

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

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 156

February 2016

Coming Events

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

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

Ash Wednesday Wed 10

Mass times -

Holy Trinity 7am, 10.15am,
San Isidore 5.45pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Thu 11

Chair of Saint Peter Mon 22

Sisterhood Conference

Sydney Feb 26 – 28



Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy.

— Pope Francis —

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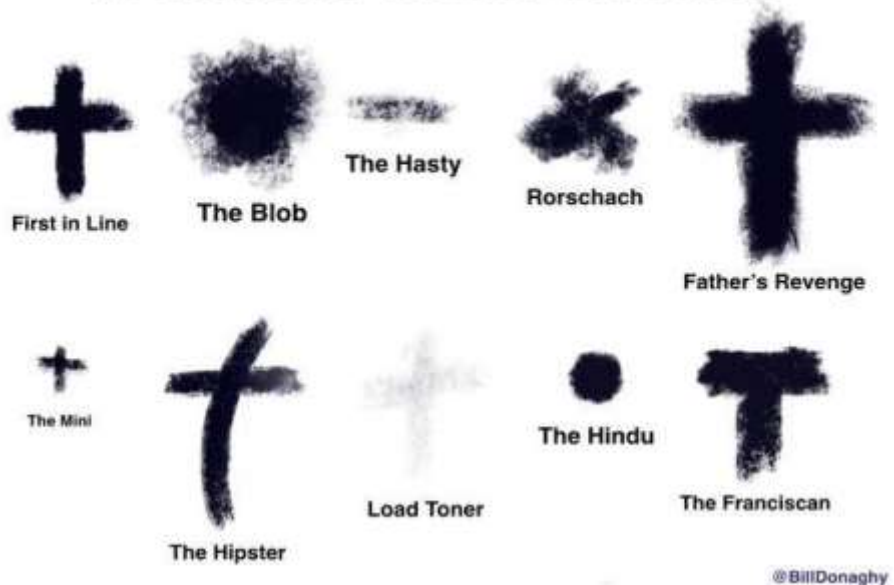
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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: Wednesday March 2nd.

Lent! Wooahoo!

A Catholic Guide to Ashes



@BillDonaghy

What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today we focus on our relationship with God, choosing something to give up, something to give to the poor, and some extra prayer.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Lent, by Robert Herrick (1591–1674)

Is this a Fast, to keep
the larder leane?
and deane
from fat of Veales and Sheep?

No: 'tis a fast, to dole
thy sheaf of wheat
and meat
unto the hungry soule.

Is it to quit the dish
of Flesh, yet still
to fill
the platter high with fish?

It is to fast from strife,
from old debate
and hate:
to circumcise thy life.

Is it to fast an houre
or rag'd go,
or show
a down cast look, and sour?

To shew a heart grief-rent;
to starve thy sin,
not Bin
and that's to keep thy Lent.

pastor's page – Valentine's Day, Marriage and God



February 14 is approaching, St Valentine's Day. The Bishop charged with promoting a deeper understanding of marriage in Australia is former parishioner Bishop Michael (Rob) Kennedy, and he is taking this St Valentine's Day as an occasion to praise that human love which, when lived in its purest form, leads to contemplation of Divine Love. The Sacrament of Marriage is human love which has been filled with Divine Grace so that it witnesses to the communion of life and love which is the Blessed Trinity; and it does this especially by witnessing to the Divine love made visible in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Bridegroom who knows and loves His Bride, the Church, and gives His life for her. The mutual love of Jesus and the Church is the model of love between husband and wife.

There is a lot of confusion around marriage and what it means to be man and woman, a lot of confusion and even attack. Pope Francis is warning against this "**gender ideology**". Yet God's plan for marriage and sexuality is a loving gift from our Creator, a source of life and peace and joy. It is a road to true fruitfulness and prosperity for individuals and society.

Being a man or a woman, according to the nature with which each of us was conceived and born, is a vocation.

Each boy is called by God to accept the challenge to become manly with all the best which this implies – a good worker, brave, generous, resilient, noble, humble, adventurous, prudent, strong, protecting and more. We grow in the virtues of manliness by bravely stepping out, stepping up, acting manly even when fear tempts us to run away from this challenge. If a boy does not **feel** manly, he can choose still to **be** manly, and imitate heroes, like Jesus Christ, and St

Joseph and St Paul and so many others. In taking on the role of manliness he will find himself and do great things in the service of others. Soldiers are called to stand their ground and not commit dereliction of duty, to be the men God created them and called them to be. (Recently a soldier saved the lives of his friends by jumping onto a grenade. Wisely he landed on it with his backpack and survived with only a few bruises. It's still manly to be brave and smart at the same time.)

