

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 190

December 2018

## Coming Events

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Trinity**  
- 6 to 7am daily;  
- overnight from 9pm Friday through to 7am Saturdays

<b>1st Sunday of Advent</b>	Sun 3
<b>Immaculate Conception</b>	Fri 8
<b>Saint Juan Diego</b>	Sat 9
<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>	Sun 10
<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>	Tue 12
<b>Saint Lucy</b>	Wed 13
<b>Saint John of the Cross</b>	Thu 14
<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>	Sun 17
<b>Saint Peter Canisius</b>	Thu 21
<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>	Sun 24
<b>Christmas!</b>	Mon 25
<b>Saint Stephen</b>	Tue 26
<b>Saint John</b>	Wed 27
<b>The Holy Innocents</b>	Thu 28
<b>Feast of the Holy Family</b>	Sun 31

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

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## Wag Contacts

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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: Wednesday Jan 2nd.

## Holy Trinity Primary School Fete Success



Thank you to our Fete Committee and families.

You have raised \$14,572

at the Holy Trinity School Fete on Friday 2 November.



## CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

**MASS  
AND  
CONFESSIONS**

## FOR THE WEST WAGGA PARISH

**Confessions:** 21 Dec Thur 7.30pm  
22 Dec Fri 11am - 12 noon

<b>Holy Trinity</b>	Christmas Vigil:	6.45pm
<b>Holy Trinity</b>	Midnight Mass:	12 midnight

<b>San Isidore Church</b>	Christmas Day :	8am
<b>Holy Trinity Church</b>	:	9
<b>Collingullie Church</b>	:	9.30
<b>Home of Compassion</b>	:	10.30
<b>Holy Trinity Church</b>	:	5.30pm

**COME TO BETHLEHEM see page 5**

## PASTOR'S PAGE - THE LORD'S NAME

*Thou Shalt Not Take the Lord's Name in Vain: Blasphemy (deliberately using "God", "Jesus" and "OMG" as a joke or expression) is Still a Sin.*

The Feast of Christ the King reminded us that one day we will all stand before God's throne. There we will see Jesus in a way so different from how we have ever seen Him before.

We have come to know Jesus in His meekness, through pictures of Bethlehem and Calvary. But we will witness His majesty, as EVERYBODY bows down before Him, all who believe and love Him (excited and ecstatic) and all who disbelieved, ignored, despised and denied Him, including presidents and celebrities (ashamed and horrified by their mad arrogance).

*"Every knee will bend and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord"*

How humble Jesus is when we meet Him in the Bible, in Holy Communion and in our personal prayers; but "He will come in glory to judge the living and the dead", weighing not only our actions but also our words. We will remember that He said,

*"He who declares Me before men, I will declare before My Father*

*in heaven; he who denies Me before men, I will deny before My Father in heaven."*

At that moment as the whole universe holds its breath waiting to know where each person will spend eternity, we will remember how we used the name of God.

God's name is holy. Even though Western society no longer takes it seriously, blasphemy is still a sin – and a grave one at that.

The second of the Ten Commandments states clearly:

*"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain."* (Exodus 20.7)

Here's how the Catechism explains it:

"Respect for His name is an expression of the respect owed to the mystery of God Himself and to the whole sacred reality it evokes. [...] The second commandment forbids the abuse of God's name, i.e., every improper use of the names of God, Jesus Christ, but also of the Virgin Mary and all the saints." (CCC 2144, 2146)

One way to break this commandment is blasphemy,

which the Catechism defines as:

*"uttering against God – inwardly or outwardly – words of hatred, reproach, or defiance; in speaking ill of God; in failing in respect toward him in one's speech; in misusing God's name."* (CCC 2148)

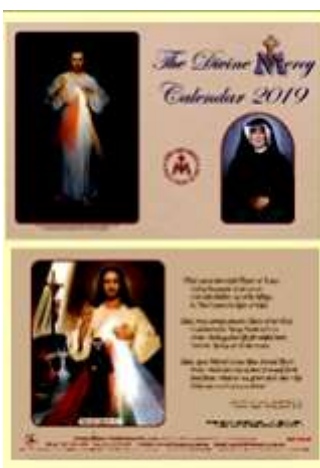
As a result, the Catechism concludes "it is in itself a grave sin."

