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

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 146 April 2015

Coming Events

Junior Legion Tuesdays 4pm	Junior	Legion	Tuesdays 4pm
----------------------------	--------	--------	--------------

Rosary San Isidore Wed 10am

Senior Legion Wed 7pm

St Vincent De Paul Thurs 7pm

Divine Mercy Novena 3-11 April

Priestly Ordination of

Sean Byrne 10 am Sat 11

Feast of Divine Mercy Sun 12

Feast of St Joseph

the Worker Fri May 1



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page	2
A story of Mary Magdalen	4
Gallipoli Hero Fr John Fahey	5
10 reasons for Mass	7

Wag Contacts

Email:

westwaggaparish@hotmai.l.com Web Page: westwaggaparish.com Phone: 6931 3601

The date for submissions for the next Wag is: Sunday April 26th.

The Lord is risen, Alleluia! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Do you know the prayer called the "**Regina Coeli**"? It's a great Easter prayer!

We've put the prayer on page 2 so you can cut it out and stick it up to pray it.

The **Regina Coeli** has a very long history. Pope St



Gregory the Great (c. 600 AD) is said to have heard angels chanting the first three lines one Easter morning in Rome, while following barefoot in a great religious procession of the icon of the Virgin painted by Luke the Evangelist. He was then inspired to add the fourth line of the **Regina Coeli**.



Lay people can pray the Angelus or Regina Coeli wherever they are.

At the start of the Easter Season, we switch from praying the **Angelus** to praying the **Regina Coeli**.

Do you pray the **Angelus**? If so you are in good company.

On the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25th, all Catholic schools in the Sydney Archdiocese made it their practice to say the **Angelus** every day.

The **Angelus** is a prayer that has its origins in the 11th century. In its earlier form it was used as a prayer for

protection of Christians who were being attacked in the Middle East.

Many popes have recommended it, and Popes St John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis have prayed it with pilgrims every week in St Peter's Square.

But the Easter Season is when we switch to the Regina Coeli.

The usual time for praying the **Angelus** and the **Regina Coeli** is: 6am - if you're up by then!; noon; and 6pm. Some families pick one of these times to pray together.



pastor's page

God wills all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the Truth.

From myself, Fr Gerard, Fr Ron and the aspirants of the Confraternity of Christ the Priest, Happy Easter to everyone. And I mean everyone!

I wish all the world could know and rejoice in the fact, the historical fact, of the Resurrection. I wish they knew that "God so loved the world that He sent His only Son"; and that dying for us on the Cross and rising again, He has paid the price of our sins and given us the possibility of reaching Heaven.

Our Saviour invites everyone to join the Family of Faith, the Catholic Church, so that through Faith and Sacraments and being his obedient disciples, His friends, we can come to the everlasting happiness of Heaven. God wants that!

St Paul wrote to Timothy, "God wills all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the Truth."

"With that in mind, we pray...

- that all Muslims come to the peaceful way of Christ, instead of the violence preached and practiced by Mohammed.
- that Buddhists will discover the wonder of a personal relationship with the Blessed Trinity, the fullness of life which Jesus came to bring us, and that suffering can be transformed by love.
- that the Mormons over there in Bourkelands will know that there is only One God (not one per planet) and desire to have a personal relationship with the only God;
- that the Jehovahs Witnessess will know, as St Thomas declared, that Jesus is truly our "Lord and God!"
- that all the members of the separated Christian communions will discover the wonder of Our Lord teaching us in the living voice of His Church and truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
- And that all the Churchless living in our parish: Ashmont, Glenfield, Lloyd, San Isidore, Collingullie and in between, will have a living, active Faith which brings them joy in this life and Heaven in the next.

After Pentecost, the Apostles began to share the truth about our Risen Lord. They attracted crowds firstly by their reputation for kindness and their humble, holy way of life.

They were not scared to speak about the Faith. Missionaries preached but all the believers were able to tell others how much they loved Jesus, loved their Faith, loved being members of the Church. And so, the number of believers grew and grew.

In the same way, may the hope and wonder of the Resurrection, may our Faith in Jesus Christ and His love in us, lead us to share our faith with at least one more person before next Easter. The Lord has died and risen, for us and for the whole world!

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS

Regina Coeli

Queen of Heaven rejoice, alleluia:

For He whom you merited to bear, alleluia,

Has risen as He said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

- V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
- R. Because the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray:

O God, who by the Resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, granted joy to the whole world: grant we beg Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may lay hold of the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.





