third row leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

A man goes to his doctor for a complete checkup. He hasn't been feeling well and wants to find out if he's ill. After the checkup the doctor comes out with the results of the examination.

"I'm afraid I have some bad news. You're dying and you don't have much time," the doctor says. "Oh no, that's terrible. How long have I got?" the man asks. "10.." says the doctor. "10? 10 what? Months? Weeks? What?!" he asks desperately. "10...9...8...7..."



To stand or not to stand, that is the question (A question about the Mass, sitting and standing...)

Before the new Mass Translation was introduced, a change was made when we should stand.

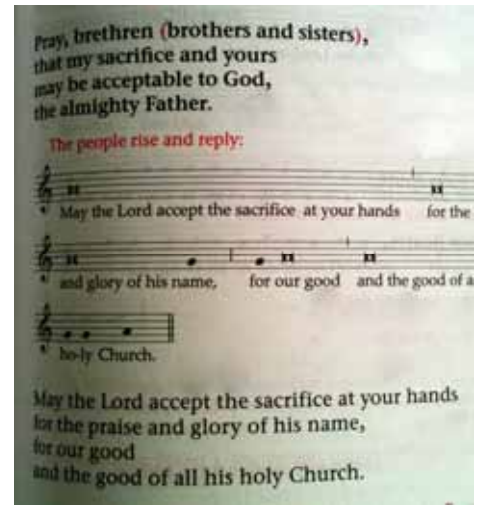


The new Missal makes clear when we should stand during the offertory rite.

We repeat it here, so that we can all be upstanding at the same time.

The priest says,

“Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father.”



At the end of these words, **the people “rise and reply”**,
“May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands...”

Just remember,

A) <---stay seated as you listen to Father’s invitation to pray...

B) **stand when you are**--->
about to respond.

Standing is part of our response.



Congratulations to **Briannah Withers** who received a High Distinction for the 2012 Religious Education Test given to all Year 6 students in the New South Wales Dioceses. While many Holy Trinity children received distinctions for the exam, Briannah was singular in that she received the only High Distinction.



Ho.T FILM NIGHT



Friday September 14th 7.30 pm - Join together to watch:

BELLA PG

Bella is a powerful, moving, utterly unique story that will lift your spirits & capture your heart!

International soccer star "Eduardo Verastegui" is on his way to sign a multimillion dollar contract when a series of events unfold that brings his career to an abrupt end. Beautiful waitress "Tammy Blanchard", struggling to make it in New York City, discovers something about herself that she's unprepared for. In one irreversible moment, their lives are turned upside down ...until a simple gesture of kindness brings them both together, turning an ordinary day into an unforgettable experience

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

Olympic Gold Medalist Katie Ledecky didn't know she wasn't supposed to achieve the Impossible



August 4, 2012 By Tony Rossi

After reading the excellent profile of Olympic swimmer Katie Ledecky in last week's *The Catholic Standard*, I had to watch her race in the women's 800m freestyle on Friday night. After all, here was the youngest member of the entire U.S. Olympic team – age 15 – swimming a grueling race that required her to cross the length of the 50m pool 16 times. In addition, she's a teen whose humility is acknowledged by her classmates and teachers at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, Maryland – a teen who prays the Hail Mary before each race and enjoys going to Mass every week because it gives her the “chance to reflect & connect with God.”

There's also the simple fact that Katie is a young woman who was now pursuing her own dreams partially because of the inspiration given to her by past and present champions. When she was six, she approached Michael Phelps for an autograph after his practice session at the University of Maryland. This was prior to the 2004 Olympics, before the entire world got to know who Phelps was. Now here Katie was, on the U.S. team with one of her idols who had just won gold again prior to her race. And the other breakout star of this Olympics so far, Missy Franklin, had also just

won gold again prior to Katie's race. Instead of feeling nervous, Katie said she felt “pumped.” The pressure might have gotten to her, but somehow she blocked it out and stayed focused.

Prior to the race, I didn't get the impression that NBC announcers Rowdy Gaines or Dan Hicks (or anybody really) expected Katie to win. Gold seemed more likely for British swimmer Rebecca Adlington, a four time Olympian and British legend. But Katie took off like a cannonball at the start of the race & never quit. Gaines & Hicks thought she was going too fast initially, that she'd expend too much energy in the early laps & would dwindle by the end. They had a point because that's certainly happened to a lot of swimmers before.

