

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 137

July 2014

Coming Events

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday:	Sun 6
Home of Compassion Auxiliary meeting:	Mon 7
Carmelite Ladies Auxiliary:	Mon 7
Prayer Vigil for Peace:	Thurs 10
Sea Farers Sunday:	Sun 13
Loreto Card Party:	Mon 14
SRE Catechist Training:	Wed 16
Lunch with Tim Fischer:	Tues 22
Ho.T New Organ Instruction:	Wed 23
First Friday Devotions:	Aug 1
First Saturday Devotions:	Aug 2



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The due date for the next Wag is:
Sunday August 3th.

New Church Organ

Holy Trinity Church was recently blessed with the benefaction of a new Allen's electric pipe organ. This generous donation accompanied by some parish money has delivered an Allens CF-8 pipe organ made in the USA. Allens were the original designers and makers of electronic organs which were first produced in 1940.



The organ is fitted with Vista Navigator an electronic MIDI device that smoothly integrates 128 exciting instruments, sounds and digital recording devices with the pre-existing 28 organ stops and two manuals, though the musician need only play the lower great manual for exciting and beautiful music. The rear speakers are the HR-200 which easily spread the sound of a grand pipe organ throughout the church. They have a complete frequency range with their own built-in amplifier, though we have toned them down since last Sunday morning.

It even has a remote control, so Father can play the organ's pre-recorded hymns from the sanctuary, just like the old Pianola (that's for the oldies who know what they were). The older Electone organ will be used for students.

The new organ is not just for organists, because pianists and keyboard players are assisted and encouraged by Allen's Base Coupler which removes the need to play the base pedals while the organ itself provides all the bass notes. Another factory speciality is the Pre-Set Sound Combinations. You only need to press one button to set up a complete combination of organ stops and/or orchestral sounds from Vista. There is also the advantage of a USB memory device which is capable of storing personal sound settings and music recordings. So there will be no more fuss about who changed 'the settings'!

An in-service for all the parish organists will be conducted by Mr. Jim Clinch from All Organs Brisbane. He will be in Wagga on Wednesday July 23 in the afternoon and early evening. This in-service is open to all interested persons, and especially all parish organists. Jim will instruct all on the use of the Vista Navigation with its additional enhancement of beautiful Allen music. Later in the year a recital will be provided in the church with a visiting organist. May God bless our benefactors.

Enjoy!

pastor's page



Atlas the Burden Bearer

In Greek mythology, Atlas was the primordial Titan who held up the celestial spheres. He literally carried the entire world (not just earth) on his shoulders. This was not a privilege but a punishment. Atlas had sided with the Titans in their war against the Olympians, the Titanomachy. When they were conquered, Atlas was condemned to carry the weight of all the spheres of the entire universe on his shoulders. Such was the harshest punishment that the ancient Greek minds could conjure up. Today, it seems that many of us, tricked by intense emotion and worry, condemn ourselves by succumbing to the pressure of life's daily burdens. Feeling and thinking that it is all up to us (and none other), we freely volunteered to play the role of Atlas; burdening ourselves (and sometimes our family and friends) by needlessly fretting.

It is so easy to fall into the idea that we have to do everything ourselves and that there is no one else who cares, or is willing and able to come forward to assist us. But this is not so. Jesus states, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). At every Mass we attend, Christ through the Liturgy of the Church invites us during the offertory: 'the Lord be with you'; 'Lift up your hearts' and (consciously or unconsciously) we respond, 'we lift them up to the Lord'.

By consciously and earnestly lifting up our burdened hearts to God at Mass, we can leave the church feeling unburdened, strengthened

and encouraged. This is real faith at work and experientially confirmed by those who do so. The Mass has many purposes over and above the worship of God. God genuinely wants us to bring our problems daily or weekly to Mass. Those who regularly do this know the benefits and the blessings.

When we try to do it all ourselves, we do not offend God, we just ignore him. We have unconsciously dismissed him. Telling him by our actions that we are all grown up now and do not need his help any more. That we are ready, willing and able to carry the entire weight of our little world on our shoulders. God doesn't object, he just waits lovingly in the background and thinks; 'Yea, that's ok, let's just see how that works out for you'.

