West Wagga Parish Serving: Ashmont, Collingullie, Glenfield, Lloyd, and San Isidore

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 174 August 2017

#### Coming Events

St Mary of the Cross	Tue 8
St Lawrence	Thu 10
St Clare	Fri 11
St Maximilian Kolbe	Mon 14
Assumption of the	
Blessed Virgin Mar	y Tue 15
St John Eudes	Sat 19
St Pius X	Mon 21
Queenship of Mary	Tue 22
St Bartholomew	Thu 24
St Augustine	Mon 28
The Passion of S John	
the Baptist	Tue 29
<b>Ember Day</b>	Fri Sept 1



Our Lady of Fatima

Third Apparition

August 19, 1917

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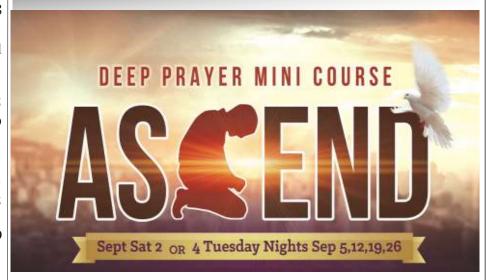
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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: Wednesday August 30th.

#### Parish event - ASCEND



How is Your Prayer Life?

"ASCEND" is an amazing and fruitful mini course on prayer that shows you how to launch a deep and powerful prayer-life whether you are a 'beginner' or a 'seasoned pro'.

My name is Rick Parmenter from Holy Trinity Parish in West Wagga.

I have permission from our Parish Priest Fr Casanova to host a mini course on prayer called "ASCEND" at Holy Trinity Parish Meeting Room.

In short there will be 2 options to attend:

a full day from 9am to 3pm Saturday Sep 2 OR

4 Tuesday nights from 7.30-8.30, Sep 5, then Sep 12, 19, 26.

For more details and where to register look for the poster in foyer and the ASCEND business cards when they come.



## pastor's page - fun informative prayer course



Early next month, our parish will be hosting a course on deepening our prayer life (see page...). I was very happy when Rick Parmenter asked if he could run this course here. As priests in this parish, it is our responsibility to "preach Christ", to come to know Him more personally ourselves and to help others to know Him. But this is a task shared by all of us who are baptised and confirmed.

Jesus asks us as He asked the Apostles, "Who do you say I am?" In prayer and study, in our encounters with Jesus in the Sacraments and even in our neighbours ("I was hungry and you fed Me..."), we come to know Jesus. And then, by word and the witness of our life, we help others to know and love Jesus; this is the greatest and kindest thing we can do for another human being.

St Thomas Aquinas followed the commandment to love God with all his mind very well, and he shared the fruit of his study with the world. Yet, after all this, he was happy to declare that what He came to know about Jesus before the Blessed Sacrament surpassed everything else.

In prayer, all that we learn of Jesus in any other way can become more personal and reach to the depths of our being. Then we can sincerely and with conviction answer the allimportant question, "Who do you say I am?" Imagine, then, being able to kneel before Jesus like St Peter saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!" and with St Thomas to declare, "My Lord and My God!"

I strongly encourage you to take up the opportunity of the "Ascend" prayer course when it takes place in September. I also invite you to take some time in personal prayer to contemplate what are known as the "I am" statements of Jesus in the Gospel of St John.

St John records eight explicit, self-revelatory comments by Our Blessed Lord. He also records five times when Our Jesus says simply, "I AM" (You can read them in John 6:20; 8:24, 28, 58; 18:5) For example, in John Chapter 8, verse 58 Jesus said, "Before A braham was, I am". When the Jews heard Jesus using such language, they were shocked! They remembered that God had revealed His Name to Moses on Mt Sinai, when He said, "I Am Who I Am...tell the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you'."

In using this Name of Himself, the Name YAHWEH ((πιπο in Greek, Ego Eimi (ἐγώ εἰμί), Jesus was saying what He said on another occasion, "I and the Father are one".

These are powerful words. In John 18:5 Jesus asked the soldiers in the Garden of Gethsemane who they were looking for. When they answered, "Jesus of Nazareth", He said, "I AM", and they fell to the ground.

It is with complete faith in Our Lord's words that we praise Jesus in the Gloria, saying "You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father."