Katie Ledecky, however, was apparently too young or inexperienced to know how these things are supposed to go. She was in a race & she was going all out to win.

Meanwhile, back at Stone Ridge School, students and teachers had gathered to watch their favorite Olympian compete. As reported by Mike Rosenwald for the *Washington Post*, “With a few laps left, some girls began crying, waving their hands in front of their faces as if to cool themselves off. Others held little U.S. flags high. Connie Mitchell, in charge of communications for the school, kept putting her hand on her forehead and staring at Catherine Ronan Karrels, the head of school. The tension mounted. Girls stood on their chairs. As Katie pulled away from the pack in the final lap, the cheering was loud enough to shake a church bell. And then she won. Total pandemonium.”

I can understand why. By the time Katie Ledecky finished the 800m, the race wasn't even close. She was way ahead of everyone, even the more experienced swimmers who were expected to win. In a sincere gesture of class, Rebecca Adlington, who wound up winning the Bronze, told Katie she was “amazing.” And what else could you call her? This wasn't an expected result. I'm sure Katie wanted to win, but she likely never expected this to happen.

In her post-race interview with Andrea Joyce, Katie explained that she tried to block out much of what was going on around her during the race. She had set some short-term and long-term goals for the race, and stayed focused on those. And she didn't allow herself to think “I've got this” until the 799th meter of the 800 meter race.

From my perspective, Katie looked stunned at what had just happened. Finally, in the medal ceremony, this hard-working, prayerful 15-year-old looked humbled and emotionally overwhelmed – overwhelmed in a good way, an appreciative way.

It was a great ending to an outstanding night for a teenager whose faith asserts a lot of things many people claim are impossible. And yet here was Katie Ledecky reminding us all that the media and experts can't always predict what will happen when people who don't know they can't achieve the impossible are led by faith and heart to achieve it anyway.



“Eye has not seen...”

Bill Muehlenberg, CultureWatch



In 1 Corinthians 2:9 we read these words: “As it is written, ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him’”.

... This is such comforting and heartening news for all believers, myself included. For example, when I read about “what eye has not seen” I get especially interested. You see, all my life I have had bad eyesight. I am even partially colour-blind. And my eyesight seems to be deteriorating quite a bit of late...

So I often wonder what it would be like to have perfect eyesight – even with glasses my vision is rather poor. And in the life to come vision may be even better than 20/20 ... Everything will likely be magnified & amplified & so much better.

Music will sound so much more beautiful; what we see will be so much more glorious; what we experience will be so much greater. In every way everything will be so wondrously improved. We simply cannot imagine what things will be like... all our great efforts & talents and gifts & abilities here on earth will seem so limited & puny then.

The Olympics are now on and there we see the epitome of human endurance, athletic ability and awesome prowess. But with our new resurrection bodies we may all be able to run faster than Usain Bolt, or swim more elegantly and swiftly than Michael Phelps.

It will just be absolutely incredible. It should excite every single believer. & we know this from at least two sources. One of course is

Scripture itself, and all the wonderful promises we find there. But the other is something that has long intrigued me and moved me.

I refer to a little-understood and often little-known condition known as Savant syndrome. This is where in rare cases certain individuals seem to have supra-human and supra-normal capabilities and talents. And the really incredible thing about this is that this rare group of people who have extraordinary abilities in [maths], art, music or calculation are often severely disabled...

“According to Darold Treffert, the leading researcher in the study of savant syndrome, almost all savants have prodigious memory of a special type, which he describes as ‘very deep, but exceedingly narrow’. It is wide in the sense that they can have an exceptional memory but have a hard time putting it to use. Certain savants have also been shown to display advanced skill in one or more of five major areas: Art, musical abilities, calendar calculating, mathematics and spatial skills...”

For example, such people can hear a very complicated piece of music for the very first and only time, and reproduce it note-perfect on a piano or other instrument. It is an extraordinary ability lacking in us mere mortals. See here for a video example of this: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWtZAZmOAM&feature=related

Or they can have incredible artistic abilities, being able to make perfect replicas of various things...: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkDMAJ-wZmQ

Or consider this autistic young man who can see a cityscape for a matter of minutes, & then faithfully reproduce it in mammoth sketches...