April Jokes



Young Ernie and his family were invited to have Easter Sunday lunch at his grandmother's house in Monkey's Eyebrow, Arizona. USA. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Ernie received his plate he started eating straight away. 'Ernie, wait until we say grace,' demanded his father.

'I don't have to,' the five year old replied.

'Of course you do, Ernest,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

'That's at our house,' Ernie explained, 'but this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook.'

- Q: Why was the Easter Bunny so upset? A: He was having a bad hare day!
- Q: What is the difference between a crazy bunny and a counterfeit banknote? One is bad money and the other is a mad bunny!
- Q: What did the bunny want to do when he grew up? Join the Hare Force.

After the baptism of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys!"

Q: How did the soggy Easter Bunny dry himself? A: With a hare-dryer! Q: What kinds of books do bunnies like? A: Ones with hoppy endings! Q: Why did the Easter Bunny cross the road? A: Because the chicken had his Easter eggs!

In School, they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, 'Johnny what is the matter?' Little Johnny responded, 'I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'

Q: What has big ears, brings Easter treats, and goes hippity-BOOM hippity-BOOM? A: The Easter Elephant.

Q: What do you call a line of rabbits walking backwards? A: A receding "hareline".

There is the story of a preacher who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."



A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?'

Good Idea: Finding Easter eggs on Easter. Bad Idea: Finding Easter eggs on Xmas.

Q: What do you call a rabbit with fleas? A: Bugs Bunny.

Q: Do you know how to find the Easter bunny if he was lost? A: Make a noise like a carrot; he'll find you.

Jimmy came home on the last day of the Easter term, and to his horror he found his German Shepherd, Rex, with next door neighbours bunny rabbit in its mouth. The rabbit was obviously dead. Greatly upset, Jimmy panicked thinking, 'If my neighbours find out that Rex killed their bunny, they'll hate me forever.' Jimmy quickly took the rather large bunny, and, placing it in a paper bag deposited in the local incinerator tip. On his way home, Jimmy looked into Pets 'R Us and bought a rabbit which he gauged was just like the deceased. Back home, Jimmy took the 'new' rabbit and placed it in the open hutch in his neighbours garden. Later that evening, Jimmy heard a knock on his front door and opening it he found his next door neighbours bearing the 'new' rabbit in their arms.

'Look,' squeaked his neighbour, 'Yesterday Billy was dead and we buried him 4 feet down in the garden. Today we come home and find that not only is he alive and well but he has grown several more teeth but also he has shrunk. It's a miracle.'

Q: What kind of jewellery do rabbits wear? A: 14 carrot gold. Q: What kind of book does a rabbit like at bedtime? A: One with a "hoppy" ending.

Q: How do bunnies stay healthy?

A: Eggercise!



Easter Morning - a story of Mary Magadalen



by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

It was like a violent storm had gone through leaving destruction in its wake. But early this Sunday morning all is quiet — the lull after the storm — or so it seems to Mary.

When Jesus' was in Jerusalem just the week before, many had considered him the Messiah. But on Friday, His enemies had succeeded executing Him by crucifixion.

There are soldiers guarding his tomb. Why? His enemies had heard a report that Jesus was supposed to "rise again" on the third day. Preposterous, his enemies said, but they could take no chances. If there were a guard — especially a Roman guard — his disciples wouldn't dare steal the body and claim he'd been raised. Keep a lid on any stories that might re-enflame the populace — that was the plan.

In the moist, bone-chilling darkness, the soldiers huddle around a sputtering fire that flickers ghostly images amidst the shadows of tombs. They're not afraid, mind you, just ill at ease, anxious for the dawn that will soon brighten the horizon.

Jesus' disciples figure in the story, too, but they are afraid — terrified that they too will be arrested because of their close association with Jesus. They're in hiding within the city. "No worries from them now," their enemies smirk.

Crowds of pilgrims that had swelled Jerusalem to the bursting point over the Passover weekend have gone home now, back to their villages, bearing a disquieting story of how the Galilean healer had been killed. They are still angry, of course, but the danger of riot over the Nazarene's trial and execution is

past.

That's how things stood just before dawn. Sad, tragic. A movement so full exuberance had been crushed — its famous leader cut down, its lieutenants in hiding, its followers scattered.

But after the storm, life must go on. And now we see Mary Magdalene. She has been one of the Nazarene's most devoted followers. She and some of the women have risen very early to honour the teacher's body and are headed for the garden tomb just outside the city walls. Within the sepulchre he lies, cold and lifeless on a rock slab. Mary Magdalene had been there Friday night. Her own hands had helped wash and prepare the body.