Here are the other "I Am" statements of Jesus. Each one could be something to think over when we visit Our Blessed Lord in Church during the week, or something to ponder as we go about our day.

Jesus said,

l am the Bread of life (John 6: 35, 48)

lam the Light of the world (John 8: 12, 9:5)

lam the Door (John 10:9)

l am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)

l am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

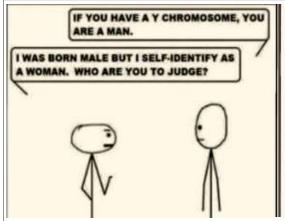
l am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)

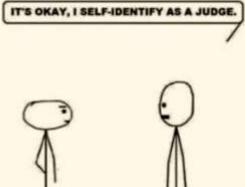
lam the true Yine (John 15:1)

Read these passages in context, pray over them, and realize that it is for you that Jesus came into the world to be these things in His Sacred Humanity.

May God bless our praying and lead us more and more both to know about Jesus and as His disciples and friends, to truly know Him

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS





So I was in the car today and saw someone with the licence plate

"XODUS3 5",

so I thought it sounded like Exodus 3:5 and I looked it up, and do you know what it said?

"Do not come any closer."

Now that's a well done biblical licence plate!

## August Jokes



#### These jokes are criminal!

Bill: Where did you get that gold watch Joe?

Joe: I won it in a race.

Bill: How many people participated

in it?

Joe: Three, a policeman, the owner

of the watch, and me!!

An English prisoner of war was held by the Germans. The Englishman was shot all over the place, and okay until one day when the German told him,

"Englander, your arm is infected with gangrene vee must cut it off." The English prisoner said, "Well, okay, but could you drop it over England when you go bombing?" The German replied, "Ya, that vill not be a problem."

A few weeks later the German tells the Englishman that they have to cut his other arm off. The Englishman says, "Well, could drop it over England like you did last time?"

"Ya, that vill be done," says the German.

The next day the German tells him that they have to cut his leg off. Once again the Brit says, "Well, could you do the same as before?" The German replies, "Vhy, ya." The next the German tells him they have to cut his other leg. "Well," begins the Brit, "could you just..." The German snapped, "No! Ve think you are trying to escape!"

Policeman: Did you know your vehicle was reported stolen? Criminal: It wasn't when I took it.

Several years ago, Andy was sentenced to prison. During his stay, he got along well with the guards and all his fellow inmates. The warden saw that deep down, Andy was a good person and made arrangements for Andy to learn a trade while doing his time.

After three years, Andy was recognized as one of the best carpenters in the local area. Often he would be given a weekend pass to do odd jobs for the citizens of the community. And he always reported back to prison before Sunday night was over.

The warden was thinking of remodelling his kitchen and in fact had done much of the work himself. But he lacked the skills to build a set of kitchen cupboards and a large counter top which he had promised his wife. So he called Andy into his office and asked him to complete the job for him.

But, alas, Andy refused. He told the warden, "Gosh, I d really like to help you but counter fitting is what got me into prison in the first place"

A police officer was escorting a prisoner to jail when his hat blew off. "Shall I run and get it for you?" asked the prisoner obligingly.

"You must think I'm daft," said the officer. "You stand here, I'll get it."

Judge: Tell me your occupation. Prisoner; I m a locksmith, Your Honour. Judge: Then what were you doing in a jewellery shop in the middle of the night when the police saw you? Prisoner; Making a bolt for the door!

Detective: How did you get into counterfeiting? Criminal: I answered an ad that said, "Make money at home."

Detective: Why did you dump those vegetables on my desk? Criminal: You said it was time to spill the beans.

Who is the strongest thief? A shoplifter.

I wondered why the Frisbee was getting bigger, and then it hit me.

What if there were no hypothetical situations?

A Swiss guy, looking for directions, pulls up at a bus stop where two Americans are waiting. "Entschuldigung, koennen Sie Deutsch sprechen?" he asks.

The two Americans just stare at him.

"Excusez-moi, parlez vous Francais?" he tries. The two continue to stare. "Parlare Italiano?" No response. "Hablan ustedes Espanol?" Still nothing. The Swiss guy drives off, extremely disgusted. The first American turns to the second and says, "Y'know, maybe we should learn a foreign language."
"Why?" says the other. "That guy knew four languages, and it didn't do him any good."