Looking at these videos & pictures is the best way to capture what is going on here. Science and

medicine do not seem to know much about this condition or why it comes about. But it seems every single believer should be absolutely excited and rapt about this.

These rare & remarkable abilities seem to be glimpses or foretastes of heaven. They seem to be snippets of what life was meant to be like before the fall, or what it will be like when Christ returns. It is so incredibly remarkable & wonderful. Indeed, the best thing it does is give us glimpses of the wonderful and amazing God we serve.

Out of absolutely nothing our wonderful creative God created the universe and everything in it. The majestic mountains, the beautiful sunsets, the amazing aroma of flowers, the glorious sounds of music – all this from the beautiful and creative God we serve.

While we have so much beauty and wonder now in our ordinary lives, the extra bits of wonder and glory displayed in those with Savant syndrome point to something even more wonderful and glorious. They point us to God and his wondrous creative abilities.

Such beauties and wonders can only result in us creatures giving God all our praise and worship and thanksgiving. Christians of all people can exalt in this and celebrate this. Secularists and atheists are much more restricted it seems in this area.

To illustrate, and in closing, let these three comments by G. K. Chesterton make my case:

“The gift without the giver is bare.”

“I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.”

“The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has nobody to thank.”

The Day Mother Teresa Kept the Pope Waiting

Former Confessor for Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, American Msgr John Esseff recalls the day she was late for an appointment with Pope John Paul II in Rome because she was tending a dying man on the street.

"Mother Teresa was to meet the Pope as she was looking to establish a home for the poorest of the poor in the Vatican," said the 84-year-old priest, who is in Australia to run spiritual retreats and workshops for the Missionaries of Charity Sisters.

"As we were driving down the avenue leading to the Vatican there on the street lay a dying man.

"She asked one of the Sisters to stop the car. Mother Teresa then got out of the car and she is tending to him, holding his hand and wiping his face.

"The Sisters get a little nervous because she is with him for an hour

and a half, kneeling by him and praying with him. Finally the Sisters say to her that she is going to miss the appointment with the Pope.

"She said: 'You go and take my place. I am with Jesus. Tell the Pope that I am sorry, but I'm here with Christ.' So she saw Jesus in the poorest of the poor."

Msgr Esseff says Mother Teresa was "loved by the communists" and retold the story of her meeting with Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega. "One day she was with Daniel Ortega, head of the Communists in Nicaragua, and he hated US President Ronald Reagan," he said.

"She was there with some of the Sisters who had come to Nicaragua to help out following an earthquake, and Ortega was canvassing his political views about Ronald Reagan. He was giving a Communist manifesto.

"Mother Teresa was just standing there and listening. She then said to

him: 'President Reagan really needs prayers doesn't he?' Ortega replied: 'He sure does.' She then said: 'And you do too because I was talking to your wife and you're a Catholic aren't you?'

"He said: 'Yes, I am.' She said: 'But I understand that you haven't had your children baptised. You really can't run a country unless you can run your home. Let's have your children baptised and I will be their godmother and we will get that done right now'."



Orphan raised by Mother Teresa Sisters in Baghdad is to compete in Paralympics

An orphan raised by the Missionaries of Charity in Baghdad is to compete in a sprint swimming event at the London Paralympics.

Ahmed Kelly, who grew up in Australia after being adopted aged nine, will race in the 50m breaststroke. He has already broken a world record twice at 100m.

Kelly, who was born with severely underdeveloped arms and legs, was left outside the Sisters' orphanage

in Baghdad and raised there until he was adopted, along with his brother, by Moira Kelly, an Australian humanitarian worker.



In Australia he had surgery on his legs and, fitted with prosthetic limbs, played Aussie rules football for his school and club before taking up swimming.

Moira Kelly, who founded the Children First Foundation, was herself inspired by Mother Teresa to become an aid worker. Ahmed's brother, Emmanuel, starred in the US version of The X Factor.

DON'T BRAG! A strong young man at the construction site was bragging that he could outdo anyone in a feat of strength. He made a special case of making fun of Morris, one of the older workmen. After several minutes, Morris had enough.

"Why don't you put your money where your mouth is?" he said. "I will bet a week's wages that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that outbuilding that you won't be able to wheel back."