As with all sins, a person can receive forgiveness if he repents and confesses his sin. But this means the person acknowledges that what he did is wrong and resolves to commit the sin no more. Meanwhile, the casual misuse of God's name seems to be everywhere throughout society without a thought to its seriousness.

So, may we first repent of our own sins, and then lovingly and appropriately warn others!

Every time we hear someone use the Lord's name in vain, we can inwardly say the name of Jesus with love as a prayer for the person who may not know what he is doing. He may be very grateful to you in the next life.

Fr Thomas Casanova  
CCS



### Divine Mercy Wall Calendar 2019

\$15 - see Priests to purchase. Size: 31cm x 21cm (12"x 8.5").

This popular calendar contains over 300 small pictures of various Saints and special Feast Days within the Catholic Church, which will inspire many people to remember and celebrate their favourite feast days.

Other features include:

- A beautiful glossy double-laminated cover
- Two beautiful pictures on each month together with inspirational quotations and monthly devotional themes

- Handy helps for finding Mass readings, Feast days and even vestment colours!

- An excellent very useful mini-catechism to help you to know how to practise your faith.



# December Jokes



## Summer

Q: What do toads drink on a hot summer days?

A: Ice cold Croak-o-cola.

Q: During the summer, when do you go at red and stop at green?

A: When you're eating a slice of watermelon.

Q: Why did the gymnast put extra salt on her food?

A: So she could do summer salts.

Q: What did the beach say to the people who came back for the summer?

A: Long time no sea.

## Beach

Q: What do you call a cat who lives at the beach?

A: Sandy claws.

Q: Why did the dolphin cross the beach?

To get to the other tide!

Q: What did one tidal pool say to the other tidal pool?

A: Show me your mussels.

What did the Ocean say to the shore?

Nothing. It just waved.

Q: What do you call a French guy in sandals? A: Phillipe Phloppe.

While snorkelling for the very first time, Fred had finally gained control of his breathing and started to relax when he saw this black, snakelike thing swimming close to his chest. Fred began screaming and

quickly swam back to the boat. It was a big relief when the "snake" turned out to be the belt strap from his life jacket.

## Sea

Q. What did the wise papa fish tell his son?

A: Keep your friends close and your anemones closer.

Q. Where does a killer whale go for braces? A: The orca-dontist.

Q. Why are there fish at the bottom of the sea?

A: Because they dropped out of school.

Q. Where does seaweed look for a job?

A: In the kelp-wanted section.



Q. What does seaweed say when it's stuck at the bottom of the sea?

A: "Kelp! Kelp!"

Q. What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?

A: A nervous wreck.

Q: Why don't oysters share their pearls?

A: Because they're shellfish!

Q: Why do fish like to eat worms?

A: Because they get hooked on them!

Q: Why should you never blame a dolphin for doing anything wrong?

A: Because they never do it on porpoise!

Q. Have you heard about the restaurant that caters exclusively to dolphins? A: It only has one customer, but at least it serves a porpoise.

Q: What is a shark's favourite sandwich?

A: Peanut butter and jellyfish!

Q. Why does it take pirates so long to learn the alphabet? A: Because they spend years at C!

Q. Did you hear about the red ship that collided with the blue ship?

A: All the sailors were marooned.

## Holidays

Driving across California, we stopped at a red light in a beautiful old western town. As I admired the elegant storefronts and beautiful scenery, I didn't notice that the light had turned green and back to red again. It was then that a police officer tapped on my window and said, "That's all the colors we got here."

My son took his first flight at the age of four. He was scared about flying, so he called the attendant over and told her that he wanted the plane not to "flight" but just to get "going on the road!" The flight attendant played along and agreed. As the plane sped down the runway, my son called back to her, "I told you by road, but not so fast!!!"

I was looking forward to the trip to New Orleans my mother and I were taking until we reached the airport. Suddenly I had a panic attack at the thought of having to fly. Dad, bless his heart, did everything he could to calm my nerves. "You know, you're safer in a plane than you are in a car," he reminded me. That reassurance eventually worked. He gave me a loving kiss on the head, then asked my mother, "Did you buy flight insurance?"





# Jewish Harvard Professor Encounters Mary



A Jewish Harvard business professor who was considering atheism and pleading for guidance received an unexpected answer to a prayer: the Blessed Mother, arrayed in splendour, appeared to him.