Each girl is called by God to accept the challenge to be that unique gift to the world which only a woman can be. God has created us differently, not only in the ability to be a father or mother but in so many other ways. Women bring a wisdom and ability to observe the needs of others and so many other things that men often overlook. The gentle and caring hand of the woman can bring a humanity to the tough hand of the man. All the virtues listed above and many more are found in heroines, but in a way which is different from the way of men. As society needs men who are manly it needs women to be the irreplaceable reflection of God which only they can be. Girls have countless role models in this especially in the saints and most especially in Mary, recently called by National Geographic "the world's most powerful woman".

It is important that the Church, and that means you and I, praise these good examples of masculinity and femininity, and celebrate and support those called to the vocation of marriage.

To do this, on the first Sunday of each month we will invite those who have their wedding anniversary that month to receive a blessing. I would especially love to hear from those who are celebrating their 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th etc. anniversaries.

Congratulations and Thank You to all who "in good times and in bad" are doing the work of marriage, living this vocation of service and witness. Happy Valentine's and God bless you!

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS

MONTHLY BLESSING OF MARRIED COUPLES

IN THE TENDER PLAN OF HIS PROVIDENCE, GOD OUR ALMIGHTY FATHER HAS GIVEN MARRIED LOVE, ITS FAITHFULNESS, AND ITS FRUITFULNESS, A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE HISTORY OF SALVATION. LET US THEREFORE CALL UPON HIM IN PRAYER.

Father all-holy, you have made marriage the great symbol of Christ's love for his Church; bestow on these your servants the fullness of your own love. R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

You live in eternity with the Son and the Holy Spirit in oneness of life and communion of love; grant that these your servants will be mindful of the covenant of love they pledge to each other through the sacrament of marriage and never fail in fidelity. R/

In your providence you have ordained that all genuinely human experiences should become ways of leading the faithful to share in the mystery of Christ; grant to your servants serenity in good times and bad and the will to stay close to Christ and to live for him alone. R/

It is your will that married life should be a lesson in Christian living; grant that all husbands and wives may be witnesses to the wonders of your Son's love. R/

LET US PRAY:

LOOK WITH FAVOUR ON THESE COUPLES, WHOM YOU HAVE UNITED IN MARRIAGE, AS THEY ASK FOR YOUR HELP AND THE PROTECTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY. THEY PRAY THAT IN GOOD TIMES AND IN BAD THEY WILL GROW IN LOVE FOR EACH OTHER; THAT THEY WILL RESOLVE TO BE OF ONE HEART IN THE BOND OF PEACE.

LORD, IN THEIR STRUGGLES LET THEM REJOICE THAT YOU ARE NEAR TO HELP THEM; IN THEIR NEEDS LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU ARE THERE TO RESCUE THEM; IN THEIR JOYS LET THEM SEE THAT YOU ARE THE SOURCE AND COMPLETION OF EVERY HAPPINESS.

WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.

R/. Amen.

February Funnies



Mailman 1: A dog bit me on the leg this morning.

Mailman 2: Did you put anything on it?

Mailman 1: No, he liked it plain.

Q: What does a shark like to eat with peanut butter? A: Jellyfish!

Q: What do cats eat for breakfast?

A: Mice Crispies!

In Sunday School, they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings.

Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny what is the matter?"

Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Q: Why did the baby strawberry cry? A: Because his parents were in a jam!

Q: What did the hamburger name his daughter? A: Patty!

Bert and Ernie were two Christians who had lived very good and healthy lives. They died and arrived in heaven. Walking along one of the golden streets and marvelling at all the paradise around them, Ernie turns to Bert and says, "Wow. I never knew heaven was going to be as good as this." "Yeah," says Bert. "And just to think, if we hadn't eaten all that oat bran, we could have gotten here ten years earlier."

The priest of St Paul's Church was ill one Sunday morning so a replacement priest was called. Introducing himself, the suppling priest said, "You know, a suppling priest is like a piece of cardboard in a broken window. He fills the space, but after all, he's not the real glass." After Mass, a lady approached the priest trying to pay him a compliment.

"You weren't just a replacement after all, Father. You were a real pane."

Q: Why did the cookie go to the hospital? A: He felt crummy!

