

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 197

August 2019

Coming Events

**Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament, Holy Trinity**

- 6 to 7am daily;
- overnight from 9pm Friday
through to 7am Saturdays

**Monthly Cuppa, after 9am Mass
on last Sunday of the month.**

**The Transfiguration
of the Lord** Tue 6

St Mary of the Cross Thu 8

St Laurence Sat 10

St Maximilian Kolbe Wed 14

**The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary** Thu 15

St Bernard Tue 20

St Pope Pius X Wed 21

Queenship of Our Lady Thu 22

St Bartholomew, Apostle Sat 24

St Monica Tue 27

St Augustine Wed 28

**Beheading of Saint John
the Baptist** Thu 29

Inside this issue:

Freed from sin! 2

Star Trek B'Elanna Torres 4

God uses our clumsiness 6

Kids' Page 8

Wag Contacts

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The date for submissions for the next
Wag is: Wednesday August 28th.

Well done Vianney College Soccer Team!



The Australian Inter Seminary
Soccer Cup 2019 took place
in Melbourne on the last
weekend in July.



West Wagga Parish was
represented by seven players!



While Sydney's Good Shepherd Seminary
took top spot, our team came an honourable
4th, Vianney College did provide the Golden
Boot player, Michael Perry!



**URGENT: Stop extreme abortion laws
coming to NSW!**

In the Sydney Morning Herald on 1st August, the great Damien Tudehope, NSW Minister for Finance and Small Business, says that a law allowing late-term abortions will be pass - unless voters call their MPs.

Mr Tudehope says that some NSW politicians are trying to rush the law through because "they know it doesn't pass the pub test."

Along with legitimising the killing of unborn babies and allowing abortion up to birth, the law would threaten doctors who will not refer patients for abortion.

To email your state MPs very easily, go here: www.austfamily.com.au

PASTOR'S PAGE "THE LORD HAS FREED YOU FROM YOUR SINS"


CONDITIONS FOR A GOOD CONFESSION.

Examination of conscience. 

Remorse for your sins. 

Resolve to not sin again. 

Tell the sins to the priest. 

Complete your penance. 

churchpop.com

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"The Lord has freed you from your sins, go in peace."

In a few weeks, children from our parish will hear these words for the first time. They will join the many people who really know what it feels like to be forgiven by God and strengthened again to walk in His way.

"I absolve you from your sins..." - what an amazing thing to hear a priest say!

When we have honestly gone to Confession, told all the serious sins we are aware of with the intention of being faithful into the future, we can be completely confident that our sins are forgiven. We waltz out of the Confessional, sins gone, freshly humble and yet confident, ready with God's grace to live well and even do great things for God.

The Sacrament of Confession is not just a wonderful blessing; it is also a necessary blessing.

Our Blessed Lord Jesus gave it for us knowing that it was a necessary help for us to remain faithful and reach heaven. To live without regular Confession may be for many Catholics a sign that they never learned their Faith properly; for others it is a sign of laziness, or embarrassment. Hopefully it is not a sign of pride, a belief that we do not need God's help. Jesus said, *"Without Me you can do nothing"*.

We cannot forgive ourselves, only God can. We need to come to Him in this throne of mercy. Let embarrassment melt away in the

confidence that God loves you and wants to be loved by you. He wants to meet us in this most compassionate and understanding way. Learn by experience how helpful Confession is, and how it reinvigorates us with hope. And how it gives us strength from God to change.

Clinical psychologist Jordan Peterson (look him up on Youtube) offers advice to people who see that their life is a mess and in need of change. He warns that blaming other people for our problems **"is useless"**. Why? Because we cannot change other people. Some things in our situation we cannot change, but there are lots of things we can. He suggests we start by asking ourselves,

- "Have I taken full advantage of the opportunities offered to me?",
- "Am I working to my fullest capacity at work, at school?",
- "Have I set my own house in order?"

