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

The West Wagga Wag

December 2016 Issue 166

Coming Events

Adoration - 6 to 7am daily, all night Fridays starting 9pm

St Nicholas Tue 6 St Ambrose Wed 7

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Thurs 8

Our Lady of

Holy Family

Mon 12 Guadalupe Mon 19 Set up Bethlehem from

Come to Bethehem

8-9.30pm Thurs to Sat 22-24

Pack up Bethlehem Mon 26 Tue 27 St John the Apostle Wed 28 **Holy Innocents** Fri 30



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Wag Contacts

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

"Come to Bethlehem" on again!

We are grateful to the many parishioners and others who have volunteered their time and energy over previous years. Please consider helping this Christmas.

In keeping with Diocesan best practice, adults volunteering without their own children present are asked to obtain a "Working with Children Check number (wwc#) before hand and provide this to the



parish. This is totally free and Michael at the parish house will assist to ensure that safety for all children is paramount.

Volunteer times

Come to Bethlehem Evenings - Thur 22, Fri 23, Sat 24, 7.30 - 10pm.

Pack Up - Mon Dec 26th. **Set Up** - Mon Dec 19th and Tues Dec 20th.

Thank you for considering to contribute to this Christmas parish event!

Long-Time Parishioner of San Isidore Turns 90

A surprise birthday party was arranged for Kevin Laurent and held at the RSL on Saturday. November 26. Kevin's actual birthday is November 29, 1926. Patricia, Kevin's wife, found it exceedingly difficult to keep



this secret from Kevin successfully. Moreover, remarkably Kevin was genuinely surprised and had no inkling that such a huge celebration had been prepared by his daughters, spearheaded by Mary. Naturally, all the boys of the family left it to the girls. Nevertheless, both Kieran and Kevin had much to say at the celebration in praise of their father and mother as did many other speakers who spoke of working relationships and long-standing friendships. A very special occasion it was, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

More about Kevin and San Isidore on page 4.

Farewell Mary Slattery

Miss Mary Slattery died at the Loreto Home of Compassion on Tuesday, 29 November, 2016. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

Mary has the distinction of being one of the residents who spent 50 years or more in the care of the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion and the dedicated staff of their Homes of Compassion.

Born in 1928, Mary suffered a complicated birth. Sadly, Mary suffered from impaired speech and her left side including arm and leg were semi-paralysed. In her youth, however, Mary was able to get around with a limp and only finished up in the wheelchair in her later years. Continued page 5.

pastor's page - Christmas is coming, Advent is here!

Advent is a time of grace, but one that passes quickly, a lot more quickly than Lent, so it is important not to waste it.

Advent is about the coming of Christ, preparing to meet Him at the end of our life and at the end of the world - we have here no lasting home, our real home is in heaven. If we reach heaven, we will feel completely at home, but What a Home! But those who go to hell realize they will never reach home. Jesus is the way to our eternal Home, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Me." Advent is a time to focus intently and joyfully on welcoming Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life of our soul.

The Way

We welcome Jesus as the Way, as our King, by living the holy and virtuous life He commands: keeping the Commandments, conforming our life according to His pattern. We ask St Joseph to help us to be upright and God-fearing people. So in Advent we humbly examine what needs to change about our way of behaving. Now is the time! We also strive to live in charity, to think of others more than of ourselves, to show charity to those in need the way the inn-keeper should have to Mary and Joseph.

The Truth

We welcome Jesus as the Truth by listening to Him teaching us in the Church, especially in Sacred Scriptures. Time to dust off our Bible, and read it daily, especially

the Gospel of St Luke. Imagine you were reading it for the first time. Read it prayerfully and then pray about it after you have read. We ask Our Mother to help us ponder the Word of God and treasure it, treasure Him, in our hearts. But especially we ask God to help us make it part of our life, acting on what we learn. Like Mary we want to be people of Faith, "Blessed is she who believed that the promises made her by the Lord would be fulfilled." We recommit to being people who love the Church and the Saints, also committed to sharing the Faith with others. Why not begin by sharing the Wag or parish bulletin with people you know? Invite at least one person to come to Mass during Advent.



The Life

We welcome Jesus as our Life by letting Him pour His life into us in prayer and the Sacraments. He does this when we come to Mass - come to weekday Masses during Advent! Every time we are in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus Himself, we are able to receive so much more of His life, especially by receiving Holy Communion worthily. Confession is also a super charge of Divine Life. Try to come to Confession two times before

Christmas.