Q: What did the grape do when it got stepped on? A: It let out a little wine!

Q: What has one horn and gives milk A: A milk truck.

A minister was asked to inform a man with a heart condition that he had just inherited a million dollars. Everyone was afraid the shock would cause a heart attack and the man would die. The minister went to to the man's house and said, "Joe, what would you do if you inherited a million dollars?" Joe resonded, "Well, Pastor, I think I would give half of it to the church." And the minister fell over dead.

Q: When do you stop at green and go at red? A: When you're eating a watermelon!

Q: Why did the man lose his job at the orange juice factory? A: He couldn't concentrate!

Hank: "God, I was wondering, how long is a million years to you?"

God: "Son, a million years is like a second to me."

Hank:" God, how much is a million dollars to you?"

God: "Son, a million dollars to me is like a five cent piece to you."

Hank: "God, can I have one of your five cent pieces?"

God: "In just a second, son."

Q: How do you repair a broken tomato? A: Tomato Paste!

Q: Why do watermelons have fancy weddings? A: Because they cantaloupe.

Little Tony was in his uncle's wedding. As he came down the aisle during the ceremony, he carefully too two steps, then stopped and turned towards the congregation with his hands up like claws and roared loudly. So it went, step, step, turn roar, step step turn roar, all the way down the aisle. As you can imagine, the congregation was near tears laughing. By the time little Tony reached the sanctuary, he was near tears too. When later asked what he was doing, the boy sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear."

Two college seniors had a week of exams coming up. They decided to party instead. Their biggest exam was on Wednesday and they showed up telling the professor that their car had broken down the night before due to a very flat tire and they needed a bit more time to study. The professor told them that they could have another day to study. That evening, both of the boys crammed all night until they were sure that they knew just about everything. Arriving to class the next morning, each boy was told to go to separate classrooms to take the exam. Each shrugged and went to two different parts of the building. As each sat down, they read the first question. "For 5 points, explain the contents of an atom." At this point, they both thought that this was going to be a piece of cake, and answered the question with ease. Then, the test continued. "For 95 points, tell me which tire it was."

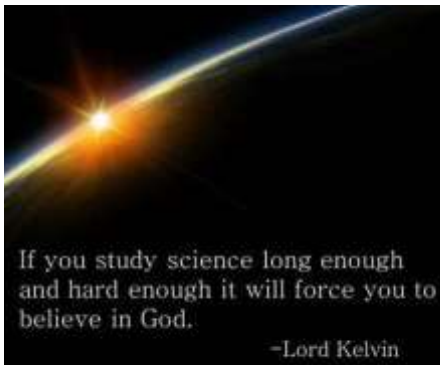
Mary: Did you know they're not making pencils any longer?

Sue: Wow! Why not?

Mary: They're already long enough!



Science Increasingly Makes the Case for God



The odds of life existing on another planet grow ever longer. Intelligent design, anyone? By Eric Metaxas

In 1966 Time magazine ran a cover story asking: Is God Dead? Many have accepted the cultural narrative that He's obsolete—that as science progresses, there is less need for a "God" to explain the universe. Yet it turns out that the rumours of God's death were premature. More amazing is that the relatively recent case for His existence comes from a surprising place—science itself.

Here's the story: The same year Time featured the now-famous headline, the astronomer Carl Sagan announced that there were two important criteria for a planet to support life: The right kind of star, and a planet the right distance from that star. Given the roughly octillion—1 followed by 27 zeros—planets in the universe, there should have been about septillion—1 followed by 24 zeros—planets capable of supporting life.

With such spectacular odds, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, a large, expensive collection of private and publicly funded projects launched in the 1960s, was sure to turn up something soon. Scientists listened with a vast radio telescopic network for signals that resembled coded intelligence and were not merely random. But as years passed, the silence from the rest of the universe was deafening. Congress defunded SETI in 1993, but the search continues with private funds. As of 2014, researchers have discovered precisely bubkis—0 followed by nothing.

What happened? As our knowledge of the universe increased, it became clear that there were far more factors necessary for life than Sagan supposed. His two parameters grew to 10 and then 20 and then 50, and so the number of potentially life-supporting planets decreased accordingly. The number dropped to a few thousand planets and kept on plummeting.

Even SETI proponents acknowledged the problem. Peter Schenkel wrote in a 2006 piece for Skeptical Inquirer magazine: "In light of new findings and insights, it seems appropriate to put excessive euphoria to rest . . . We should quietly admit that the early estimates . . . may no longer be tenable."