If the answer is no, he says, try this: stop doing what you know to be wrong, stop today. Don't over analyse when you already know something is wrong, just stop doing it. **"What can you put right, right now?"** He says that if we do start with ourselves, e.g. getting up on time, not spending money we don't have, not drinking too much etc., and any other things we already know are wrong, then things will get better, we will have peace, we will more clearly know right from wrong, and the path in front of us will shine more brightly. Instead of bringing trouble to ourselves, our friends and family we will be a positive force, and able to handle the normal trials which go with every life.

Dr Peterson concludes: "The proper way to fix the world isn't to fix the world; there's no reason to even assume that you're up to such a task. But you can fix yourself. And you will make the world a better place."

Often, psychology can point out some problems in our life, but it cannot of itself cure them. In a sense, only we can, but when it comes to sin, we can't win without God's help. Science is not against religion, no, it is lost without it. And we are lost without the help that comes from the Sacrament of Confession. With Confession we have the grace that made St Paul say,

"I can do all things in Him who strengthens me!"

A few tips for making the most of Confession:

- Every day, spend a couple of minutes examining your conscience, identifying what you have done which offends God. Think about how you can do better tomorrow, then make an act of Contrition. This will make preparing for Confession really easy.

- In your act of Contrition, don't say, "...I'll try not to sin again". It is much better to make a strong statement of your intention,

"... with Your help, I will not sin again", or

"...please give me the grace I need so that I will not sin again."

If you focus on only trying and not on success, you are much less likely to succeed. Imagine an athlete about to do the high jump. If he is focussed on trying, he is less likely to make the height than if he focuses on jumping clear over the bar. God's grace is enough, more than enough. With His help and your determination, you really can give up sin.

- After Confession, after you do your penance, don't forget to thank God for this grace. After all, He paid a great price for it, for you.

Fr Thomas Casanova
CCS

August Jokes



Space - the final funny tear

What did the astronaut say when he crashed into the moon? I Apollo-gize

How do you get a baby astronaut to sleep? You rocket

Why don't people like the restaurant on the moon? Because there was no atmosphere.

What do Astronauts eat on? Flying Saucers!

A strange 'outer space' signal baffled Australian scientists at the Parkes telescope. The signals were first detected in 1998 and were similar in frequency and duration to fast radio bursts, which are believed to come from another galaxy, except that they only happened during business hours! Turns out that the peryton signal bursts, which had baffled scientists for 17 years, were caused by impatient researchers opening the microwave door prematurely.

What is an astronaut's favourite place on a computer? The space bar.

What time do astronauts eat? At launch time.

How do you tie things in space? With astro-knots.

What kind of music does Buzz Lightyear listen to? Neptunes!

What did the alien say to the cat? Take me to your litter.

Random jokes

No matter how much you push the envelope - it'll still be stationery.

Q: Did you hear about that new broom? A: It's sweeping the nation!

Q: What do you call an elephant that doesn't matter? A: An irrelevant.

Q: What do lawyers wear to court? A: Lawsuits!

Q: What gets wetter the more it dries? A: A towel.

Q: Where do crayons go on vacation? A: Color-ado!

I should never have climbed into this vat of curdled milk. I'm in whey over my head.

You lost your phone and it's on silent? Too bad. If you liked it then you should've put a ring on it

I was hooked on auctions after only going once... going twice

They say a dog can retrieve a tennis ball from over a mile away. Seems a bit far fetched to me.

Called Sea World - They said my call was being recorded for training porpoises

I walked into a dentist's office. The dentist asked me what the problem was.

I said, "I'm a moth."

The dentist said, "You're a moth?"

I said, "Yes! I'm a moth. I act like a moth. I think like a moth. I'm a moth!"

The dentist said, "Sir, I think you want the psychiatrist's office. He's two doors further down the hall."

I said, "I know. I was on my way there, but your light was on."

I was trying to explain the concept of Twitter to my mate. He said, "I don't follow you."

It's, "Jamaican hairstyle day", at work tomorrow, I'm dreading it.

I've been searching for my stolen bed. And I won't rest until I find it.

My doctor told me I was actually shrinking. I said tell me what that means. He said I'd have to be a little patient.

My New Year's resolution for 2014 is to do something about my procrastination.

