

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 180

February 2018

Coming Events

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Trinity

- 6 to 7am daily;

- overnight from 9pm Friday through to 7am Saturdays

Saint Agatha Mon 5

Saint Paul Miki and companions Tue 6

Saint Josephine Bakhita Thu 8

Saint Scholastica Sat 10

Ash Wednesday Wed 14

1st Sunday of Lent Sun 18

The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle Thu 22

Saint Polycarp Fri 23

2nd Sunday of Lent Sun 25

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



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

Two Take Vows in West Wagga Parish

The West Wagga Parish has two more parishioners who have been consecrated to God when they made their First Profession of the vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience in the Confraternity of Christ the Priest.

Brother Marvin Coonghe and Brother Valentine Nicholas made their vows in Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church, San Isidore, on January 23.



After making their vows, Brothers Valentine and Marvin celebrated with parishioners, friends and fellow Confraternity members across the road at the Christ the Priest House of Studies.



pastor's page - Repent and believe in the Gospel

On Ash Wednesday, we will be invited to begin our time of earnest penance. Penance may seem old fashioned but it is needed today no less than in the past, maybe even more.

Our penance, like our love, should be "not mere words but something real and active". It is to be from the heart: this doesn't mean that we have to feel it but we have at least to mean it. It is not to be theoretical, but a true acknowledgement about things in our own life which contradict the Gospel and God's commandments.

Repenting of one sin we actually see in ourselves for example is worth

more than repenting of a dozen "social sins" about which we are not sure we had any say.

For example, it's easy to repent about world hunger but far better to repent about not having done a fair days work, avoided paying the proper tax or proper wages or having stolen in some other way. "Injustice" can be a very abstract word until we apply it to such sins as abortion or abuse.

This Lent, the Church is committed to real penance, particularly from Ash Wednesday to the first Sunday, and it is a public repentance regarding abuse by people in authority in the Church, bishops and priests, Brothers

and teachers, and those who could have intervened and who failed to do so. The Bishops have prepared prayers both to express repentance for the past and to obtain God's grace into the future, to help those who have been abused and to prevent it from happening again. Below is one of the prayers we will be using during those first days of Lent, **A Litany of Reparation**.

May the grace of repentance lead us strongly to the grace of living authentically the holiness and charity made visible in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS

A LITANY OF REPARATION

Lord, have mercy

·Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

·Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

·Lord, have mercy.

God, the Father of mercy,
reconciling the world to Yourself

·Have mercy on us.

God the Son, mediator between
God and humankind

·Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, filling our
hearts with love

·Have mercy on us.

Eternal God, holy and undivided
Trinity

·Have mercy on us.

Be merciful to Your people

·Spare us, O Lord.

Forgive us our failings

·Spare us, O Lord.

Restore us to life in you

·Spare us, O Lord.

For a lack of reverence among
Christians

·We make reparation, O Lord.

For lukewarm faith

·We make...

For coldness of heart

·We make...

For sacrilege which profanes Your
holy name

·We make...

For indifference of Your call to
change of heart

·We make...

For contempt for Your sacrifice of
love

·We make...

For fearful discipleship

·We make...

For neglect of Your gifts of grace

·We make...

For tepid response to Your ever-

faithful love

·We make...

For lack of generosity in Your

service

·We make...

For sin and its harmful

compulsion

·We make...

For sin and its destructive

potential

·We make...

For sin and its deathly power

·We make...

For sin that hurts children and

the vulnerable

·We make...

For sin that steals innocence and

disbelieves truth

·We make...

For sin that defiles the Temples of

the Holy Spirit which are our

bodies

·We make...

For sin that crushes spirits and

breaks hearts

·We make...

For sin that is overlooked and

disregarded

·We make...

For sin that is ignored and hidden

away

·We make...

For sin that judges victims and

excuses offenders

·We make...

For sin that is criminal

·We make...

For sin that harms the Body of
Christ the Church

·We make...

Hear our supplication, Lord

·And show us your compassion.

Restore us to Your grace

·And show us ...

Forgive the failures of Your
people

·And show us ...

Pardon our Church which has
sinned

·And show us ...

Accept this our act of reparation

·And show us ...

Lamb of God, You take away the
sins of the world

·Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the
sins of the world

·Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the
sins of the world

·Grant us peace.

Let us pray.

Hear the humble prayer of Your

people, merciful God, as we

implore Your mercy. Forgive

Your Church for the wrong that

has been committed and the

harm that has been done.