But we soon enough understand that we can't do it alone and might just remember that a burden shared is a burdened halved (cf. Gal 6:2). The question is, 'when it gets too heavy for us, when there are questions too hard for human knowledge to answer and problems that take more time to solve than any of us have, are we too proud to admit that we have made a mistake in wanting to carry this world all alone?' St. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:9, 'And God said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you..."' Why is this so hard for us to accept? God not only can carry our burdens; he wants too.

Burden pain is a good thing because it reminds us that we are trying to do too much ourselves. Many of us are carrying burdens today that we do not need to carry. Yet by enacting our faith, trust, and confidence in God who really loves us, Jesus relieves our burdens. How frustrated Christ must be, seeing us stooped over with anguish, when he has requested that we give our junk to Him.

So how to do this? a) Prayerfully ask Jesus who or what is really burdening you. b) Pray that he set you free from the burdens that have come to your mind. c) Asked Jesus

to take your identified burden to himself. Then leave it with him and fret no more! Parents especially need to learn this. d) Leave it all in His care, asking Jesus to bless the burden; that is, the person or the problem. e) Then put aside your worries. If/when they come back follow the same prayerful method until you really experience peace of heart.

There are other people crying all around us, desperate people who need help. But many of their cries go unheard. There are many who need our sympathy, empathy and mercy, but we first need to experience this in Jesus, from where all our human strength flows. We all feel better when someone identifies with us and shares our difficulties. Someone who will hear our cry, listen patiently, feel with us and care. We all need to have an attitude of mercy for others and to be the recipients of such an attitude! And Mary is the Mother of Mercy, who is Jesus.

Shakespeare wrote:
*The quality of mercy is not strained;
It droppeth as the gentle rain from
heaven
Upon the place beneath:
it is twice blest,
It blesseth him that gives,
and him that takes.*

Fr Gerard



Sculpture of
Atlas,
Praza do
Toural,
Santiago de
Compostela,
Spain

July Jokes



A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables when a voice in the dark said, 'Jesus knows you're here.'

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more, he shook his head and continued.

Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard 'Jesus is watching you.' Startled, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

'Did you say that?' he hissed at the parrot.

'Yes', the parrot confessed, then squawked, 'I'm just trying to warn you that he's watching you.'

The burglar relaxed. 'Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?'

'Moses,' replied the bird.

'Moses?' the burglar laughed. 'What kind of people would name a bird Moses?'

'The kind of people who would name a Rottweiler Jesus.'

A farmer is wondering how many sheep he has in his field, so he asks his sheepdog to count them. The dog runs into the field, counts them, and then runs back to his master.

"So," says the farmer. "How many sheep were there?"

"40," replies the dog.

"How can there be 40?" exclaims the farmer. "I only bought 38!"

"I know," says the dog. "But I rounded them up."

An Alberta cowboy was overseeing his herd in a remote mountainous pasture when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced out of a dust cloud towards him.

The driver, a young man in a Brioni suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the cowboy, "If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?"

The cowboy looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, "Sure, Why not?" The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo. The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany.

Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored.

He then accesses a MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel Spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response.

Finally, he prints out a full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, Miniaturized HP LaserJet printer and finally turns to the cowboy and says,

"You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves."

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves," says the Cowboy.

He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on amused as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car.

Then the cowboy says to the young man, "Hey, if I can tell you exactly

what your business is, will you give me back my calf?"

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay, why not?"

"You're a member of parliament for the Canadian Government", says the cowboy.

"Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required." answered the cowboy.

"You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You tried to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don't know a thing about cows... this is a herd of sheep. Now give me back my dog."

A couple go for a meal at a Chinese restaurant and order the "Chicken Surprise". The waiter brings the meal, served in a lidded cast iron pot.

Just as the wife is about to serve herself, the lid of the pot rises slightly and she briefly sees two beady little eyes looking around before the lid slams back down.

Good grief, did you see that?" she asks her husband.

He hasn't, so she asks him to look in the pot. He reaches for it and again the lid rises, and he sees two little eyes looking around before it slams down.