It's really difficult to find what you want on eBay. I was searching for cigarette lighters and found over 15,000 matches.

I've had to take a second job working in a bakery. I knead the dough.

You should be able to park in an "expecting mother" parking space if you're waiting for your mom.

I have an irrational fear of speedbumps... but, I'm slowly getting over it.

The Indians asked their Chief in Autumn if the Winter was going to be cold or not. Not really knowing an answer, the chief replies that the Winter was going to be cold and that the members of the village were to collect wood to be prepared. Being a good leader, he then went to the next phone booth and called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is this winter to be cold?" The man on the phone responded, "This Winter is going to be quite cold indeed." So the Chief went back to speed up his people to collect even more wood to be prepared. A week later he called the National Weather Service again, "Is it going to be a very cold winter?" "Yes", the man replied, "it's going to be a very cold Winter." So the Chief goes back to his people and orders them to go and find every scrap of wood they can find. Two weeks later he calls the National Weather Service again: "Are you absolutely sure that the Winter is going to be very cold?" "Absolutely," the man replies, "the Indians are collecting wood like crazy!"

The Inspiring Message Pope St. Paul VI Sent to Apollo 11 Astronauts 50 Years Ago



ChurchPOP Editor - July 20, 2019

Fifty years ago, Pope St. Paul VI watched Neil Armstrong become the first man to walk on the moon.

The pope looked at the moon from a telescope and watched the landing on television from the Vatican Astronomical Observatory.

He dedicated Psalm 8 to the astronauts, giving them a handwritten letter to leave on the moon. He also blessed them once



they landed. He then congratulated President Richard Nixon via telegram for the successful landing.

Pope St. Paul VI sent this message to Apollo 11 astronauts:

“Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men of good will!

Christ, when coming among us from the abysses of the divinity, made this blessed voice resound in the firmament.

Today, we, His humble representative, echo and repeat it as a festive hymn on the part of our whole terrestrial globe, no longer the insurmountable boundary of human existence but the open threshold to the wide expanse of boundless space and new destinies.

Glory to God!

And honor to you, the architects of this great space undertaking! Honor to the men responsible to the scientists, the planners, the organizers, and the technicians who made it a reality!

Honor to all those who have made possible this most daring flight. Honor to all of you who in any way played a part.

Honor to you who, seated at your marvelous instruments, control the flight; to you whom inform the world of the enterprise and its timetable, which extends to the depths of the heavens the wise and bold dominion of man.



Honor, greetings and blessings!

Here, from His Observatory at Castel Gandolfo, near Rome, Pope Paul the Sixth is speaking to you astronauts.

Honor, greetings and blessing to you, conquerors of the Moon, pale lamp of our nights and our dreams! Bring to her, with your living presence, the voice of the spirit, a hymn to God, our Creator and our Father.

We are close to you, with our good wishes and with our prayers. Together with the whole Catholic Church, Paul the Sixth salutes you.”



Our planet Earth is Uniquely right for life!

1. Right distance from the sun
2. Not too small to hold our atmosphere
3. Not too large that our atmosphere would heat up.
4. Our sun has the right size, and colour, and stability
5. We have a self-regenerating ozone layer that also provides solar shielding
6. We've got water in good quantity
7. Plate tectonics regulate temperature
8. Our relatively big moon (2% of earth's volume) stabilises our axial wobble
9. Jupiter provides protection from incoming debris
10. Our solar system is in a safe place in the milky way galaxy
11. Earth's molten churning core provides a magnetic field that protects us from dangerous solar flares

**Thank
You,
God!**



Hey Star Trek fans, do you know B'Elanna Torres was atheist but became Catholic? And is a film director?



Roxann Dawson acted for seven years on Star Trek: Voyager as the space ship's half-Klingon, fiery tempered chief engineer, B'Elanna Torres.

"I chose Catholicism — or it chose me," said Dawson at this year's National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in the USA. "I was not born Catholic. I'm the daughter of a very devout atheist."

In a recent interview, she expanded on her search for truth in her formative years. When she began to explore Catholicism, a friend helped her who ultimately became her husband.