The conversion of Roy Schoeman began soon after he had reached a point when — despite stellar academic achievements (he attended M.I.T. undergrad, and became a Harvard professor at 29) — life had lost most semblance of meaning. Although raised a Jew, he no longer believed in the Bible or God.

Wandering one morning through the peacefulness of nature, he received, without warning, “the most spectacular Grace,” as he puts it. “The ‘curtain’ between earth and Heaven disappeared, and I found myself in the Presence of God and like a very intimate conversation with God: seeing my life and experiencing my life as I would see it after I died and looked back over it in the Presence of God. And I saw instantaneously how I would feel about everything after I died.”

He was shown how much time he had wasted lamenting how little he was loved — when in fact God’s Love was there, all around him — and “all the time I had wasted doing things that would be of no value in the eyes of Heaven.”

He had spent his life accumulating piles of what he dubs “monopoly money” — academic standing, awards — “when right next to it was a pile of gold coins, which of course would be merit in Heaven. I saw how foolish it was to be greedy for things that wouldn’t do me any good at all.”

He saw that Heaven cared about the essence of life, not the minutiae, whereas a place like Harvard is oriented toward the minutiae.

## A shocking realization.

Schoeman also learned that everything that had ever happened to him — including and even especially suffering — had been “perfectly designed” by “the Hands of the all-knowing, all-loving Almighty God.” The purpose of life, he saw plainly and so suddenly — so startlingly — “was to worship and serve my Lord and God master Who had revealed Himself to me.”

So it was that Roy Schoeman, from the suburbs of fast worldly New York, a star of academia, teacher of business to students earnest to become rich, but now feeling desperately unfulfilled and alone, came into the intimate knowledge that not only did God know his name, but had watched him every moment since conception, every trial, every emotion, as if he were the only person in existence.

In the woodland, what this professor saw was the world fade into the real world of the supernatural, “like looking through a gossamer veil, or seeing through a curtain at a theatre” — the physical world, it turned out was a thin veil between here and eternity. He prayed “to this God Who was so incredibly present to let me know His Name, so that ‘I know what religion to follow to serve and to worship You properly. I don’t mind if You are Buddhist and I have to become a Buddhist. I don’t mind if You’re Krishna and I have to become a Hindu, I don’t mind if You’re Apollo and I have to become a Roman pagan, as long as You’re not Christ and I have to become Christian.’”

For the next year his prayer each night was to learn the Name of His Lord and Master and God.

A year to the day that Roy began that prayer, “I went to sleep and I thought I was awoken by a gentle hand on my shoulder and led to a room and left alone with the most beautiful young woman I could ever imagine. I knew without being told that it was the Blessed Virgin Mary. When I found myself in her presence, all I wanted to do was fall on my knees. In fact the only thought that crossed my mind was, ‘I wish I at least knew the Hail

Mary, to honor her, but I didn’t.

“I was just overwhelmed — overwhelmed — just lifted into ecstasy by her love, and as beautiful as she was to look at, more affective was the sound of her voice. When she spoke, her voice was like what makes music music — the essence of music — and with it was a love that just flowed through all of my fibers and lifted me up into an ecstasy.”

The Virgin offered to answer any questions Roy might have, and when she did, he asked what her favourite prayer to her was. At first she said all prayers. But when he persisted in getting a more specific answer, “she recited a prayer in Portuguese and I remembered the first syllables phonetically and the next morning I wrote them down and later when I met a Portuguese Catholic woman and asked her to recite all the Marian prayers in Portuguese so I could identify them, to the best of my ability I identified it as, ‘O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee’” — the prayer of the Miraculous Medal.

And so goes this inspiring and astonishing testimony — an atheist Jew professor who discovered that Catholicism — including Marian devotion — constitutes the true religion.

What title did the Virgin say she liked most?

“I am the daughter of the beloved Father, mother of the Son, and spouse of the Spirit.”

When Schoeman asked Who the Holy Spirit was, Mary looked upward “with eyes melting with love and said, ‘He’s His gaze.’”

Schoeman is now Catholic.