"You're on, old man," the braggart replied. "It's a bet! Let's see what you got."

Morris reached out and grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles.

Then, nodding to the young man, he said, "All right. Get in."

The West Wagga Wagga

West Wagga Parish

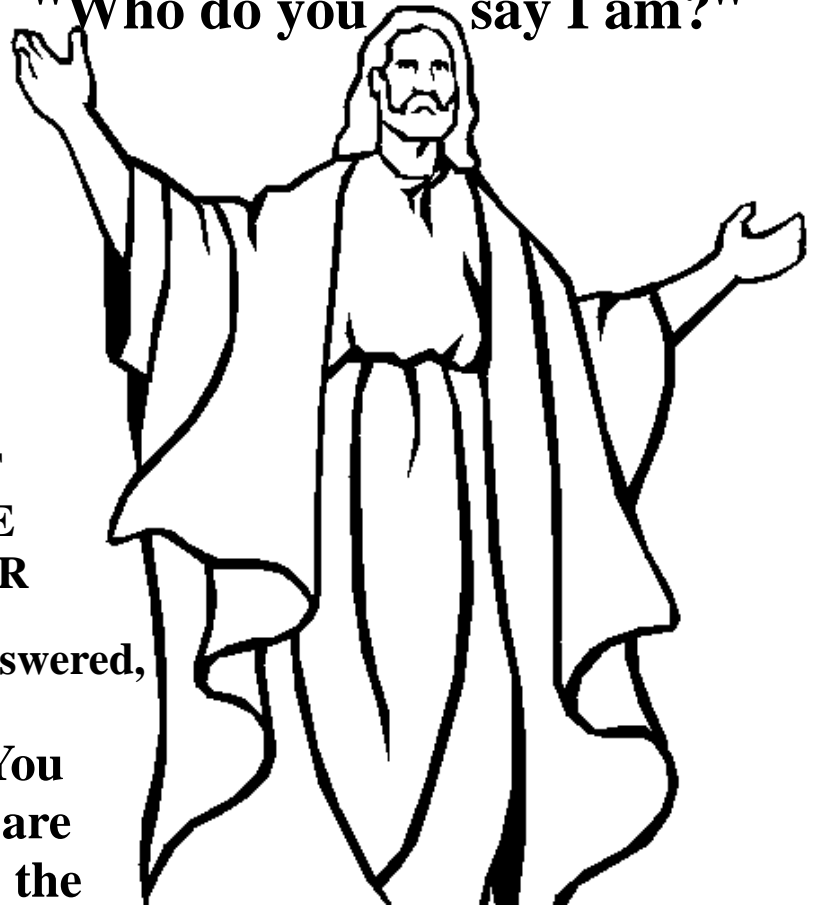


Serving: Ashmont,
Collingullie,
Glenfield, Lloyd,
and San Isidore



**"But what about you?" he asked.
"Who do you say I am?"**

**P
E
T
E
R**



answered,

**"You
are
the
Christ."**

Mark 8:27-29

Who am I Quiz

Try this on your own or test your family—answers below

1. Who Am I? - I collected tax
I cheated people out of their money
I was very, very small
I might be found up a tree

2. Who am I? - I found favor with God
I was chosen for something great
I was visited by an angel
I became the mother of God

3. Who Am I? - I lived, but I was never born
I gave all the animals their names
I lived in a beautiful garden
I was the very first man

4. Who Am I? I was my father's favorite son
My brothers hated me
My brothers sold me as a slave
I wore a coat of many colors

5. Who am I? I played the harp
I was just a shepherd boy
I was good with a sling shot
I killed a giant

6. Who am I? - I was not first, but I was second
I was made from a rib
I lived in a beautiful garden
I was tempted by a snake

7. Who am I? I married Sampson
I knew the secret of his strength
I gave him a haircut
He lost all of his strength

8. Who am I? - Some said I was a great teacher
Some said I was John the Baptist
Some said I was Elijah or one of the prophets
I am true God and true man

9. Who am I - I used to catch fish
I tried to walk but then I sank
I gave the right answer and got keys
Something incredible got built on top of me

1. Zacchaeus; 2. Mary; 3. Adam; 4. Joseph; 5. David; 6. Eve; 7. Delilah; 8. Jesus; 9. Peter