Grant the grace of repentance to

all who have broken sacred trust

and abused Your beloved

children.

Bring healing to all who have

suffered abuse and restore them

to fullness of life. Reconcile us to

one another and never allow us

be parted from You.

Through our Lord, Jesus Christ,

Your Son, Who has freed us from

sin and death, Who lives and

reigns with You in the unity of

the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever

and ever

·Amen.

February Funnies



One of my neighbors owns several cats. On a recent visit, she introduced them to me: "That's Astrophe, that's Erpillar, that's Aract, that's Alogue."
"Where on earth did you get such unusual names?" I asked.
"Oh, those are their last names," she explained. "Their first names are Cat."

Since my cat is getting old, I'm gonna start calling him by a new name... GrandPAW.

Q: Did you hear about the cat that swallowed a ball of wool?

A: She had mittens.

Q: What happened when the cat ate the clown fish? A: It felt funny.

Q: How does a cat sing scales?

A: Do-re-mi-ow

Q: What do cats like to eat on hot days? A: Mice cream cones.

Q: What did the space alien say to the cat? A: Take me to your litter.

Q: Why was the cat so tiny?

A: It only drank condensed milk.

Q: Why did the cat eat a plate of cheese?

A: So he could wait by the mouse hole with baited breath.

Q: What do you get when you cross a cat with a canary?

A: Shredded tweet

Q: What do you call a cat that eats a duck?

A: A duck-filled fatty puss.

Q: What do you call a cat that lives in an igloo? A: Eskimeow.

Q: What do cats wear when they sleep? A: paw-jamas!

How To Give a Cat a Pill

Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.

Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.

Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.

Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right fore-finger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.

Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.

Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by feline. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously. Cat eat's bird

Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.

Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.

Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply band-aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.

Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.

Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and

check records for date of last tetanus jab. Throw T-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom. Funny cat jokes

Ring fire brigade to retrieve cat from tree across the road. Apologise to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil-wrap.

Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour 2 pints of water down throat to wash pill down.

Get spouse to drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.

Arrange for RSPCA to collect cat and ring local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

Q: Why did the girl have problems swimming?

A: She didn't have boy-ancy.

Q: What did the ocean say to the swimmer?

A: Nothing. It just waved.

Q: Why would the boy only do the backstroke?

A: He just had lunch and didn't want to swim on a full stomach.

Q: What direction do chickens swim? A: Cluck-wise.

Q: What do you call a swim team made up of girls named Jennifer?

A: Hydrogens.

Q: Which word looks the same backwards and upside down?

A: Swims.



Please Speak Up For Religious Freedom

Lyle Shelton

Australian Christian Lobby

With the Parliament rejecting reasonable protections for freedom of speech and religion during the passing of legislation to redefine marriage last month, the Turnbull Government has established a religious freedom review panel headed by former MP Philip Ruddock.

You and I have until February 14 to make a submission calling for these freedoms to be restored.

It is vital that we take this opportunity to address some of the consequences of redefining marriage.

Individuals are allowed to make submissions and ACL encourages everyone to do so.

In your own words, you might like to make the following points:

Freedom of religion is more than freedom to worship, it is freedom to live out one's faith in public.

- ⇒ People should be free to speak publicly about their religious view of marriage without fear of being taken to a government tribunal, as was Archbishop Julian Porteous in Tasmania.
- ⇒ Parents should have the right to be notified of and then withdraw their children from classes teaching radical LGBTIQ sex and gender theory.
- ⇒ In the same way, a Muslim printer should not be forced to print copies of the Torah, wedding service providers should not be forced to participate in a vision of marriage that violates their sincerely held beliefs on marriage. We should make reasonable accommodations



for each other's views and live and let live.

- ⇒ Religious charities should be allowed to hold their view of man-woman marriage without fear of losing government funding or charitable status.
- ⇒ Preachers should be allowed to place their sermons regarding man-woman marriage on-line without fear of being taken to an anti-discrimination tribunal or commission.
- ⇒ Religious schools should be allowed to teach children their view of marriage without fear of being reported to a government commission.
- ⇒ People should not be forced into making statements about marriage or gender with which they disagree.
- ⇒ Religious schools and organisations should be allowed to positively discriminate in employment for people who adhere to their beliefs on marriage.
- ⇒ State and federal anti-discrimination law should be amended to ensure that no-one can be prosecuted for expressing the view that marriage is between one man and one woman.
- ⇒ Celebrants should be allowed to practice freely in accordance with their conscience.