We are all called to Heaven, the Home of our Father. That is the only place we can find true and lasting happiness. But we can reach Heaven only through Jesus. So let's welcome Him into our life throughout each day.

What about some practical Advent suggestions?

- · Have an Advent Wreathe at home
- Place Holy Pictures or Crucifix or statues in more prominent positions during Advent, put flowers before them
- Set up your Crib, and every time you do an act of kindness place in a straw of hay
- Read a chapter of the Bible daily
- Try to get to the early morning Mass often
- Get to Mass early so that you can prepare for the Coming of Jesus in Holy Communion
- Go twice to Confession before Christmas
- Wear something purple

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of Your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS



Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen wrote this story: "In the midst of a great sea there was an island with a great

wall, a high wall. On that island lived children, who sang and played. One day some men came to the island in a rowboat. They called themselves 'liberators' and said to the children, 'Who put up these

Choosing God's Law = Freedom

walls? Who built these barriers? Can you not see that they are restraining your freedom and your liberty? Tear them down. Be free.'

"The children tore down the walls. Now if you go back, you will find all the children huddled together in the centre of the island, afraid to sing, afraid to play, afraid to dance, afraid of falling into the sea!"

Adam and Eve had original innocence, no shame, the freedom of children.

But the Devil tempted them to trade conscience for a counterfeit, to swap love of God and His instructions for a pretend maturity and a false freedom. It was a trick.

Jesus says, "Unless you become as little children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Do not fall for the Devil's temptation to talk yourself away from God's instructions, to do away with the "barriers" and "walls" that God built out of love for His children.

December Jokes



- Q: Why did the dinosaur cross the road? A: The chicken hadn't evolved yet!
- Q. No really, why did the T-rex cross the road?
- A. So he could eat the chickens on the other side!!!
- Q: What did the female dinosaur call her blouse making business? A: Try Sara's Tops
- Q: What do dinosaurs put on their pizza? A: Tomato-saurus
- Q: What do you call a dinosaur with one eye? A: Doyouthinkhesawus
- Q: What kind of dinosaur works for the police? A: A trisara-cops.
- Q: What do you call a dinosaur at the rodeo? A: Bronco-saurus or a Tyrannasourus Tex
- Q: What do you call a dinosaur that's a noisy sleeper? A: A Brontosnorus.
- Q: What do you call a dinosaur that eats it's vegetables? A: A.brocileasoarus
- Q. What do you call a dinosaur as tall as a house, with long sharp teeth, and 12 claws on each foot? A. Sir.
- Q: What do you call a Stegosaurus with carrots in its ears? A: Anything you want, it can't hear you!
- Q: What do you get when a dinosaur blows it's nose? A: OUT of the way!!
- Q: What kind of materials do dinosaurs use for the floor of their homes? A: Rep Tiles
- Q: What should you do if you find a dinosaur in your bed? A: Find somewhere else to sleep!

- Q: What do dinosaurs have that no other animals have? A: Baby Dinosaurs.
- Q: Which dinosaur can't stay out in the rain? A: A Stegosaur-rust
- Q: What do you get if you cross a Triceratops with a kangaroo ? A: A Tricera-hops!
- Q: What do you call a dinosaur with high heels? A: My-feet-are-saurus
- Q: What's as big as a dinosaur but weighs nothing? A: Her shadow!
- Q: How do you ask a dinosaur to lunch? A: Tea Rex?
- Q: What do you get when a dinosaur sneezes? A: Out of the way!
- Q: Which dinosaurs were the best policemen? A: Tricera-cops!

A young farm kid wrote home after joining the marines.

Dear Ma and Pa:

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled.

I was restless at first because you get to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m. But I am getting used to it, so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot, and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing.

Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water. Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food, but tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food, plus yours, holds you until noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk

We go on "route marches," which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A "route march" is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks.

The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags a lot. The Captain is like the school board. Majors and colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move, and it ain't shooting at you like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home. I'm about the best they got in this except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake . I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds and he's 6'8" and near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter, Alice



Long-Time Parishioner of San Isidore Turns 90 ... continued



Kevin and Pat have been married for over 60 years and thoroughly appreciated the efforts of their 11 children and their families (26 grandchildren and eight greatgrandchildren), extended relatives, some of whom travelled from Western Australia and Queensland, and of course his many longstanding friends.