As factors continued to be discovered, the number of possible planets hit zero, and kept going. In other words, the odds turned against any planet in the universe supporting life, including this one. Probability said that even we shouldn't be here.

Today there are more than 200 known parameters necessary for a planet to support life—every single one of which must be perfectly met, or the whole thing falls apart. Without a massive planet like Jupiter nearby, whose gravity will draw away asteroids, a thousand times as many would hit Earth's surface. The odds against life in the universe are simply astonishing.

Yet here we are, not only existing, but talking about existing. What can account for it? Can every one of those many parameters have been perfect by accident? At what point is it fair to admit that science suggests that we cannot be the result of random forces? Doesn't assuming that an intelligence created these perfect conditions require far less faith than believing that a life-sustaining Earth just happened to beat the inconceivable odds to come into being?

There's more. The fine-tuning necessary for life to exist on a planet is nothing compared with the fine-tuning required for the universe to exist at all. For example, astrophysicists now know that the values of the four fundamental

forces—gravity, the electromagnetic force, and the "strong" and "weak" nuclear forces—were determined less than one millionth of a second after the big bang. Alter any one value and the universe could not exist. For instance, if the ratio between the nuclear strong force and the electromagnetic force had been off by the tiniest fraction of the tiniest fraction—by even one part in 100,000,000,000,000—then no stars could have ever formed at all. Feel free to gulp.

Multiply that single parameter by all the other necessary conditions, and the odds against the universe existing are so heart-stoppingly astronomical that the notion that it all "just happened" defies common sense. It would be like tossing a coin and having it come up heads 10 quintillion times in a row. Really?

Fred Hoyle, the astronomer who coined the term "big bang," said that his atheism was "greatly shaken" at these developments. He later wrote that "a common-sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super-intellect has monkeyed with the physics, as well as with chemistry and biology . . . The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question."

Theoretical physicist Paul Davies has said that "the appearance of design is overwhelming" and Oxford professor Dr. John Lennox has said "the more we get to know about our universe, the more the hypothesis that there is a Creator . . . gains in credibility as the best explanation of why we are here."



9 Quotes from Pope Francis' Preface to the Youth Bible



1.) "I love my old Bible, which has accompanied me half my life. It has been with me in my times of joy and times of tears. It is my most precious treasure. I live out of it."

2) "There are more persecuted Christians in the world today than in the early days of the Church. And why are they persecuted? They are persecuted because they wear a cross and bear witness to Jesus. They are convicted because they own a Bible. The Bible is therefore a highly dangerous book—so dangerous that you are treated in some countries as if you were hiding hand grenades."

3) "It was a non-Christian, Mahatma Gandhi, who once said: 'You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilization to pieces, turn the world upside down, and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature.'"

4) "So what do you have in your hands? A piece of literature? Some nice old stories? Then you would have to say to the many Christians who go to prison or are tortured because they own a Bible: 'How foolish you are; it's just a piece of literature!'"

5) "We do not blindly seek God, or wait for him to speak to us first, for 'God has already spoken, and there is nothing further that we need to know, which has not been revealed to us.' Let us receive the sublime treasure of the revealed word." *Evangelii Gaudium 175*

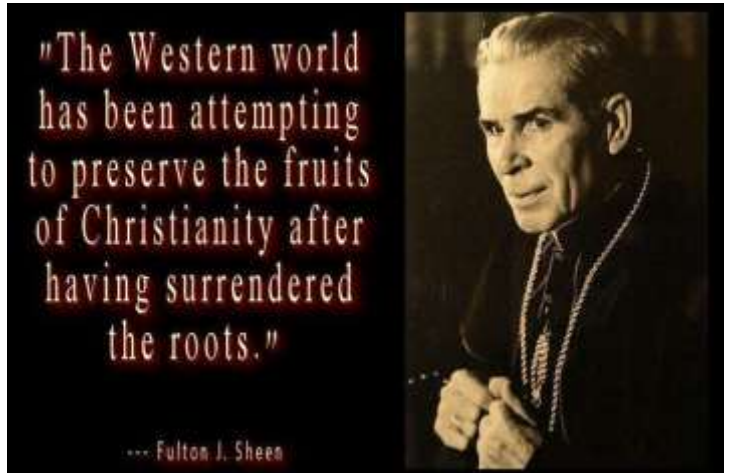


6) "You have something divine in your hands: a book like fire! A book through which God speaks. So notice: The Bible is not meant to be placed on a shelf, but to be in your hands, to read often—every day, both on your own and together with others."