"I really fell in love with that religion," said Dawson. "I got married in the Catholic Church and our kids have been raised Catholic as well."

Her career has taken a number of turns, "an amazing ride" that she thought would end with stage acting. But she went on to acting in TV and film and then directing, proving the adage that "you make your plans and watch God laugh," she said. Her advice to young people is to have a plan, but "when God speaks to us to move in a different direction, we have to be

willing to take that risk or we won't know the amazing things that can happen to us. In times when I'm quiet and really listen, those are the moments in my life that have the most profound effect."

Dawson's first major film as director is the 2019 film **Breakthrough**. This 20th Century Fox film has received great reviews in mainstream media.

Breakthrough - The Impossible True Story

Set in the St. Louis area, Breakthrough recounts the true story of how teenager John Smith catastrophically fell through a frozen lake on January 19, 2015.

Rescued after 15 minutes underwater, he was without oxygen for an hour. When his mother prayed, he was revived in what his doctors have called "miraculous" events.

"I just couldn't believe it," said Dawson in a recent radio interview. "The first time I read about the



story was when my agent sent me the script to look at. I read it through once, then read it again. Then, I went online to start doing some research. What I found gave me chills."

The boy's mother, Joyce Smith, authored a 2017 book chronicling the story in detail. Her account is "backed up by 305 pages of medical records," she said in an interview. Several physicians involved in the case say they have no explanation for how John Smith recovered.

"I thought, this story is the most amazing thing I have ever heard of," recalls Dawson.

awson said. "Doing this film is an opportunity for me to explore through work my own feelings of faith."

She hasn't had the opportunity to explore the subject of faith, "so this is something I'm so eternally grateful for," she said.

People are afraid to talk about faith out of the fear of offending someone, Dawson said. "And it's such a shame. Hopefully films like this will open that door again. We can discuss it over the dinner table, we can discuss it with friends."

We don't change the message, the message changes us.

How This Priest Saved a Soul By Dialling the Wrong Number: “Thanking God For Using My Clumsiness”



Fr. Goyo
@FrGoyo

I left a message for a parishioner, Fr. Goyo. I know you. 2min later a call came. "I wanted to talk to you but I was nervous."

I didn't know



God works in mysterious ways!

Fr. Goyo Hidalgo, a priest in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, shared a story on Twitter that will make you second-guess your belief in coincidences.

The parish priest explained that he accidentally dialed the wrong number when calling a parishioner. However, the call resulted in God's providence!

Here's the text of Fr. Goyo's story:

"I left a message for a parishioner, 'This is Fr. Goyo. I know you

needed to talk. I'm here.'

"Two minutes later, [I receive] call back, 'I wanted to talk to a priest for a long time but I was nervous. How did you know?'"

"I didn't know. I dialed a wrong number.

"Thanking God for using my clumsiness."

Multiple users responded to the incredible story. Some users even shared their own!

Here's what some people said:

@MulierFortis, Twitter

"I came back to the church after an absence of 10 years, after feeling convinced I had to visit a Catholic 'church,' It was a Saturday. I had no intention of seeing a priest. I had no idea the church had only just been opened up for Confession & Mass and the priest spotted me..."

Another user responded with an amazing story regarding her brother.

@Sparki777, Twitter

"God uses wrong numbers all the time!"

"In 2015, my older brother was about to have a widow maker heart attack in his sleep. He was awakened by somebody dialing a wrong number.

"Realizing he was having heart attack symptoms, he called 911. Coded as they arrived in the ER. But because he was in ER, he survived. The doctor said if he would have been asleep, he would have died.

"The guy who called him by mistake was an ex-con who desperately needed to know he could do good in the world. My brother went to see him after he was out of the hospital. Win-win."

Who did he call when he was in trouble?



On November 26th, 2008 Islamic terrorists set off a series of bombs in the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel in Mumbai, India. Hundreds of tourists and businessmen were trapped inside.

The terrorists stormed the beach outside the hotel and began an organized assault with machine guns. They intended on killing everyone inside.

An American businessman was among those trapped inside.