The Laurents moved into their new home at San Isidore in 1967. Pat commented "it was a wonderful place for children. They could play in the hills and be quite safe wherever they were in San Isidore. At that time, the entire population was 100% Catholic." In the 1960s, there was a half circle metal army barracks shed that was used as the temporary church. Some people are surprised by the size of San Isidore Church of Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist which can seat 300 people. This building effort is a tribute to the many wonderful individuals who worshipped God there over many decades from the early 1950s until the present time. Moreover, the

public school which is now closed and adjacent to the church always had Catholic principles and was in fact 100% Catholic in its students until it closed in the late 70s.

Kevin and Pat have enjoyed their home in Eugene Avenue where in the early days Pat and the children planted and harvested strawberries over many years for sale in town, while Kevin was the branch manager of the Wagga TAB.

The Parish gives thanks to Kevin and Pat and their children for their generous contribution to the life of the parish over the last 50 years and wishes them health and happiness in the future.

Lucy of Narnia Was a REAL Saint? Yep, and She Had a Miraculous Life

This is amazing!

Stephen Bullivant over at the Catholic Herald has made an incredible find for Narnia fans everywhere: there is a saint called Bl. Lucy of Narnia.

And November 16th, is her feast day. Yes, this is real life.

If you're lost, here's an explanation for the uninitiated:

- One of the most popular book series ever is Christian apologist C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia* (also a fun film series),
- and one of the main characters is a girl named Lucy.



That's why it's incredible there's a real life Bl. Lucy of Narnia.

And it's not entirely a coincidence. Narnia (also called Narni) is a small town in Italy. Lewis came across the town on an atlas as a child and liked the name. It stuck with him and he named his imaginary book series world after it. Some also speculate that Lewis was inspired to name one of his characters after Bl. Lucy of Narnia, though it's not absolutely clear this is the case. There have been a number of Lucy saints, most notably the 3rd century saint that's named in the traditional Roman Canon of the Mass.

Bl. Lucy of Narnia lived in Italy in the 15th and 16th centuries. Among other things, she had a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary as a child, took a vow of virginity, and experienced stigmata.

SIGN UP FOR BISHOP BARRON'S FREE DAILY ADVENT REFLECTIONS!

Bishop Robert Barron is once again offering FREE daily reflections throughout the season of Advent.

To sign up for the Advent reflections, just visit **AdventReflections.com** and from Sunday, November 27 through to Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day), Bishop Barron will send you a short email with an uplifting spiritual reflection.

You'll also receive exclusive videos, access to free giveaways of Bishop Barron's DVDs and books, and special discounts on new and exciting resources.

The best part of all? It's totally FREE!

So sign up now and join over 275,000 people on this journey through Advent. Visit AdventReflections.com



Farewell Mary Slattery ... continued

William and Brigid Slattery were loving parents and did all they could to provide Mary with as normal a life as possible, but most especially they provided her with family happiness. For 27 years Mary's mother Brigid cared for her with affection and kindness, supported by her husband. After Brigid's death, her father did the best he could but eventually it was decided that Mary would reside with the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion who in 1952 established their nursing home in Fox Street, Wagga Wagga. In 1974, after the completion of the Loreto Home of Compassion in Ashmont, Mary transferred to the new building. The daughters of Our Lady of Compassion became Mary's new home and family, particularly after her father died. Undaunted by her various disabilities, Mary was bright and happy as a youth and indeed when she was stronger she even assisted very much in her new environment, even helping out with some of the other residents as best she could. Those who knew Mary were impressed by her bright and peaceful demeanour and her interest in whatever was happening around her. Although Mary was easy-going, considerate and appreciative towards those who cared for her, she remained her own person and even with communication difficulties was able to make herself quite clear when necessary. Undeterred by her difficulties, she accepted and

enjoyed life and those who loved her and whom she loved.

Her Irish mother Brigid instilled in Mary, from her earliest days, a deep faith in Jesus Christ and love for Almighty God. While some may consider Mary's life sad and unfortunate due to her difficult birth, in reality for those who live the life of Christ in grace, everything they are and the good they do is a blessing and leads to an eternal reward.