7) "You do sports together or go shopping together. Why not read the Bible together as well—two, three, or four of you? In nature, in the woods, on the beach, at night in the glow of a few candles ... you will have a great experience!"

8) "Ask yourself: 'What does this say to my heart? Does God speak through these words to me? Has he touched me in the depths of my longing? What should I do?'"

9) "I want to tell you how I read my old Bible. Often I read a little and then put it away and contemplate the Lord ... He looks at me. He's there. I let myself look at Him. And ... I feel deeply the things that the Lord tells me. Sometimes He does not speak. ... But I remain patiently, and so I wait, reading and praying. ... I'm like a son with the father, and that is what's important."



"Sometimes your medicine bottle has on it, 'Shake well before using.' That is what God has to do with some of His people. He has to shake them well before they are ever usable."

Caroline Chisholm

Have you ever wondered about the woman on the old five dollar note? For 30 years she helped Australian immigrants. Her name - Caroline Chisholm and she was known as the immigrants' friend. What was she like? Here's what the Governor of NSW had to say about her:

"I expected to have seen an old lady in white cap and spectacles, who would have talked to me about my soul. I was amazed when my aide introduced a handsome stately young woman who proceeded to reason as if she thought her reason and experience were worth as much as mine." The plight of the immigrant girls who arrived in Sydney under the government's bounty system with little or no money, who wandered the streets during the day and at night huddled together in crevices or holes in rocks, trouble her immensely, and she had up to nine girls at a time in her own small home while finding employment for them with friends. Other people had offered help, but only if she had the governor's approval for her plan to provide shelter for the girls.

The Governor finally agreed after her third visit to let her use a government building and she trusted God would provide for their food and clothing. She soon had 94 women in the home and opened a

job registry. She found work for some of the girls in Sydney, but she took the rest of the girls to the country. Often where she knew there was an eligible bachelor, she would place a capable girl with the nearest neighbours. This resulted in numerous marriages. But why did she care enough to do something when so many others did not? The answer lies in her background. She was born in 1808 into a prosperous evangelical Christian farming family and the influence on her family of William Wilberforce and



his social action was strong.

When she was 7 years old a soldier recuperating from his injuries came to live with them and he captured the little girl's heart with his stories of the battles and hardships of emigrants to Britain's colonies, as well as tales of the tremendous potential for those emigrants who worked hard, to make a much better life for themselves than they ever could have done in Britain. From then on Caroline's favourite game was 'Immigrants' with boats she

made out of broad beans and her pocket money went on little dolls who emigrated to far off lands. Her mother was not amused one day when she spilt the ocean right through her bed and from then she played the game in the coal cellar by candlelight.

As a young woman she had several young men propose to her, but she made it clear that she would only marry someone if she was free to carry out what she felt was her God given calling to help the poor. Captain Chisholm, an Army Officer agreed to this. He was a Roman Catholic and about the time of her marriage she converted to Roman Catholicism. When they arrived in Sydney with their two little boys in 1838 she was 30.

Caroline Chisholm did her utmost to encourage family life and by protecting the immigrant women, she gave them the opportunity to become valuable colonists. She helped all regardless of religious affiliation and she did this in spite of the fact that it was improper for a woman in those times to be involved in the public arena. To her contemporaries Caroline Chisholm was an inspiration, even Florence Nightingale declared that she was Mrs Chisholm's friend and pupil.

*from Christian History Research
www.chr.org.au*

"Are you saved?"

The Catholic should reply: "As the Bible says, I am already saved (Rom. 8:24, Eph. 2:5-8), but I'm also being saved (1 Cor. 1:18, 2 Cor. 2:15, Phil. 2:12), and I have the hope that I will be saved (Rom. 5:9-10, 1 Cor. 3:12-15). Like the apostle Paul I am working out my salvation in fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12), with hopeful confidence in the promises of Christ (Rom. 5:2, 2 Tim. 2:11-13)."



Mother Teresa's Miracle

The Incredible Cure of a Brazilian Mechanical Engineer

“My professional experience has placed me many times before events that are difficult to explain from the scientific point of view, but what happened in 2008 to a Brazilian engineer is truly incredible,” said Professor Carlo Jovine, official expert of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, primary neurologist at the Saint John the Baptist Hospital of the Order of Malta.