To save himself, he crawled into the air-conditioning duct in the ceiling of the hotel. He could hear explosions throughout the hotel, bombs and machine gunfire. He heard the screams of victims.

He lay still and prayed, and he made one phone call.

He called the father of a 9-year-old boy named Brendan Kelly who lived across the globe in Great Falls, Virginia.

The terrified man asked for 9-year-old Brendan's prayers so that he would be delivered from almost certain horrifying death at the hands of fanatics.

Here's the amazing thing.

Brendan Kelly was not only 9 years old, he had Down syndrome and --- even more than that --- suffered most of his life from leukaemia.

The man in the hotel ceiling made one phone call because he knew

Brendan Kelly was close to God.

What's more, he was Brendan's friend. Brendan had many friends, including powerful businessmen who in their time of need would turn to this little powerless boy for help.

Though Brendan had Down syndrome and suffered from leukaemia, he had the most remarkable relationship with God and His Son and through them brought many people to Christ.



The Price of a Miracle



An eight-year-old child heard her parents talking about her little brother. All she knew was that he was very sick and they had no money left. They were moving to a smaller house because they could not afford to stay in the present house after paying the doctor's bills. Only a very costly surgery could save him now and there was no one to loan them the money.

When she heard her daddy say to her tearful mother with whispered desperation, 'Only a miracle can save him now', the little girl went to her bedroom and pulled her piggy bank from its hiding place in the closet. She poured all the change out on the floor and counted it carefully.

Clutching the precious piggy bank tightly, she slipped out the back

door and made her way six blocks to the local drugstore. She took a quarter from her bank and placed it on the glass counter.

"And what do you want?" asked the pharmacist.

"It's for my little brother," the girl answered back. "He's really very sick and I want to buy a miracle."

"I beg your pardon?" said the pharmacist.

"His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my daddy says only a miracle can save him. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, child. I'm sorry," the pharmacist said, smiling sadly at the little girl.

"Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I can try and get some more. Just tell me how much it costs."

In the shop was a well-dressed customer. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," she replied with her eyes welling up. "He's really sick and mommy says he needs an operation. But my daddy can't pay

for it, so I have brought my savings".

"How much do you have?" asked the man.

"One dollar and eleven cents; but I can try and get some more", she answered barely audibly.

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man, "A dollar and eleven cents - the exact price of a Miracle for little brother."

He took her money in one hand and held her hand with the other. He said, "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the kind of Miracle you need."

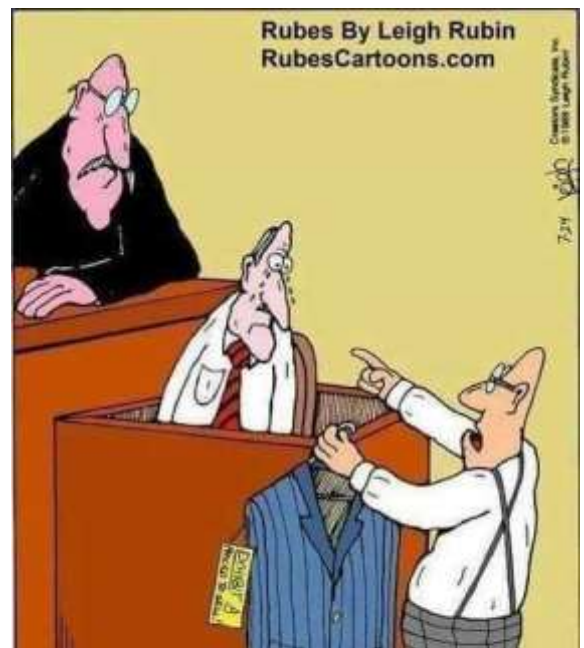
That well-dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a neurosurgeon. The operation was completed without charge and it wasn't long before Andrew was home again and doing well.

"That surgery," her mom whispered, "was a Real Miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost."

The little girl smiled. She knew exactly how much the Miracle cost ... one dollar and eleven cents ... plus the Faith of a little child.