#### **Trouble Texting**

Your great aunt just passed away. LOL

Why is that funny? It's not funny David! What do you mean?

Mum lol means laughing out loud!

Oh no!!!!!!!! I sent that to everyone I thought it meant lots of love. I have to call everyone back

Hi Bridget I space space space space how space are space you space doing full stop capital eye love this new phone exclamation mark

I see you're using voice text. You don't have to say space mum it does it for you

I cucumber letter pea ritalin What? Mum stop, just type

What does IDK, LY and TTYL mean?

I don't know, love you, talk to you later.

OK, I will ask your sister.

CHESTHESTER .



## 8 Surprising Facts About Our Lady of Fatima



Fact #1: Healings were not uncommon. Lucia describes in her memoirs how a girl, about 20 years old, met the seers as they walked to pray a Rosary with people. Crying, she "knelt down and begged us to enter her house and say at least one Hail Mary for the recovery of her father, who for three years had been unable to take any rest, on account of continual hiccoughs. In such circumstances, it was impossible to resist."

Lucia helped the girl to stand up and recalled, "As it was already late into the night, and we were finding our way along by the light of lanterns, I therefore told Jacinta to remain [at the sick man's house], while I went on ahead to pray the Rosary with the people...."

When Lucia returned ... Jacinta stood up, offered her goodbyes, and promised she wouldn't forget the man in her prayers.

Next morning the children set out for a visit they planned to a Senhora Emilia's house. Shortly after reaching the house, "we found the happy girl accompanied by her father," Lucia recounted. "He now looked much better, and had lost all trace of nervous strain and extreme weakness. They came to thank us for the grace they had received ... he was no longer troubled by the annoying hiccoughs."

#### Fact #2: On November 17, 2001, Sr Lucia added a new detail about the famous July 13th prophetic vision:

"During the vision, Our Lady, shining bright, held a heart in her left hand, and in her right, a Rosary," she said.

"It is a symbol of love that protects

and saves. It is the Mother who sees her children suffering and suffers with them, even with those who do not love her. For she wants to save them all ... Her Heart is a safe refuge. The devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is the means of salvation for these difficult times in the Church and in the world.

#### Fact #3: St. Francisco did not see Our Lady at first during that initial apparition on May 13.

Our Lady told Lucia to tell Francisco to say the Rosary and he would see the beautiful Lady from heaven.

After Francisco said five or six Hail Marys, he saw "the beautiful heavenly Lady bathed in brilliant light, brighter than the sun.

# Fact #4: After the Miracle of the Sun on October 13, the enemies of religion and anticlerics didn't let up attacks.

A major Lisbon paper, Diario de Noticias, reported what the Masons and followers did on the night of October 23, 1917.

They cut down the tree which they identified as the one where the children experienced the apparitions of Our Lady on the 13th of the month ... They got a surprise when even critics of the Church saw their actions as disgraceful. But the biggest backfire and surprise for them? They cut down the wrong tree!

# Fact # 5: For someone so young, Francisco became quite a contemplative. He had two main goals.

Lucia described how he preferred to pray by himself so he could "think and console Our Lord," he said.

#### Fact #6: Lucia and Jacinta thought that when Mary spoke about the errors of Russia, she was talking about an evil lady called "Russia"

Another proof right away that the apparitions were genuine.

## Fact #7: Quite an incident began on September 8, 1917, that started out in fear.

A tall young man visited Lucia's home. "He was of such tall stature that I trembled with fear. When I saw that he had to bend down in order to come through the doorway in search of me, I thought I must be in the presence of a German. At that time we were at war, and grown-ups would try to frighten children by saying: 'Here comes a German to kill you.' I thought, therefore, that my last hour had come. ..."

He asked Lucia's mother if the child could show him the apparition site... At the site he knelt down and asked Lucia to pray the Rosary with him to receive a special grace from Our Lady that a young lady he knew would consent to become his wife. Lucia thought, 'If she has as much fear of him as I, she will never say

A month later, on October 13 at the site of the last apparition, Lucia got two great surprises.

Yes!'

old!

She said: "I suddenly found myself, after the apparitions, in the arms of this same person, sailing along over the heads of the people..."