Professor Jovine was part of the Medical Consultation team charged by the Vatican to study, from the scientific point of view, the extraordinary healing of Marcilio Haddad Andrino, mechanical engineer born in Santos, close to Sao Paul in Brazil.

In December of 2008, at the age of 35, Andrino was urgently hospitalized. He got sick suddenly and presented serious disturbances in the neurological sphere. The specialist examinations showed the presence of eight cerebral abscesses -- the presence of eight points in which brain infections were found.

Professor Jovine explained that a cerebral abscess is a purulent area of bacterial or viral origin, which determines the destruction of tissues and the production of pus within the encephalon.

After his urgent hospitalization, the CAT scan confirmed the gravity of the pathology underway. The patient entered into a coma and, after a few days, an obstructive hydrocephalus also appeared.

The situation was so serious that the surgeon, Professor Cabral, in the presence of a progressively deteriorating clinical picture, with the risk of imminent death, decided to subject Andrino to an urgent intervention.

However, at this point, a series of unexplainable events occurred.

Taken to the operating room in a state of coma, the patient suddenly opened his eyes and, to the astonishment of those present, asked why he was there.

Recovering from his astonishment

and observing the patient’s full lucidity, Professor Cabral decided not to carry out the planned surgical intervention and to execute an immediate CAT to understand what was occurring.

The examination revealed a radical change of the pre-existing pathological picture, with the disappearance of the acute hydrocephalus and a 70% reduction of the cerebral abscesses.

In the course of a few days, Andrino’s conditions improved to the point that Professor Cabral, verifying the perfect clinical and neurological conditions, decided to discharge the patient, certifying the absence of any trace of the preceding alterations, that is, there was no trace either of cerebral abscesses or of hydrocephalus.

However, the most surprising thing was that the patient did not have any debilitating effects of the grave pathology that had stricken him. In the course of a few days – from December 13, date of the planned surgical intervention, to December 23, date on which he was discharged from the hospital – Andrino was cured definitively and totally.

At present, Marcilio Haddad Andrino drives, works, has two children, is completely autonomous and, above all, shows no negative consequences of any sort. A cure that, in relation to the gravity, to the course of the illness and to the grave complications associated with it, is inexplicably far from the natural course of the illness, as known by medical science.

It must be stressed in fact, that even in the hypothetical case of an eventual cure, the latter would have had need of a surgical intervention (which did not take place), it would have had a slow course and in any case would have left some effects. Instead, the cure was manifested spontaneously without any medical intervention.

Jovine explained: “There are no precedents -- one can be cured of one cerebral abscess, but with eight cerebral abscesses and an acute hydrocephalus, the percentage of

the deceased is practically 100%. From this concatenation of events and from the specialist and expert clinical examinations, one must necessarily conclude that we are before a scientifically inexplicable event, which occurred in a resolute, instantaneous, lasting and total way. And, for the Church, this is equivalent to say a miracle.”

But what does Mother Teresa have to do with the inexplicable cure of Marcilio Haddad Andrino? The wife of the Brazilian engineer is called Fernanda and, when her husband’s conditions were worsening dramatically, she went to Father Elmiran Ferreira, parish priest of the church of Our Lady Aparecida, Sao Vicente.

The parish priest was about to celebrate a Mass of commemoration with Mother Teresa’s Missionaries. Father Ferreira heard what happened and tried to console Fernanda. He gave her a booklet of novenas and told her to continue to pray, asking for the intercession of Blessed Mother Teresa.

As the situation was worsening, on the evening before the surgical intervention, Father Ferreira went to the hospital with Fernanda.

The priest recited the prayers and administered the Sacrament of Extreme Unction, after which, together with Fernanda, he put a holy picture and relic of Mother Teresa next to Marcilio’s head. Shortly after that, the extraordinary cure occurred.

Hence, we are in the presence of an incredible event that has provided further proof of Mother Teresa’s sanctity. On the basis of these circumstances, Pope Francis recognized the existence of the miracle, giving a green light for the Canonization of the Albanian nun.



The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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



The Testing of Jesus in the Desert Luke 4: 1-2

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| TEMPTED | DESERT |
| TEMPLE | EVIL |
| COMMAND | LIVE |
| KINGDOMS | FORTY |
| AUTHORITY | DAYS |
| JERUSALEM | ANGELS |
| WORSHIP | JORDAN |
| HUNGRY | BREAD |
| SPIRIT | STONE |
| HOLY | WORLD |