## Come to Bethlehem - A Taste of Christmas *by Fr Gerard*



Speaking of the tastes of Christmas might seem strange at first, yet taste is one of man's five most blessed external senses. It is a wondrous gift from God to all. 'The necessities of life are water, bread, and clothing, and also a house to assure privacy.' [Sirach 29:21] But bread and water seem a little bland when we think of our approaching Christmas fare. We tie tastes to Christmas because of all the exquisite flavours that are associated with this holy and celebratory season.

The culinary delights of our first world diet are very different from the early cuisine of the time of Jesus Christ. Being more sedentary in our lifestyle and employment and having high levels of salt, sugar and fat with less fibrous ingredients can make us flabby and even lethargic in our modern existence. In the time of Jesus, food was more seasonal and less preserved. There was less sometimes but plentiful at other times. Modern supermarkets would have been a real eye-opener to the household mum of Bethlehem times with its variety and plenty. Yet more range of choice is not always better.

Without argument, food is necessary, and God makes it enjoyable for all. Too much is great, but we know it can have consequences on our health. Too little food is similarly unhealthy and a lot less fun.

One of the first **Come to Bethlehem** stalls that visitors encounter is the old bakery where hospitality is a special charism. Visitors are greeted with the taste of unleavened bread as enjoyed in Eastern homes. There is also the delicious red grape wine similar to that found in Bethlehem vineyards. These tastes can be a special treat that introduces a moving Christmas experience. Quite unique in its difference from all the glitz and glamour of modern Christmas festivities is the ancient town experience where life is slower, less glamorous and very much poorer. Yet movingly, it is something more wholesome, more respectful and more humanly uplifting.

Our Primary School each year becomes a mini remake of Bethlehem Town. This steeps visitors in the atmosphere and experience of Bethlehem as in ancient times with its unique culture, sounds, smell and populace around the time of Jesus. From the very beginning, hospitality has been an essential aspect of Eastern social life, so too at Bethlehem. If you would like for a few brief moments to slow down and experience something different this Christmas come along and behold the tastes of Christmas at Bethlehem.

'Come to Bethlehem' is held on Saturday 22, Sunday 23, and Monday 24 from 8pm until 9.30pm at Bardia Street. Wander through town and view the variety of

ancient crafts with your kids and grandkids who always thrill at the camels, other animals and activities. Bethlehem is but a snippet of the beginnings of the historic event we know to be Christmas. This year do yourself and your family a favour and enjoy a step back in time to a more rustic touch of Christmas. Enter into the Infant King's life and love for all.

### Come to Bethlehem 2018

Sat 22 to Mon 24 Dec,  
8pm-9.30pm

#### Volunteers Most Welcome & Needed

Please consider giving a little of your time on any of the following occasions.

Thurs Dec 20-22 from  
9.30am (lunch provided)

Evenings: 8 – 9.45pm on  
Sat, Sun & Mon

Wed Dec 26 from 9am  
(lunch provided)

*Many thanks to all who  
generously assist.*



He puzzled and puzzled till his puzzler was sore.  
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.  
Maybe Christmas, he thought...doesn't come from a store.  
Maybe Christmas, perhaps...means a little bit more!

Dr Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas



# The best cure for anxiety:



*Jesus tells a soul: "Why are you upset and agitated? Leave your cares to Me and all will be fine."*

*It sounds too easy, too good to be true. But Jesus says that we can — and that we SHOULD — tell Him, "You take over." And He will.*

*Often we forget to even ask Him.*

*Forming this habit and accepting its consequent peace is not instantaneous, of course. But we can gradually surrender our troubles by entrusting them to God and putting ourselves in His peace.*

*"Jesus, You take over" definitely wasn't my way years back. I was more likely to fret, freak, and frazzle as I listed for God the possible ways He could work out my worry or situation... my "to do" list was usually coming more from panic and despair than trust.*

*A friend emailed me a surrender prayer when I was going through a particularly stressful time. The peace I found in it and its central message, "Jesus, You take over," has stayed with me.*

*The prayer was written by Fr. Don Dolindo Ruotolo, based on his prayer and inspirations from God. Fr. Dolindo (1882-1970) now has a cause for canonization open. He prayed the Rosary constantly and referred to himself as "the Madonna's little old man."*