Manoeuvring through the crowd he stumbled and fell. But Lucia was caught in the crush of people pressing around her. ...

Then "he appeared again, this time accompanied by the aforesaid girl, who was now his wife! ... This young man is today Dr. Carlos Mendes of Torres Novas."

## Fact #8: About to go hospital, St. Jacinta told Lucia she would be going to heaven in a short while.

Jacinta said, "... Tell everybody that God grants us graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; that people are to ask her for them; and that the Heart of Jesus wants the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated at His side. Tell them also to pray to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for peace since God has entrusted it to her. If I could only put into the hearts of all, the fire that is burning within my own heart, and that makes me love the Hearts of Jesus and Mary so very much!"

What instruction from a 10-year-

### 8 Surprising Pro-Life Quotes from Wonder Woman



I recently made my first unsupervised trip to the movie theatre when my wife and kids were out of town. Honestly, I had never been to a movie by myself. So, with some not-so-typical free time, and a quick Google search of the latest movie reviews, I decided to catch the matinee of *Wonder Woman*. ...

... it wasn't the fancy fighting techniques and impressive scenery that appealed to me. What really drew me in were the overwhelming pro-life themes, and the defence of the innocent. These sentiments were shared on screen (almost exclusively) by the main character, Diana, whom we later discover is Wonder Woman.

Hold on – a strong female lead character – from a major Hollywood blockbuster – proclaiming the defence of innocent life? The themes and quotes were undeniable, so I began to write them down.

Here are the quotes in order of their presentation within the story:

### 1) "I'm willing to fight for those who cannot defend themselves."

After being raised as an Amazon Warrior on an island paradise called Themyscira, Diana is compelled to go out into the real world and fight the God of War, Ares. Understanding that this is an incredibly dangerous quest, Diana's mother, Queen Hippolyta, forbids her to leave the safety of the island.

The queen attempts to coerce her to stay – coercion being an all-too-common determinant for today's life "choices" among young mothers and fathers. Diana resists her mother and proclaims, "I'm willing to fight for those who cannot defend themselves."

## 2) "You would sacrifice all of those lives as if they mean nothing?!"

The real world portion of this story takes place in 1918 during the height of the First World War. After crashing his plane on Themyscira and being rescued by Diana, American veteran Steve Trevor takes the soon-to-be Wonder Woman to the front lines of war, where she searches for Ares. The two of them overhear British intelligence officers scoff at the loss of innocent life – chalking the loss up as collateral damage.

Diana is appalled to hear about the lack of compassion for the innocent.

### 3) "What kind of weapon kills innocents?"

We soon discover that the Germans are plotting to release a devastating toxic gas on the front lines of war. Diana, having been raised in seclusion from the modern society, is dumbfounded by the concept of creating weapons of mass destruction.

Wonder Woman, unbowed by the moral degeneration around her, chooses to use her superpowers for the sake of the world.

#### 4) "Who do you fight for?" Mercenary named Sameer, "No one." "So you only fight for profits?"

The loss of life in today's society has created massive profits for only a small number of people. This is a tough reality that is alluded to by Wonder Woman.

For example, Planned Parenthood performed 323,999 abortions in 2016, (887 per day; 37 per hour; 1 every 97 seconds) all while earning \$1.3 billion (in 2015)...

# 5) Steve Trevor, "We can't save everyone. This is not what we're here to do." "No, but it's what I came to do."

Wonder Woman proceeds to march across the battlefield, with epic music in the background, and singlehandedly saves everyone. That's what I'm talkin' about!

Being pro-life encompasses all lives. There is someone who could use a visit in a hospital or a prison. There is someone who could use some extra food. There is someone who could use some extra clothes. There is someone who could use a hug. Save someone today.

## 6) "You should not be afraid to upset the peace agreement."

Wonder Woman is not satisfied by armistice peace agreements. Save the innocent – or keep fighting. No one ever said that you have to be satisfied with a faulty societal premise.

Laws can be changed. We must keep fighting for the innocent and the defenceless. After all, "You should not be afraid to upset the peace agreement."

### 7) "They were killing people they cannot see – children."

Yep – direct quote.