The women turn from the lane into the cemetery garden, walking numbly, one foot in front of the other. Suddenly Mary looks up and shouts: "The stone has been moved!"

She runs into the garden, past remnants of a smoky fire, soldiers' equipment in disarray, abandoned in haste. She sprints to the now-open tomb. The ribbon and Roman seal that have guaranteed its security hang limply in the morning air.

"Where is he?" she shrieks, and ducks inside.

The darkness of the tomb and the concrete-like odor of fresh-cut limestone at the back of her mouth overwhelm her for a moment. As her eyes adjust, there on a shelf chiseled from the wall of the cave, she can make out grave clothes, neatly folded. But where is Jesus? Grave-robbers!

Out in a flash, she begins to run back into the city.

"I'll tell Peter and John," she calls as she speeds on. In a few moments, the disciple-women will see an angel who tells them, "He is risen!" But by now, Mary is back in Jerusalem. She pauses for a moment at the head of the street where the disciples are staying. Hands on her legs, heaving, trying to catch her breath. Now she pounds on the door. "Peter, Peter!"

After a long pause, the disciple

who, until recently, everyone acknowledged as the leader, opens the door a crack, looks up the street, then down it. Finally, he motions Mary inside and quickly shuts the door.

"Somebody has taken his body out of the tomb! We can't find him!"

Now Peter and John are in panic mode. They pull on tunics and sandals and dash towards the cemetery. Mary follows. Slowly now, head down, she walks and weeps. By the time she arrives back at the tomb, Peter and John have come and gone. The women are nowhere to be seen.

She pauses by the door for a long moment, weeping uncontrollably. Then she gathers herself and steps into the cold chamber. The sun is rising now, casting long shadows across the garden. But this time, the tomb seems lit, also. Two men in bright white, dressed in long robes that extend down to their feet, rise as she enters.

"Why are you crying?"

She sobs out her story. "They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have put him." She dissolves into tears.

When she looks up the men are gone. She turns. There, the sun silhouetting him in the doorway, is yet another man — the gardener, she supposes. Perhaps he'll know.

"Why are you crying?" he asks



Mary Magdalen continued ...

quietly. "Who are you looking for?"

She begins her sad tale for a third time, of grave robbers who have desecrated the tomb and of the teacher who had healed her and restored her very life to wholeness. "If you have taken him," she pleads, "tell me where his body is and I'll see that it is retrieved. There'll be no trouble."

"Mary!" The voice so familiar. She looks up in sudden recognition. "Rabbi!" she cries and falls at his feet. It is Jesus. It is the Lord. He is not dead. He is risen from the grave. He is alive. He is resurrected as he had said.

The storm has passed and the sun has broken through the clouds into a new day.

Over the next few years, Mary would watch the Christian movement grow in spurts, from 100 to 3,000 in a single day. Then to

5,000 men — more than a fifth of the Jerusalem's entire population. Persecution came, but instead of snuffing out this story of the resurrection of the Son of God, it spread all the more. The movement raced like wildfire to the farthest reaches of the world. He is alive! Jesus is alive. Untold millions call Him Lord.

The sun is shining very brightly indeed.

Gallipoli Hero — Fr John Fahey

On 25 April 2015 we mark the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli.

John Fahey (1883-1959), Catholic priest and military chaplain, was born on 3 October 1883 at Glenough, Tipperary, Ireland, son of Michael Fahey, farmer, and his wife, Catherine, née Ryan.

Educated by the Cistercians at Mount Melleray and at the Brignole Sale Seminary, Genoa, Italy, he was ordained priest in May 1907.

Leaving almost immediately for the Australian mission he worked briefly in Perth at the cathedral and was then appointed to the parish of York and of Yarloop-Pinjarra in the south-east. Fahey was a manly type of priest well suited to the timber workers he served. He was an excellent sportsman, a fine shot and lived a rough unconventional life.

Bush experience provided him with an excellent preparation for the Australian Imperial Force which he joined on 8 September 1914 as a chaplain, 4th class (captain). He was assigned to the 11th Battalion.

Fahey reached Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and although chaplains were ordered not to disembark because every available space was reserved for combatants, he disregarded this, asserting his duty to go with his men.

His work, consoling the wounded, burying the dead and encouraging the living, was widely appreciated and he became a very popular figure; he typified the active, robust priesthood so admired in Australia.