## Jesus to the soul:

Why are you upset and agitated? Leave your cares to Me and all will be fine. I tell you honestly, every act of true and blind reliance on Me, results in what you desire and will resolve all your difficulties. Abandonment in Me does not mean being frustrated, becoming anxious

and desperate, offering Me your anxious prayer, that I may follow you and have your anxiety be a prayer. Abandonment means to shut the eyes of your soul in peace, moving your thoughts away from your troubles, and instead of thinking about your worries and pain, let Me take over your troubles. Simply say: Jesus, You take over. To be worried, restless, and to think of the consequences of an event is the opposite of reliance, it is really contrary to it. It is like a child, who wants his mum to take care his needs, but in the way he wants: and with his whims and childish ideas he hampers her work. Shut your eyes and go with the flow of My grace. Do not ponder over your present moment and put away thoughts of your future as a temptation; rest in Me, believe in My goodness and I swear on My Love, that if you think like this: Jesus, You take over, I indeed will do it for you, I will comfort you, free you, and guide you.

If I have to take you in a different direction from the one you are looking at, I will train you, I pick you up in my arms, and you will find yourself, like a baby sleeping in his mother's arms, on the other shore. What gives you immense stress and hurts you, is your reasoning over it, your thoughts and the pains it gives you; it is wanting at all costs to take care by yourself of what is afflicting you. How many things I can do, be it a material or a spiritual need, when the soul turns to Me, looks at Me and says to Me: Jesus, You take over, and closes its eyes and rests in Me! You do not receive many graces because you insist on getting them by yourself; but instead you will receive numberless graces, when your prayer is in full reliance on Me. When you are in pain, and you pray that I may act, you want Me to act as you believe I should... you do not turn to Me; instead you want Me to submit to your ideas; you are like a sick person who does not ask the doctor for the cure, but tells him what the cure is to be. Don't be like this, but pray as I taught you in the

Our Father: Hallowed be Thy name, which means, may You be glorified in this need of mine; Thy kingdom come, which means, everything may work toward Your Kingdom in us and in the world; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, which means, You direct it as it seems best to You for the good of our eternal and temporal life. When you truly tell me: Thy will be done, which is the same as to say: Jesus, You take over, then I do intervene with all My omnipotence, and I will resolve every situation, even if there is no way out.

For example, do you see your sickness becoming worse instead of improving? Don't become anxious, close your eyes and tell Me with trust: Thy will be done, Jesus, You take over. I repeat it, I do take care, I intervene like a doctor, and even do a miracle if it is necessary. Does a patient become worse? Don't be frightened, close your eyes and say: Jesus, You take over. I tell you again: I will indeed do it for you, and there is no medicine more powerful than my loving intervention. I take over only when you close your eyes. You never sleep, you want to appraise everything, to think, to delve into everything; you choose to rely on human power, or, worse, on men, trusting their intervention. This is what hampers My words and My will. Oh how much I long for this reliance in order to assist you, and how much I grieve to see your anxiety. Satan does just this: he gives you anxiety to remove Me from you and throw you into human initiative. Trust only in Me instead, rest in Me, rely on Me in everything. I do miracles in proportion to your complete reliance on Me, with no thought of yourself. I spread treasures of graces when you are in the most squalid poverty. If you have your own resources, even a few, or if you seek them, you are at the natural level, thus you follow the natural way of things, which often are dominated by Satan. Never a thinker or a philosopher has done any miracle, not even among the Saints; only he who relies on

## the “surrender prayer”

Patty Knap

God does divine work.

When you see that things become complicated, say with your eyes closed: Jesus, I abandon myself to You; Jesus, You take over, and stop worrying about it, because your mind is sharp and for you it is difficult to distinguish evil; but trust in Me, and let your mind wander away from your thoughts. Do this for all your needs; all of you, do this, and you shall see great things, endless and silent miracles. I swear it on My Love. I shall indeed take over, you can be sure of it. Pray

always with this loving confidence and you shall have great peace and great fruits, even when I choose for you the grace of immolating yourself for reparation and the love that entails suffering. Do you believe it is impossible? Shut your eyes and say with all your soul: Jesus, You take over. Don't be afraid, I indeed will take care of you, and you shall bless My Name, in humility. A thousand prayers do not equal only one act of abandonment; don't ever forget it. There is no better novena than this:



Oh Jesus I abandon myself to You,  
Jesus, You take over.

## “Retreat” - by James McAuley



This poem,  
by one of Australia's  
best ever poets, was given  
as a Christmas present  
to Catholic Bob Santamaria  
at a time of very difficult work  
in the public square.