Rather perturbed, he calls the waiter over, explains what is happening, and demands an explanation.

"Please sir," says the waiter, "what you order?" The husband replies, "Chicken Surprise."

"Ah... so sorry," says the waiter, "I bring you Peeking Duck."



World's Refugee Population Grows



We recently commemorated World Refugee Day. Unfortunately, this year the day is marked by a particularly sad statistic: for the first time since the World War II era, the world's refugee population (including asylum seekers and internally-displaced persons) has passed the 50 million mark.

This is according to the global trends report released by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The press release states:

"By the end of 2013, an estimated 51.2 million people worldwide were considered to be forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations. These included 16.7 million refugees, 33.3 million

internally displaced persons (IDPs), and close to 1.2 million individuals whose asylum applications had not yet been adjudicated by the end of the reporting period."

If you go to the press release, there are a couple of graphs, one of which depicts the number of global refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers over the last twenty years. You can see that the number has hovered in between about 33 million in 1997 and about 48 million (1993 and 1994). What has caused this number to spike to over 50 million is simply the civil war in Syria:

"In August, the one millionth Syrian refugee child was registered; only a few weeks later, UNHCR announced that the number of Syrian refugees had passed two million. 'The Syrian Arab Republic had moved from being the world's second largest refugee-hosting country to being its second largest refugee-producing country – within a span of just five years,' states the report."

You can see the rapid change that can happen in just a few years – who would have thought a few years ago that Syria would end up as it is today. Of course, the recent trouble in neighbouring Iraq is only adding to the number of displaced persons in the region. As the UN Secretary-General noted, the only thing that is going to reduce the number of refugees is peace:

"'On World Refugee Day...we honour the strength and resilience of the more than 50 million people around the world who have fled war, persecution and human rights abuses,' declared UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message, in which he noted that last year alone, more than 10 million people were newly displaced; every 15 minutes, a family was forced into flight.

'Let us renew our commitment to end armed conflict, and to help the people who have been forced to flee their homes. Even one family torn apart by war is too many,' he said."

Spanish model quits glamorous career to become a nun



Catholic Online 6/23/2014

After epiphany, model Olalla Oliveros says she has become an entirely different type of 'model'

After a career and lifestyle that would be the envy of anyone, Spanish model and actress Olalla Oliveros walked away from her hectic and glamorous lifestyle in order to become a nun. A face at onetime seen on countless

billboards across Spain is now adorned with blue sackcloth & veil.

Joining the Order of Saint Michael and becoming a nun, she says she made the decision after an "earthquake" moment during a visit to The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima in Portugal.

"The Lord is never wrong. He asked if I will follow him, and I could not refuse," the normally reluctant Oliveros told the National Catholic Register.

Oliveros at first found the experience strange, but later could not shake the image of herself dressed as a nun out of her head.

The 36-year-old model quit her career to take the veil. Oliveros' new name is Sister Olalla del Sí de María.

While Oliveros joined the order four years ago, she has only recently spoken about the decision.

"Being a model means being a benchmark, someone whose beliefs are worthy of being imitated, and I grew tired of being a model of superficiality.

"I grew tired of a world of lies, appearances, falsity, hypocrisy and deception, a society full of anti-values that exalts violence, adultery, drugs, alcohol, fighting, and a world that exalts riches, pleasure, sexual immorality and fraud.

"I want to be a model that promotes the true dignity of women and not their being used for commercial purposes," she says.

From slave, to priest, to saint?

- C. Vanessa White



Fr Augustus Tolton was the first African-American priest. Born a slave, denied entry to US seminaries, he travelled to Rome. Overcoming racism, he became a respected pastor. Now he is on the path to sainthood.

.....

I had never heard of Fr Augustus Tolton until I took a course in black Catholic history at Xavier University in New Orleans.

I did not know that he had ministered in Chicago (where I was from) nor of the many difficulties he had encountered.

Tolton is known as the first American priest of African descent who identified as black. In 2010 the Archdiocese of Chicago officially

opened the process of canonization for Tolton.

He was born a slave in 1854 in Missouri. His father escaped slavery to join the Union Army (later dying as a soldier), and in the 1860s his mother, Martha Tolton, fled with her two sons and an infant daughter, dodging Confederate bullets and travelling at night.