From Gallipoli he wrote that he 'was shot twice through my overcoat without the skin being touched. I had a book shot out of my hands, the jam tin I was eating out of was shot through'. Evacuated sick in July, he resumed duty in September and remained at Gallipoli until 7 November. He was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the Distinguished Service Order for 'gallantry under fire'.

Rejoining the 11th Battalion in March 1916 Fahey left for France in April. Here a new battle experience awaited him; to the horrors of Gallipoli were added the might of heavy artillery. 'For an hour or so', he wrote, 'shells of all calibres, mostly high explosive, simply rain on a small sector of the front ... It is appalling, it is diabolical, and it is wonderful how anyone escapes'.

He remained in France until 14 November 1917, becoming the longest-serving front-line chaplain of any denomination, although he only won promotion to chaplain 3rd class (major). He left for Australia on 16 March 1918.

Against his wishes, he was fêted on his return to Perth. War service had aroused in him a deep admiration for Australian soldiers: he explained that 'the more I knew them the more I loved and admired them ... Their bravery has been written in deeds that will live to the end of the world'.

Fahey was stationed at Cottesloe in 1919-32, at Kellerberrin in 1932-36 and at various Perth parishes in 1936-39, after which he was parish priest at Cottesloe until his death. He was a faithful pastor, kept up his A.I.F. and sporting contacts and occupied a number of minor diocesan positions. He died at the St John of God Hospital, Subiaco, on 28 April 1959 and was buried in Karrakatta cemetery. About 2000 people attended his funeral.

by Michael McKernan



Top 10 reasons to attend Mass

by Kevin Ripley, Mechanical Engineering student, 2014

Going to Mass every Sunday can be a daunting concept. However, it may be more worth your while than you think. Take a good look through these top 10 reasons to attend the Holy Mass, and then see if you can hold yourself back.

10) Live Music

Okay, this is not the focus of the Mass. It does, however, help us focus on the Mass. Plus, the Mass contains songs with lyrics consisting of prayers that [make them excellent songs to sing].

When you go to Mass, keep in mind that God loves everyone's voice no matter how bad or good you may think it is. He just wants you to sing His praise and is greatly pleased by your efforts, so go for it!

9) It's Peaceful

With the hustle and bustle of life keeping your head spinning on its end for hours and hours each day, an hour spent in a sanctuary of peace is a wonderful thing. Allow yourself to be immersed in the beauty and grandeur, and let your worries disappear for a while.

8) Because you can

As a Catholic, or even if you aren't, you are able to go to Mass anywhere in the world whenever it is held, no RSVP required, knowing that you have received a distinguished invitation from Jesus Christ Himself...

7) Community

When you are sitting in a lecture, mostly everyone is there for the same reason: to learn. When you are sitting in the dining hall, mostly everyone is there to eat. These are your learning and eating communities. You probably have many more. However, you need a

spiritual community. When you are at Mass, mostly everyone is there to worship God and to grow in holiness. We were made to be social beings, to come together as a community.

Just as we wouldn't do as well in school without classmates to help us, friends to hold us accountable, and professors to answer our questions, we might not do as well in our spiritual life without a faith community to help us, hold us accountable, and answer our questions.

6) The great potential of your existence can be truly revealed

... Listen to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on this one:

"Are we not perhaps all afraid in some way? If we let Christ enter fully into our lives, if we open ourselves totally to him, are we not afraid that He might take something away from us? ... Do we not then risk ending up diminished and deprived of our freedom? . . . No! If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. ..."

5) Trust = Freedom = Less Stress

Sometimes the idea of spending an entire hour sitting in a church can be daunting. You could [do your homework], right? Not only would you not be getting any school work done, but [your team is playing at Mass time], and that party Saturday night went way too late, so there's no possibility of waking up before 11 am.

That sounds about right, yes? Well, there is another way to think about all of that. What if you go to Mass, and then let God help you [do your homework], ..., and to grow in prudence to make better decisions

about staying up late.

Making the commitment to honour God by setting aside an entire hour of time for Him no matter how much homework you have or exams you have in any given week is a huge step in learning to trust in His infinite all-knowing, forever-loving nature.

4) Mass will change your heart

The Mass gets you ready for heaven. "Mass is like a Chevy truck. Even if you get in the truck and fall asleep, the truck will plough through everything in its path and bring you farther along. As long as you show up for Mass, even if you are very distracted, it will bring you closer to God. You don't even need to know the directions."

3) It's the law

Just as the Apostles did (Acts 2:42), and the Church has been doing for two [thousand years], we are called to participate in the Mass each Sunday. Something as great as the Mass didn't have to be given to us, but it was given out of great love, so that the incarnation would be constantly re-presented to us.