## 8) "Only love can truly save the world. This is my mission now [and] forever."

This final line in the film is so profound. Lead your decisions in life with love. We should all meditate on that sentiment. As the credits rolled, I couldn't believe what I had been hearing for the last two hours. I was in constant anticipation as I continued hearing these quotes, which clearly called for the defence of the innocent. And then as icing on this cake – love – of course!

I'm not sure if the writers, directors, producers, and actors even intended to present such a profound message. It is ironic that this pleasant Hollywood surprise is contradicted within the realities of our society today.



Actress
Gal
Ggadot's
un-born
baby was
with her
during the
making of
Wonder
Woman.
She made
a
comment
that being

a mother is one of her superpowers.

## Natural Fertility Clinic - introducing Carla

I'd like to introduce myself to those I haven't met yet.

My name is Carla, I'm married and so far have 4 children, living in Wagga.

I am also an accredited Billing's Ovulation Method Teacher, and have the "Natural Fertility Clinic" in Wagga, which I run once a week out of the rooms of Dr Ettie Joubert, an Obstetrician/ Gynaecologist. I am also the Natural Fertility Awareness Program Coordinator for Centacare Wagga.

Billings is one of the Fertility
Awareness Based Methods
(FABM), or NFP method, that is in
keeping with the teachings of the
Catholic Church. What few people
realise, is that this is about more
than just trying to conceive or
trying to avoid conceiving. This is
about understanding how the body
works, and how to identify
abnormalities and keep an eye on
reproductive health.

NFP training should be a requirement for all marriage

preparation, and for ongoing pastoral care of married couples, but outside of a cursory mention in marriage prep, is this really happening?

"This is an aspect of women's healthcare that's a really critical piece of knowledge [for women's overall health], and it shouldn't be this weird add-on that you learned about during your marriage prep, but that it's an ongoing, essential part of what it means to be human and what it means to be living out a married vocation."

So please, make use of me - tell your engaged couples, married couples and families that we are

here. I am happy to come and do a talk to any groups you think would benefit, and can be called/emailed with any questions.

For those people who want to learn more about Billings or how to use it, and getting to Wagga during clinic hours is too hard, we

also have an online tutoring and charting site. For those in Albury, there is also Fertility Care with Dr Paul Evans. He is a NaPro Technology doctor, and has a Fertility Teacher in his rooms, too. Albury Fertility Care.

"The Billings Ovulation Method® is a natural method of fertility management, which also helps you safeguard your reproductive health. To make an appointment at the Natural Fertility Clinic, call the O&G Centre of the Riverina on 6925 3455, or visit www.billings.life for more information."



# Urgent - please pray - politicians may break their promise not to take away our say about Marriage

A group of Liberal MPs are planning to defy their Prime Minister and trash the election promise they made to you. They plan to cross the floor, vote with Labor, the Greens and independents to force the Parliament to debate same-sex marriage.

They promised you there would be no change without a people's vote.

Despite the Prime Minister showing good faith, the Liberal Party is in danger of no longer being able to provide a pathway for marriage, freedom of speech and freedom from gender ideology to be preserved.

Your prayers are needed now urgently as MPs prepare to head back to Canberra. The Liberals are having a special party meeting at 4pm on Monday.

Time and again you have demonstrated what can be achieved when we work together, humbly relying on Almighty God and calmly, politely, and persuasively making our case to MPs.

#### Action:

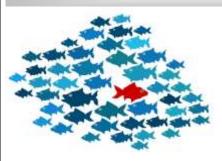
- 1. Please pray! Ask God to change the mind of those Liberal MPs who have the wrong idea about marriage.
- 2. Extra Action: Contact your Liberal and National Party Federal MPs and Senators and tell them not to rob the people of their right to say what Marriage is.

Here is a very useful webpage for contacting your politicians about this issue:

action.fava.org.au/stand4marriage



## Yes, Christians are to be different



Bill Muehlenberg, Jul 25, 2017

Here is my thesis, short and sweet: if you claim to be a follower of Jesus Christ, but you are living just like everyone in the world is, then chances may be good that you really are not a Christian at all. I do not say this by my own authority of course, but by the authority of the Word of God.

Everywhere Scripture highlights how God's people are to be living lives radically different from those who are not God's people. Thus if the life you live is indistinguishable from what any non-Christian lives, then it may be time to ask yourself some hard questions.