The family eventually crossed the Mississippi River in a rowboat and made their way to Quincy in the free state of Illinois.

Martha tried to find a welcoming church community for her children, but for years Augustus endured ridicule and humiliation in Quincy's parishes and schools.

Augustus felt called to the priesthood, but he was denied acceptance by every Catholic seminary in the country.

With the help of two Quincy priests and Catholic benefactors, he worked for the next 10 years in tobacco factories and other jobs, until he was able to save enough money to travel to Rome to attend a seminary there. For the next six years he studied to become a missionary priest, with the understanding that he would be sent to minister in Africa.

On the night before his ordination in 1886, Cardinal Giovanni Simeoni,

the prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, summoned Tolton to tell him that he was being sent back to America.

The Cardinal said, 'America has been called the most enlightened nation; we will see if it deserves that honour. If America has never seen a black priest, it has to see one now.'

Tolton was assigned to St Joseph Parish in Quincy, and although he won the hearts of young and old alike, he also endured humiliation, isolation, and condemnation from fellow priests who could not accept him.

They called him the 'n----r priest,' and when a large number of white Catholics attended his parish, the jealous pastor of a neighbouring parish told him he should not allow white people in his church. Tolton responded, 'We open the doors to the church. We do not tell people to go out; we tell them to go into the church.'

Later he was invited to come to Chicago to minister to the emerging black Catholic community.

His remaining years there were spent ministering to the poor, caring for the sick and hungry.

Celines Diaz gave up fame to worship God through her music



At 10 years old Celines Diaz wrote her first song. Since then, she has spent her life on stage. Diaz started out her

career writing mainstream music, and in 2001, she signed an international record deal.

However, she quickly realized that something was missing in her life. After attending a spiritual retreat, she decided to sing for God.

CELINES DIAZ Singer/Songwriter: "I was dedicated to secular music. But during the retreat, my experience with God, with his forgiveness and his love, was so great and wonderful. I discovered that Jesus is alive. Since that moment, I wanted to give Him my life, which is my music."

Each year, Diaz and her band tour throughout the United States and Latin America, using her lyrics and music to spread the Word of God.

CELINES DIAZ Singer/Songwriter: "For 2014, we're working on launching our second album, 'God is

loyal.' We are very excited, very happy to be able to share everything that God has given us these years. We want to use our music to share it."

With a packed performance schedule, Diaz hopes to be able to keep spreading joy and optimism with her songs, for many years to come.



Islam and Science by Bill Muehenberg, CultureWatch

There are some myths about Islam being circulated. Take for example the idea that science, culture, the arts and learning all flourished under Islam while the West went through some "Dark Ages".

That phrase of course is the pejorative term which Enlightenment atheists and secularists used of the Middle Ages which was in fact a period of a great flowering of science, learning and the preservation of Christianity – all by Christians. Simply reflect on what the monks and monasteries were doing during this period.

While we pray for our Islamic brothers and sisters, the notion of any significant cultural progress has been shown to be a myth. Certainly minor developments did occur during this period. The truth is, ... it was not Islam that was responsible for most of these achievements, but their captured slaves, or dhimmis, living under them. For example, most of the supposed achievements of scientific advancement ... took place at the hands of Jews and Christians who were imprisoned by Islam or living in dhimmitude.

Indeed, while Islam benefited from the Greek sciences, this was translated for them by those Christians and the Jews living under their domination. And much of this was of course not scientific innovation, but really a case of borrowing and transmission, as seen with paper-making coming from China; the algebraic concept of zero brought in from India, or the translation of some books written by Aristotle, etc. ...

One scholar who has written extensively on these specific matters in his various books is historian Rodney Stark. He reminds us that only in Christian Europe did modern science emerge. This is because "Christianity depicted God as a rational, responsive, dependable, and omnipotent being and the universe as his personal creation, thus having a rational, lawful, stable structure, awaiting human comprehension."

He continues, "... To sum up: the rise of science ... was the natural outgrowth of Christian doctrine: Nature exists because it was created by God. To love and honour God, one must fully

appreciate the wonders of his handiwork."