**IN CASE YOU STILL DON'T GET IT,
MAYBE THE AGING APP WILL HELP.**



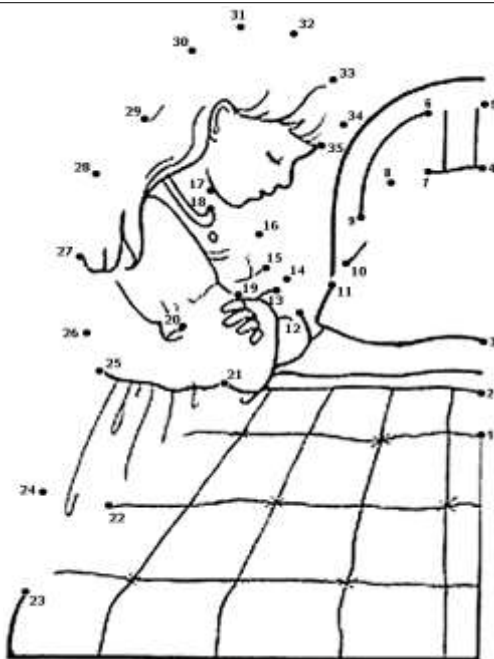
When pressed, the tailor, a material witness in the suit, came apart at the seams. His altered testimony completely unravelled. The tale he had woven had been a complete fabrication.

The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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

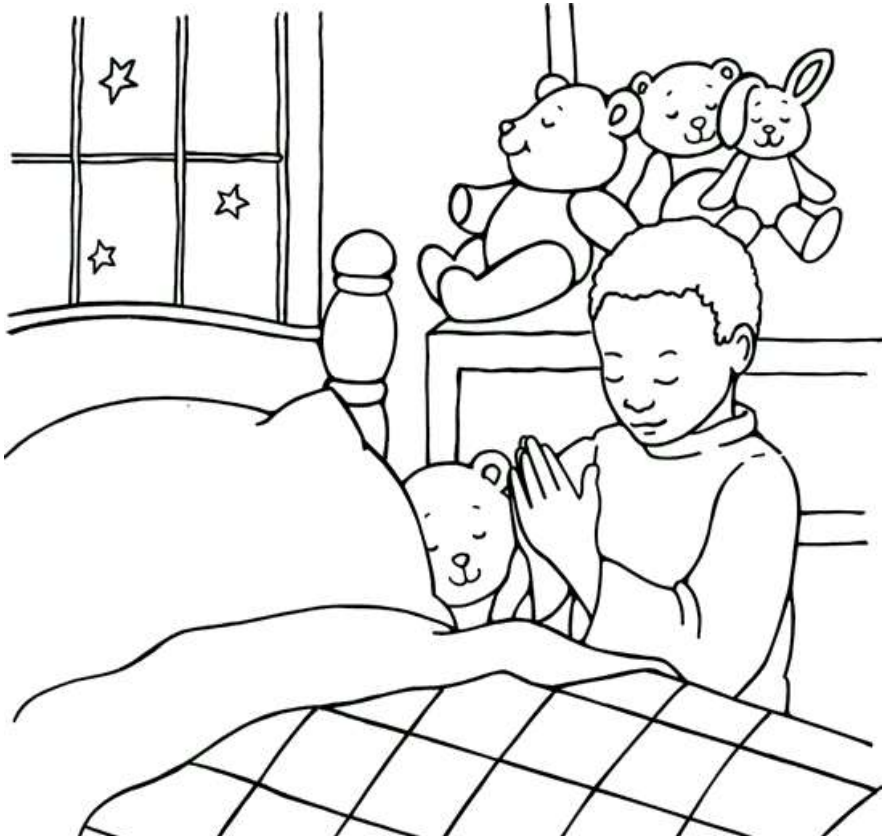


Find the words below hidden in the 225 letters to the right.

TEMPTATION	BREAD
HALLOWED	DAILY
KINGDOM	PRAY
FORGIVE	LORD
HEAVEN	NAME
FATHER	EVIL
TEACH	SINS
EARTH	

Teach Us to Pray

And He said to them, When you pray say, Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." Luke 11:1-4



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