And when I say different, I don't mean in a superficial or nominal way. Some Christians are different all right, but mainly because they are just plain weird. It is not that they are holy and Christlike, just odd ... They may have all sorts of man-made taboos, habits and things they run with, but they demonstrate no real godliness.

But the [genuine follower of Christ] will think differently, act differently and relate to others differently. I will explain what this looks like in more detail in a moment. But let me first mention why this article has come about. There have been two main reasons for writing this piece.

The first is something I just caught a glimpse of on TV, while the second is an author I have been reading through of late. The first can be covered quite quickly: it turns out to have been a UK documentary on cam girls. The 60

seconds or so that I saw was enough to leave me all rather gobsmacked. One moment it was showing what this gal was doing ..., and the next

this gal was doing ..., and the next minute it showed her with her flatmate at the dinner table praying...

As I say, I was just floored. Here we had ... sin at its most blatant, yet the folks involved actually seemed to consider themselves Christians with whom God was perfectly happy. Um, yes, we can speak about God's pleasure and blessing on an ex-cam girl, or an ex-prostitute, ..., or an ex-murderer, etc., but not on those still proudly living in known, overt sin.

I thought this was just so utterly bizarre, and reflected on it for a few moments. It occurred to me that there are likely millions of people who live just like the world, or live just like the devil, who have convinced themselves that they are nonetheless just peachy Christians whom God is perfectly happy with. This is deception of the highest order.

The other thing I was doing at the time offered a very nice counter piece to all this. I was reading [a book about the Christian Counter-Culture].

Of course that is a concept I am fully familiar with. I was part of the original secular counter-culture of the late 60s and early 70s. We radical lefties, hippies, druggies and peaceniks really did think we could set up a counter-culture to replace what we considered to be the corrupt, authoritarian, violent, patriarchal, hung-up middle class America.

[The author of my book picked] up on this theme and argues that the real message of the Sermon on the Mount is that we Christians are to be a genuine counter-cultural force. We are to be different. ... He says this:

No comment could be more hurtful to the Christian than the words, 'But you are no different from anybody else.' For the essential theme of the whole Bible from beginning to end is that God's historical purpose is to call out a people for himself; that this people is a 'holy' people, set apart from the world to belong to him and to obey him; and that its vocation is to be true to its identity, that is, to be 'holy' or 'different' in all its outlook and behaviour...

Jesus emphasized that his true followers, the citizens of God's kingdom were to be entirely different from others. They were not to take their cue from the people around them, but from him, and so prove to be genuine children of their heavenly father. To me the key text of the Sermon on the Mount is 6:8: 'Do not be like them.' It is immediately reminiscent of God's word to Israel in olden days: 'You shall not do as they do' (Leviticus 18:3). ... And right through the Sermon on the Mount this theme is elaborated.

Their character was to be completely distinct from that admired by the world... They were to shine like lights in the prevailing darkness. ....

As I said above, if you are living just like anyone in the world is living, you may be in desperate need of a spiritual check-up. It is time we all get back on our faces before God and seek him afresh. Reading the Sermon on the Mount while on our knees in an attitude of humility, brokenness and penitence would be a good way to begin.



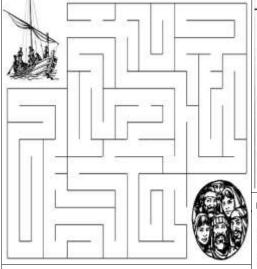
## The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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

#### Help Jesus and the disciples find the way to the crowd.



## Find the words below hidden in the 225 letters to the right.

BASKETFULS	<b>JESUS</b>
FOLLOWED	TOWNS
SATISFIED	FOOD
CROWDS	FOOT
LANDED	LEFT
TWELVE	LATE
HEALED	FISH
THANKS	SICK
LOAVES	BOAT
PEOPLE	ATE

# Jesus Feeds The Five Thousand

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. Matthew 14:20 (NIV)



P E B R S В T A F D В K 1 W E T Z I T N L G U B K Z 0 N T S S T F F I P P K X K В M U E H E L E D S E I Z Т S C L J S U C D E В S 0 D D 0 Q A Ι M E P E Н G E 0 E K S Ι G SA H K K