But let's look at some specifics here. As mentioned, it was overwhelmingly the dhimmis, or conquered Christians and Jews living under Muslim domination, who did most "Arab" science. They are the ones who also did most of the translating into Arabic.

For example, it was Nestorian Christians who primarily collected, translated and oversaw the Greek manuscripts as they were translated into Arabic and Syriac. And Muslim or Arab "medicine was in fact Nestorian Christian medicine; even the leading Muslim and Arab physicians were trained at the enormous Nestorian medical centre at Nisibus in Syria."

... "Many of the Muslim world's most famous scholars were Persians.. This includes Avicenna ... as well as Omar Khayyam, al-Biruni, and Razi. "What may have misled so many historians is that most contributors to 'Arabic science' were given Muslim names and their works were published in Arabic, that being the official language."

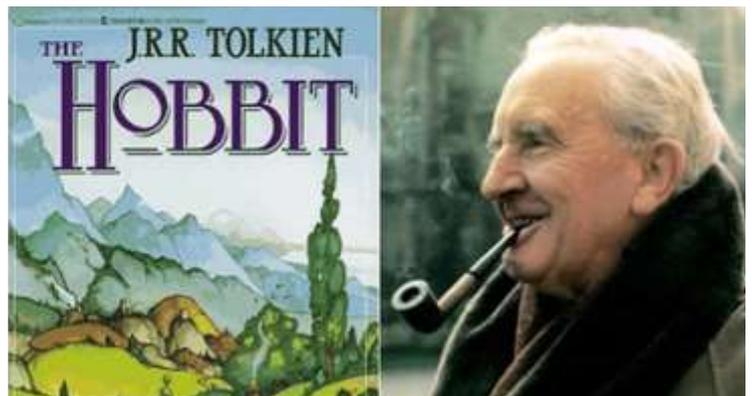
So too mathematics: "The so-called Arabic numerals were entirely of Hindu origin."

... Islamic architecture "turns out to have been mainly a dhimmi achievement, adapted from Persian and Byzantine origins."

Moreover, "many famous Muslim mosques were originally Christian churches but converted by merely adding external minarets and redecorating the interiors."



"Out of the darkness of my life, so much frustrated, I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament. There you will find romance, glory, honour, fidelity, and the true way of all your loves on earth." - J.R.R. TOLKIEN



Pope tells couples not to substitute dogs and cats for children

Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

Pope Francis blamed a "culture of well-being" and comfort for convincing married couples that a carefree life of world travel and summer homes was better than having children.

He said married couples should look at how Jesus loves His Church to learn how to be faithful, perseverant and fruitful in their vocation.

About 15 married couples celebrating their 25th, 50th or 60th anniversaries joined the pope June 2 for his early morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where he lives.

In his homily, Pope Francis said fidelity, perseverance and fruitfulness were the three characteristics of God's love for His Church and should be the same three pillars of a Christian marriage. Just as the Church is fruitful by generating new children in Christ through baptism, marriage should be open to new life, the pope said in his homily, according to a report by Vatican Radio.

"In a marriage, this fruitfulness can sometimes be put to the test, when children don't come or when they are ill," he said.

Couples who deal with infertility or loss can still look to Jesus and "draw the strength of fruitfulness that Jesus

has with His Church."

However, "there are things that Jesus doesn't like," he said, such as married couples "who don't want children, who want to be without fruitfulness."

The pope blamed "this culture of well-being" for convincing married men and women to intentionally remain childless.

This culture of comfort, he said, "has convinced us that 'it's better to not have children! It's better. That way you can see the world, be on vacation, you can have a fancy home in the country, you'll be carefree.'"

People think it is better or easier "to have a puppy, two cats, and the love goes to the two cats and the puppy. Isn't this true or not? Have you seen this?" he asked the people in the congregation.

"And in the end, this marriage will end in old age in solitude, with the bitterness of bad solitude."

The pope said Jesus is always faithful to His Church -- "His bride: beautiful, holy, sinner, but He loves her just the same."

Jesus is always faithful, even to those who sin and deny Him; and "this fidelity is like a light" that shines on marriage, showing what "the faithfulness of love" looks like,



he said.