See *James McAuley: A Poet in Politics* by Peter Coleman



Come into yourself a while,  
Be deaf to outer cries;  
Ask not who wins, who falls,  
who rages,  
Or what each doubtful sign  
presages,  
Or what face treachery wears.

Soon you must return to tasks  
That sicken and appall:  
The calumnies will never  
cease,  
Look only to the sign of peace,  
The Cross upon the wall.

This is that sole instrument  
That measures every chart;  
This square and level  
overrides  
The subtle calculus of fools  
By a celestial art.



It is not said we shall succeed,  
Save as His Cross prevails:  
The good we choose and  
mean to do  
Prosper if He wills it too,  
And if not, then it fails.

Nor is failure our disgrace:  
By ways we cannot know  
He keeps the merit in His  
hand,  
And suddenly as no one  
planned,  
Behold the kingdom grow!

If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!

The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.



# The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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

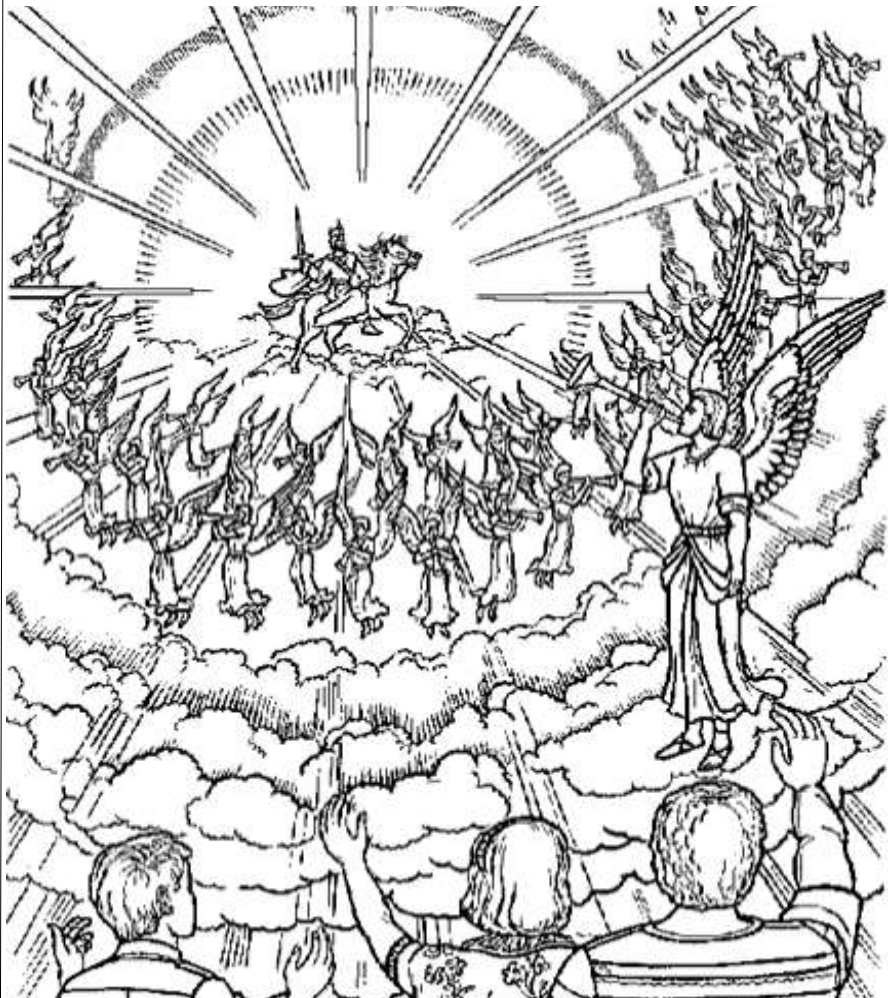


**Find the words below  
hidden in the 225 letters  
to the right.**

REDEMPTION	POWER
CAREFUL	GLORY
NATIONS	STAND
HEAVEN	MOON
ESCAPE	STARS
WORLD	SIGNS
CLOUD	PRAY
EARTH	LIFT
WATCH	SUN
HEADS	SEA

## Christ Is Coming Again

At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Luke 21:27 (NIV)



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