- ⇒ People should not fear being sacked from their jobs (as happened to a young Canberra woman) because they express their views on marriage.
- ⇒ People should not be coerced under threat of losing their job into resigning from the boards of religious organisations that dissent from the state's new definition of marriage.
- ⇒ There should be no legal detriment to anyone who expresses the view that marriage is between one man and one woman.
- ⇒ I ask that this submission be considered by the Panel and I give consent for this submission to be published by the Panel among its default, public list of submissions received.

To lodge your submission, please go to

pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/religious-freedom-review/submission

or send your submission to

The Expert Panel on Religious Freedom
C/O Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Email:
religiousfreedom@pmc.gov.au

If you make your submission in hard copy or by email, please advise whether you consent to your submission being published along with your name, or if your submission is confidential.

You think to yourself, "Australia does need loads of people to write submissions."

What's the worst submission? The one you didn't write!

What's the key message for you to give? "Hey! I'm telling you to protect our freedoms!" (8 words)

It doesn't really matter how you say it. It does matter whether you say it.

Another name for "submission"? A message, about 8 words or more long.

Need a stamp or a question answered? Come to the presbytery before 15th Feb.

Michael Casanova

I'm Raising Girls Who Are "Includers" Instead of "Mean Girls"

Lisa McCrohan



who could sit at one table. The two girls who were the "leaders" looked at me, whispered to the other girls at the table, and everyone turned to look at me and laughed.

Just the other day, another mom friend of mine told me that she waved to two moms talking and they looked at her and laughed. It happens in childhood. It can also happen between adult women.

What came out of my experiences with "mean girls"?

I became an "includer"

After these heartbreaking experiences, I became someone who sees the outsider and looks to include them. I became someone who is good at bringing people in and making them feel like they matter and are a part of things.

Those two bullies? I forgave them, even though they didn't ask for my forgiveness. Other people who have hurt me? Other people I have hurt? I'm working on receiving forgiveness and extending forgiveness to them, too.

I became an "includer" in my family

As parents, Brian and I model compassion and empathy to our children. On the good days, I can say, "I'll abide with you. I'll be with you in this." And, of course, there are days when I am short-fused and I snap at them. Then, we begin again. We come back together and include even those less-than-perfect moments in our human and imperfect way of being family.

Our family has become "includers"

We are about community and creating space—in our home, in our lives, in our hearts—for adults and children to feel loved.

This is how we heal the "mean girls" culture: we hold, we include, we love, we empower, and we regard our girls. And we model this in how we treat other women.

I remember walking into the cafeteria of my new school, and it was like someone punched me in the stomach. I was in sixth grade. My family had just moved from Virginia to Ohio. At first, I attended the local Catholic school. Within the first two months, I was begging my parents to go to the public school because the girls were so mean to me. And when I look back, wow, were they cruel.

My maiden name is Ackerman. They'd call me "Lisa Acneman" as sixth grade brought with it oily skin and some breakouts. When my parents decided that I would change schools, I felt relieved. Off to public school I went. But soon I found out that it didn't matter whether I went to parochial or public school: girls were still mean.

Instantly, a group of girls took me in

They invited me to sit at their lunch table. Little did I know that they had kicked another girl off the table so I could sit with them. I was so grateful to have friends, but I was a bit naïve. Maybe that's because I grew up in a home where we all supported each other and my assumption going "out into the world" was that everyone was like that, too.

Then one day I walked into the cafeteria, and I nearly dropped my brown paper lunch bag. I looked at the table where I had been sitting for the past week, my first week at school. I counted the number of girls at the table—eight. Eight was the maximum number of people

My heart sank. I went up to the table and feebly asked, "Is there space for me here?" hoping maybe I was wrong or that it wasn't as it seemed. I couldn't feel my feet beneath me. I felt dizzy.

I can't remember what they said, but I must have gotten the picture because I remember turning and quickly looking around for a new place to sit. It was a small cafeteria so someone would notice me standing all alone soon. I didn't want anyone to look at me. My ears were ringing, my hands were clammy, and my heart was beating out of my chest. I felt the eight girls' snickering whispers like daggers in my back. There was no physical fight or blowup so the teachers on lunch duty were none the wiser.

I saw a table with no one at it. So, I sat down. I wanted to cry. But I didn't.