Other denominations don't have that "rule," so why do we?

Well, let's think this through:

If you truly believe in God, then by definition, He should be at the top of your list of importance.

If Jesus, who is God, and who is most important, is providing His Body and Blood for you at the Mass, then it only makes sense that you would passionately accept the offer and attend.

2) It's absolutely important

We can split everything into groups of things that have relative importance and into those that have absolute importance. It's important (absolutely) to understand this, because your understanding of truth depends on it.

Top 10 Reasons to attend Mass cont.

Relatively important things might only be important for some people or for the time being. For example, take studying for your final exams.

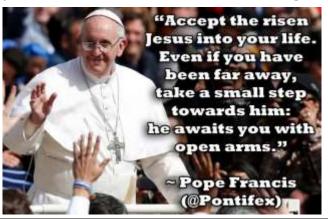
Absolutely important things are important for everybody at all times. For this example, imagine a colossal asteroid is predicted to destroy the world two days from now. This would become of absolute importance to everyone on Earth. For students to be more concerned about the following

finals week would not make sense, and neither would logic validate the worrying about the health of an ill pet fish.

Your race, gender, income bracket, occupation, or relationship status does not affect what is absolutely important, because those things put all items of relative importance into perspective.

If Jesus Christ died and rose on the third day, then that fact is absolutely important. If it's true, then nobody's life is an accident or by chance, suffering has meaning, and death is not the end. If it's true, then everything we do and every decision we make should be oriented toward God (Colossians 3:17).

Thankfully, it is true, and in this way, the Mass has importance of the absolute kind.



1) Jesus is there

What's in your apartment refrigerator? Some mouldy cheese. What's in your dorm? Your smelly roommate.

What's in the library? Books and the prospect of studying them.

What's in the church's tabernacle? Jesus Christ and His promise of eternal life. Boom.

That's right, Jesus Christ, who promised 2,000 years ago that He

would always be with us as the Bread of Life (John 6:22-59) is waiting for you to come into the doors of a Catholic church to participate in His everlasting sacrifice at the Mass (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

And since Jesus welcomes everybody, your smelly roommate can come with you. Just leave the mouldy cheese at home.

Catholics share why they go to Mass

"Some of the best memories from my childhood happened on Sundays. Sunday Mass always seemed like a special beginning to a special day. Our whole family attended mass together each week. I feel that attendance at Sunday Mass is a good way of having a close family relationship and of keeping the whole family close to God."

"As a child I had to go to Mass with my parents ... But by the time I was 16 I thought there must be a better reason for going to Mass; so I decided to try out the old saying, "You only get out of Mass what you put into it." And I found that the more I looked into the prayers, songs, and readings, the more Mass was really a way to share God's love with my fellow Catholics."

"I attend Mass regularly on Sunday out of habit. It is part of my life, just like brushing my teeth and cooking dinner. That's not to say I don't enjoy going to Mass, however ... It just means that Mass is a part of me."

"We have laws in our lives that tell us to buckle up for safety as we drive; so why not a rule to help save our souls?"

"I can't help but feel that sometimes attendance at church gives God the opportunity to talk to people that may not allow him to do so during the week. It would be too easy for these people to become lost to the church were not Mass obligatory. Not all habits are bad!"

"I attend Sunday Mass because I think that if the Lord can give me a whole week—I can at least give him an hour! But most of all I go because he deserves to have me there, to have my love. After all, his love for me is so great that he spread his arms out wide and gave his all for me."

"To be a Catholic without faithful attendance at Mass is like trying to raise a bed of flowers without water, fertilizer, and light."

"Why do I attend Sunday Mass? For the love of God! It seems such a little thing to do for all the blessings I have received."

The Greatest Man in history is Jesus.

He had no servants, yet they called Him Master. He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher. He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer. He had no army, yet kings feared Him. He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world. He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him. He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

The West Wagga Wag

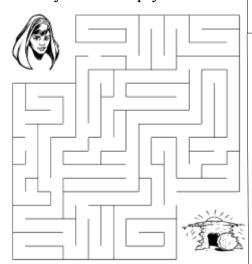
West Wagga Parish



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

Jesus is Alive!

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. John 20:1 Can you help Mary find the way to the empty tomb?



early first day week dark Mary tomb stone moved angels white Lord woman crying gardener teacher Father



Q D E R S Ι D I Z M E S Z C I E Ι R N P E G I L K J J J E S D E D Х Y Е 0 R G G Ν S G В D Ι Z R