The Holy Book of Wisdom reminds us: "The heavenly Father accepts people who suffer as a holocaust. The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them. In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die, their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us, like annihilation; but they are in peace. If they experienced punishment as we see it, their hope was rich with immortality; slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be. God has put them to the test and proved them worthy to be with him; he has tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a fragrant offering. When the time comes for his visitation, they will shine out; they shall judge nations, rule over peoples, and the Lord will be their king for ever. They who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love; for grace and mercy await those he has chosen." In a world that only measures people by their productivity and completeness, Mary's life may seem

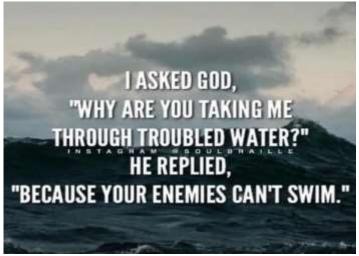


Mary Slattery at Loreto Annual Ball with Adrian Hallam, Home of Compassion's activities coordinator.

see in people like Mary shining images of virtue and patience. Too often value and prestige are only given to the capable, the rich, the famous, the beautiful, and the whole; while God looks deeply into the heart of every person weak or strong, poor or wealthy, ugly or attractive, wounded or healthy. Indeed, every creature has value, and human beings in particular retain an eternal value. Mary has gone to her peace in Christ and now shines forth with a brilliance and worth beyond the norm. Mary was not only the recipient of much kindness and compassionate care, but in her own way provided a lifetime of opportunities for many others to demonstrate charity or its shallow counterfeit.

Mary, requiescat in pace.





Australian Catholic Bishops on Cremation



The Australian Catholic Bishops welcome a new document from the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published today, 25 October 2016, regarding burying the deceased and conserving ashes when cremation is chosen. Titled, 'Ad resurgendum cum Christo' meaning 'To rise with Christ', the document provides details about the doctrinal and pastoral reasons for choosing a burial. It also explains what is appropriate when conserving ashes in the case of cremation.

The Congregation highlighted that the contents of the document, 'To rise with Christ', are intended as a point of reference for the Church. Archbishop Denis Hart, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference said, "The new instruction, 'To rise with Christ', affirms what the Church has always held with regard to cremation,

reverence for the human remains in the body or in the ashes and the following burial".

Key points in the newly published document include:

- States the Church's preference for burial of the remains of the faithful
- Because of Christ, Christian death has a positive meaning. The Christian vision of death receives privileged expression in the liturgy of the Church: 'Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven'.
- Following Christian tradition, the Church recommends that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places
- Burial is above all the most fitting way to express faith and hope in the resurrection of the body
- By burying the bodies of the faithful, the Church confirms her faith in the resurrection of the body, and intends to show the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person whose body forms part of their identity
- Through the practice of burying

the dead in cemeteries, in dedicated spaces within church buildings or their environs, Christian tradition has upheld the relationship between the living and the dead and has opposed any tendency to minimise, or relegate to the private sphere, the event of death and the meaning it has for Christians

- The Church raises no doctrinal objections to the practice of cremation
- The ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or in dedicated spaces within church buildings or their environs
- This ensures they are not excluded from the prayers and remembrance of their family or the Christian community
- Conservation of the ashes in a private residence is not permitted
- Out of respect for the integrity and sacredness of both body and ashes, scattering or dividing ashes among family members is not favoured

If anyone has ashes of loved ones at home, feel free to chat with your local priest about plans for placing them at the Cemetery or, if there were a few in this situation, we could consider a memorial at one of the parish churches.

Polish Bishops and President Duda Declare Christ King of Poland

In a ceremony at the Church of Divine Mercy in Krakow, Poland on Saturday 19 November, the Catholic Bishops of Poland in the presence of President Andrzei Duda and many Catholic pilgrims, officially recognized Jesus Christ as the King of Poland and called upon Him to rule over their nation, its people and their political leaders.

"Immortal King of Ages Lord Jesus Christ, our God and Saviour," they declared at the ceremony, "bowing our heads before You, King of the Universe, we acknowledge Thy dominion over Poland, those living in our homeland and throughout the world. Wishing to worship the majesty of Thy power and glory, with great faith and love, we cry

out: Rule us, Christ!"

The enthronement or recognition of Christ as King of Poland "was repeated at many Polish cathedrals and parishes on Sunday, Nov 20.