In addition to always being faithful, love also must be "untiring in its perseverance," he said.

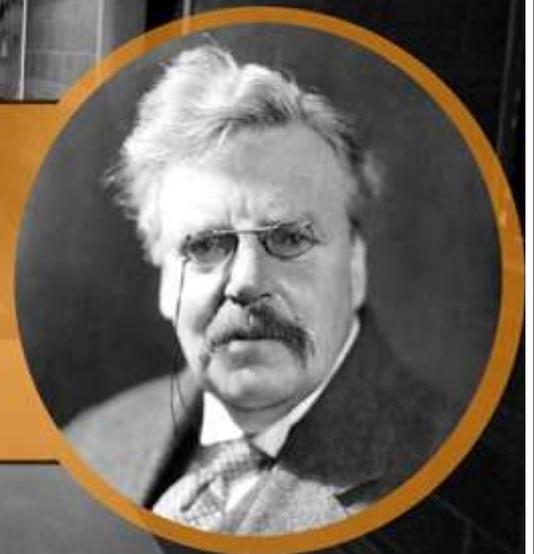
Just as Jesus forgives His Church, spouses must ask each other for forgiveness so that "matrimonial love can go on," he said.

"Perseverance in love" must endure, in good times and bad, "when there are problems, problems with the kids, money problems, problems here and there."

"Love perseveres," he said. "It keeps going, always seeking to resolve things in order to save the family."

MERELY HAVING AN OPEN MIND IS NOTHING. THE OBJECT OF OPENING THE MIND, AS OF OPENING THE MOUTH, IS TO SHUT IT AGAIN ON SOMETHING SOLID. OTHERWISE IT IS MORE AKIN TO A SEWER, TAKING IN ALL THINGS EQUALLY.

G.K. CHESTERTON



The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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

The Calling of Matthew

"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
Matthew 9:13b (NIV)

Based on Genesis Matthew 9:9-13 (NIV)

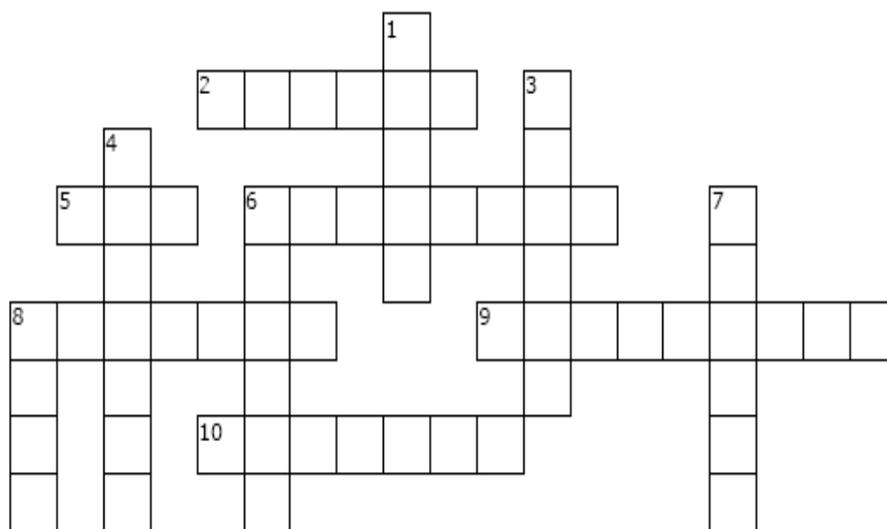


ACROSS

2. One who refuses to obey God's laws
5. An amount of money paid to the government
6. One of the twelve chosen to follow Jesus
8. The opposite of standing
9. A person who accumulates items (stamps, for example)
10. Strong and free from illness and disease

DOWN

1. Kindness and forgiveness shown toward someone
3. To walk behind someone
4. The first book of the New Testament
6. The main meal of the day
7. A person who treats people who are sick or injured
8. To be affected with disease or ill health



DISCIPLE	DINNER	DOCTOR	COLLECTOR
SICK	MERCY	SINNER	FOLLOW
SITTING	MATTHEW	HEALTHY	TAX