I sat alone for two months

Eventually, I sat with a new group of people. For the next two years that we lived in Ohio, I had some good experiences—I even have a friend from that time who is still one of my best friends. But the two girls who banished me from the lunch table continued to be bullies. Yes, that's what I can call them now as a psychotherapist and adult who understands what was really going on. They were the kind of "friends" who would invite you over and you'd feel like, "Oh, good! We are friends again!" only to have them negatively talk about you or put you down.

We all have had experiences like this

The Little Saint Nicholas Owen

Fr. Dwight Longenecker

St. Thérèse of Lisieux is known for her little way, but there is another little saint who is one of my favorites.

St. Nicholas Owen was known as “Little John.” He was part of the courageous resistance during the Protestant revolution in England. Owen was a Jesuit lay brother.

A master carpenter from Oxford, he was only a little bit taller than a dwarf. He limped from a badly injured leg and suffered a painful hernia. A loyal, Samwise Gamgee kind of hobbitish fellow, Nicholas Owen is the man who designed and built countless “priest holes” in recusant country houses across England. The “recusants” were those who refused to conform to the Queen’s new Protestant religion.

To be a Catholic priest in England was a crime punishable by being hung drawn and quartered. The pursuivants were the spies and agents of the crown who searched tirelessly for the priests.

To stay one step ahead of them,



Owen had to devise increasingly cunning hiding places. He would build false walls and then put another false wall in front of it so when they tapped and found it hollow and tore the wall down they would find an empty hiding place—never supposing that the real hiding place was in another wall behind that one.

He used sewage drains, false chimney flues, fake attics and underfloor hiding places. Often, he would even build in a hole to be used as a toilet and construct a side chamber so the priest would slide down the toilet, then into the hiding place. Sometimes minute holes would be drilled in the walls through which a straw could be placed so the priest (who might have to hide there for days or even weeks) could be fed

secretly.

Little John was captured thrice. The first time he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. The second time in the Tower he was tortured. The final time he was captured in the crackdown after the Gunpowder Plot. Despite cruel torture he never revealed his hiding places, and he finally died under torture in the Tower of London.

What I like about Nicholas Owen is his stout and determined faith. He never gave in, showing the kind of courage in the face of adversity of all the great saints. Because of his skill at escape and hiding places he is the patron saint of illusionists and escapologists.

I also like his littleness. Somehow, he shows us the stalwart courage of all God’s ‘little’ saints. He was not only little physically, but he was comparatively unlearned and unpolished. He was, like Jesus himself, only a carpenter, but he displayed heroism and a “bigness” to shame us all. He’s leaping up in my gallery of saints, and I pray for a measure of both his littleness and his greatness.

Some signs from the recent March for Life in America



Chainsaw-Wielding Nun Goes Viral

Cleanup for Hurricane Irma, one of the largest hurricanes in U.S. history, is going to take a lot of work and a long time.

Which is why this religious sister is jumping right in, doing whatever needs to be done.

Sister Margaret Ann was spotted by an off duty police officer, who took a video and a few pictures of her. The Miami-Dade police department shared the video and pictures on their Facebook page, and the post has gone hugely viral! As of this writing, the post has 7.9 million views, over 4000 shares and over 4500 reactions.



The middle ages were not dark

Dominic Casanova

Contrary to popular opinion the middle ages, from the fifth century to the fifteenth century, were a time of exciting discoveries.

Universities were invented and great advances in medicine were made, especially in the area of ophthalmology.

It was also a time when people wore bright and colourful clothes, and fairs were a common event in the cities.

Literature took off in leaps and bounds:

Dante wrote his famous “Divine Comedy”,

Chaucer wrote “Canterbury Tales” and Beowulf was published.

Art flourished in the supposedly dark ages. The Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris was built in 1163, without any of the modern tools we have today, and here are a



few of its stain glass windows, beautiful works of art to say the least.

Bear in mind that all of these were created by hand and also that this is just a tiny fraction of the amazing structures created in the middle ages.

Philosophy, especially, prospered during these times, with great thinkers such as: Thomas Aquinas, Albert the great, Thomas’ teacher, who was also a biologist, Boethius, a Roman consul who wrote the “Consolation of Philosophy” and Duns Scotus, who influenced both Catholic and secular thought.

The earth was thought to be round, not flat. The Catholic Church said it was round, people saw the shadow of the earth during a lunar eclipse

and from that could gather that the earth was round.

Many during the middle ages, including Thomas Aquinas, were also influenced by some of the ancients such as Aristotle and Plato who also said that the earth was spherical and not flat.

Some people think that dissections were not performed in the middle ages; on the contrary, many doctors would perform experiments on corpses for the purposes of learning more about human anatomy.