The origin of the ceremony in Poland stemmed from "revelations received, or said to be received, by the Servant of God Rosalia Zelkova," reported Fr. McDonald. "The Lord, she said, demanded that He be enthroned as King by the Polish nation as such and not just in the hearts of the Poles, in a particular manner, and this would save Poland in a [future] war that was coming."

"The social kingship of our Divine Lord is absolutely founded in



necessary and dogmatic truths about Christ," said Fr. McDonald. "It is not merely an element of private revelation. St. Gregory the Great said that there were heretics who denied that Christ is the King of and over everything."

Culpable moral blindness? Call the conscience doctor!

What is culpable moral blindness? Culpable moral blindness is when a person chooses ignorance so that conscience can't do its job; because conscience cannot come up with rulings all on its own, it cannot create right and wrong or change God's law.

If we do hear a voice that sounds like conscience, but which starts "deciding" all on its own what is right and wrong (think of a corrupt judicial activist judge who changes the law to suit his personal political fancy), we will know that it is not the voice of God within us, it is not our conscience but a "miserable counterfeit" called "the right of self -will". If we choose to follow that miserable counterfeit then call the doctor – we have a case of culpable moral blindness!

An opportunity to sin comes up, conscience asks us to think whether this is right or wrong to do, but we turn to counterfeit conscience which works to get a yes - now, before the opportunity to sin slips away. So miserable counterfeit conscience cuts short the process of discovering the truth and uses rationalisation to block one's ears to moral truths and divine revelation, rejecting God and rejecting natural law. Miserable counterfeit conscience loves the

THE UNIT MERICA (72390245 A) I

absurd idea that you can somehow discern that moral truths should not be followed or should not be recognised.

If you're up for some very profitable, rich, intellectual bodybuilding on all this, read St John Paul II's Veritatis Splendor and Evangelium Vitae, and Blessed John Henry Newman's Letter to the Duke of Norfolk Section 5. Blessed Newman was defending Pope's Pius IX and Gregory XVI who had condemned a "conscience" which rejected God and rejected natural law. While

and rejected natural law. While you're still psyching yourself up to get into a John Paul II Veritatis Splendor fitness program, here is a little bit to ponder and take in from Cardinal Newman.

Cardinal Newman says real conscience "is not a long-sighted selfishness, nor a desire to be consistent with oneself", not "a fancy or an opinion, but [a] dutiful obedience to what claims to be a divine voice, speaking within us".

"When men advocate the rights of [miserable counterfeit conscience], they in no sense mean the rights of the Creator, nor the duty to Him, in thought and deed, of the creature; but the right of thinking, speaking, writing, and acting, according to their judgment or their humour,

without any thought of God at all. They do not even pretend to go by any moral rule, but they demand, what they think is an Englishman's prerogative, for each to be

"The greatest deception, and the deepest source of unhappiness, is the illusion of finding life by excluding trade, of finding freedom by excluding moral truths and personal responsibility."

St. John Paul II

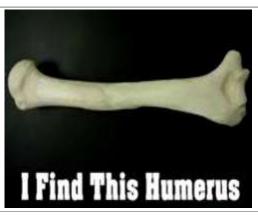
his own master in all things, and to profess what he pleases, asking no one's leave, and accounting priest or preacher, speaker or writer, unutterably impertinent, who dares to say a word against his going to perdition, if he like it, in his own way. Conscience has rights because it has duties; but in this age, with a large portion of the public, it is the very right and freedom of conscience to dispense with conscience, to ignore a Lawgiver and Judge, to be independent of unseen obligations. It becomes a license to take up any or no religion, to take up this or that and let it go again, to go to church, to go to chapel, to boast of being above all religions and to be an impartial critic of each of them. Conscience is a stern monitor, but in this century it has been superseded by a counterfeit, which the eighteen centuries prior to it never heard of, and could not have mistaken for it, if they had. It is the right of selfwill."



What happens to nitrogen when the sun rises? It becomes daytrogen.

I'm going to bed!

Good nitrogen, sleep tightrogen, don't let the bed bugs bitrogen!



The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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

Help Mary and Joseph get to the stable.

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

HEAVEN PREPARE STRAIGHT BAPTIST PREACHING HONEY LOCUSTS **PATHS KINGDOM JOHN PROPHET CAMEL** LEATHER **BELT** REPENT LORD **DESERT HAIR CLOTHES** WILD

A Voice in the Wilderness

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)



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