There’s a five-minute video available on Youtube by Professor Anthony Esolen for Prager University, where some of this information came from.

I hope you can now see that the ‘dark’ ages, were a time filled with the light of literature, art and science.



The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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

The Good News!

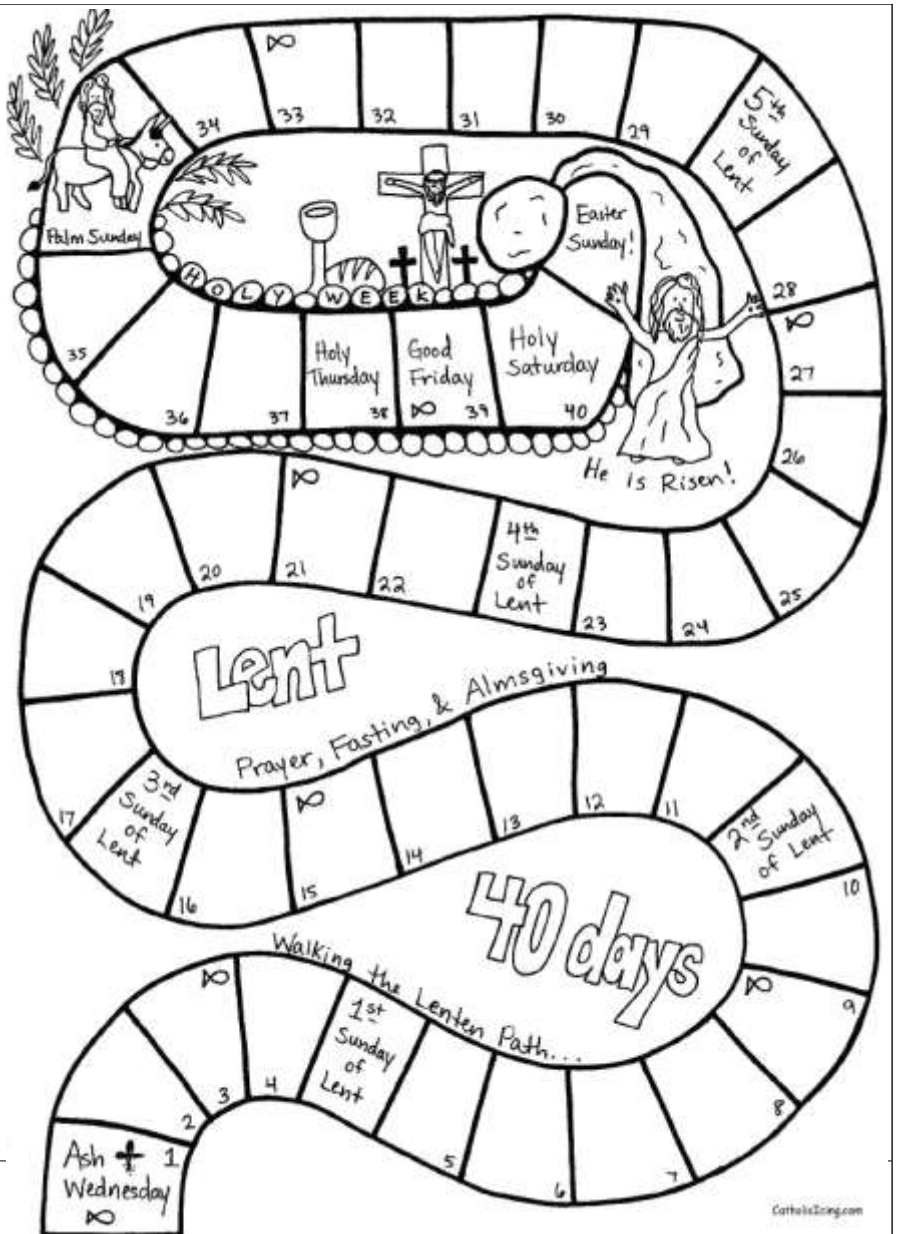
After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 'The time has come,' He said. 'The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News!'



Mark 1:14-15

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

- | | |
|----------|--------|
| NAZARETH | FORTY |
| BAPTISED | SPIRIT |
| TEMPTED | VOICE |
| GALILEE | JESUS |
| BELIEVE | NEWS |
| JORDAN | GOOD |
| HEAVEN | DOVE |
| REPENT | LOVE |
| DESERT | DAYS |
| WATER | JOHN |



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