

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

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 149

July 2015

Coming Events

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

St Mary Magdalene Wed 22

St James Sat 25

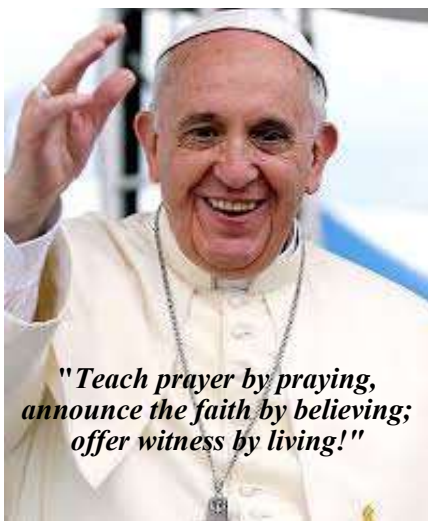
Home of Compassion Card Party
Mon 20

Carmelite Trivia Night Fri 26

St Alphonsus Sat 1 Aug

Transfiguration of Lord Thurs 6

St Mary of the Cross Sat 8



*"Teach prayer by praying,
announce the faith by believing;
offer witness by living!"*

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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: Wednesday July 29.

Celebratory Occasions!

In this spiritual year of Consecrated Life, the Confraternity of Christ the Priest has rejoiced with it's Diamond Jubilee Mass. This was celebrated at St. Michael's Cathedral with Bishop Gerard as the main celebrant. Sincere thanks to all who attended, to those who sent messages of congratulations and to the many who did so much for the occasion; especially the Ladies Auxiliary, the choir and the visiting priests.



Max Stephens after his 1st Holy Communion.



The children of Holy Trinity received their 1st Holy Communion on Sunday June 14 at St Michael's Cathedral. We congratulate them, praise and thank God.

Cutting the celebratory cake.

pastor's page

Sign of Peace and signs of welcome

The Mass is the source and summit of our Christian Life. It is where we sit at the feet of Our Lord to learn from Him; where we stand to greet Him in the Gospel, where we kneel to worship Him, approach to receive Him. From the Mass we go out to share Him with the world. Jesus is the Centre of the Mass.

But the Mass is also where we are united. All being centred on Him, and recipients of His new Life, we become part of His Mystical Body, and one family. Our communion with Our beloved Lord brings about our communion with each other.

We express this in a special way on Sundays and Feast Days when we give each other the "sign of peace". In different cultures this is done in different ways. For example in India, each person turns to those close by and, with hands joined, the faithful bow to each other and say, "Namaste". It really shows esteem for the other person. I found myself bowing to a baby I had just baptised, suddenly feeling the presence of the Blessed Trinity in that new Christian. In Australia the custom is to turn to those nearby and say "Peace be with you", with a simple handshake,

expressing peace, communion and charity.

It is a good idea to observe those around you to see if there is someone new. It is one of the works of mercy to welcome the stranger. In fact, no one should be a stranger when they visit another parish. We are all part of the one family! One former Apostolic Nuncio said on coming to Australia that he felt he had just entered another room in the same home, and so he had. No one should be left hanging, observing the sign of peace being given to others around them but missing out themselves. Without reaching across too many pews or going from your seat, try to show this kindness to those new to our parish.

When some are using wheelchairs or walkers, it is a special act of charity for some of the community to come over to them to include them in the sign of peace. We see this at the Home of Compassion and it is done there beautifully in a way that does not disturb the solemnity of the Mass, mindful of Jesus with us on the Altar.

There are other opportunities to show this welcome, when other conversation is appropriate, and that is before and especially after Mass.



"Hi, my name is ---- I don't think I have met you before... come and meet...", "Good morning, is this your first time at San Isidore/Holy Trinity...?" How easy it is to greet someone, once we try. Even a simple "Welcome"! And spoken with a welcoming smile. If Occupational Health and Safety is everyone's business, so is welcoming others into our parish. It is our privilege and our joy. It requires us to have an eye open on the way out of Mass to notice especially those by themselves. Who knows, you may make a good friend, but we know for sure that in welcoming the stranger, you are welcoming Jesus Christ Himself.

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS



Words of "Welcome"!

Try saying one of these for people who are new to Australia:

Arabic - Ahla w sahla

Burmese - kyaosopartaal

Cantonese - fūnyihng

French - Bienvenue

German - Willkommen

Greek - Kalós orísate

Hebrew - baruch haba

Indonesian - Selamat datang

Irish - Fáilte

Italian - Benvenuto/a

Polish - Witam

Spanish - Bienvenido

Tagalog - Mabuhay

Tamil - vaangha (try this for Marvin and Richardson)

Vietnamese - Hoan nghênh

Wirradjuri - Gawaymbanha

July Jokes



Danny was an extremely nervous patient whose imagination afflicted him with all kinds of misfortunes that never materialised. One afternoon he staggered into the house. He was bent forwards. He tottered to a chair and, still curled into a half-moon shape, dropped into it.

'Jenny,' he gasped, 'it's happened at last. There was no warning. All of a sudden I found I couldn't straighten up. I can't lift my head.'

When the doctor had arrived and looked at Danny, Jenny inquired, 'Is there any hope, doc?'

'Well,' the GP replied, 'it would help a great deal if he would undo the third buttonhole of his waistcoat from the top button of his trousers.'

Doctor, Doctor I think I need glasses.

You certainly do, Sir, this is a fish and chip shop!

Doctor: We need to get these people to a hospital!

Nurse: What is it?

Doctor: It's a big building with a lot of doctors, but that's not important now!

A man speaks frantically into the phone, "My wife is pregnant, and her contractions are only two minutes apart!"

"Is this her first child?" the doctor queries.

"No you idiot!" the man shouts.

"This is her husband!"

Embarrassing Incident

Hospital regulations require a wheelchair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman -- already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet -- who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

"I don't know," he said. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

The Hypochondriac

Teacher: How can you prevent diseases caused by biting insects?

Suzie: Don't bite any!

The Money's Good

A plumber attended to a leaking tap at the neurosurgeon's house. After a two-minute job, he demanded \$150. The neurosurgeon exclaimed, "I don't even charge that amount and I am a brain surgeon."

The plumber replied, "I agree. You are right! I too, didn't either, when I was a surgeon. That's why I switched to plumbing!"

Patient Care

A famous surgeon went on a safari in Africa. When he came back, his colleagues asked him how it had been. 'Oh, it was very disappointing,' he said. 'I didn't kill a thing. I'd have been better off staying here in the hospital.'

New Disease Discovered

Medical researchers have discovered a new disease that has no symptoms. It is impossible to detect, and there is no known cure.

Fortunately no cases have been reported thus far.

Worried Patient

Patient: Doctor, when I press my leg it hurts. Then when I press my chest it hurts, when I press my head it hurts, and when I press my stomach it hurts. I'm worried doc, what's wrong with me?

Doctor: Easy, straightforward, you have a sore finger!

Doctor Khan was giving a lecture to a group of medical students at the city hospital.

Pointing to the x-ray, he explained: "As you can see, this patient limps because his right fibula and tibia are radically arched."

The doctor looked up at the assembled students, and asked Sidney "Now what would you do in a case like this?"

Sidney piped up: "I suppose I would limp too."

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Bloopers Doctors Have Written About Patients, allegedly Gleaned Over the Years From Medical Notes

1 On the second day the knee was better, and on the third day it disappeared.

2 The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.

3 The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.

4 Discharge status: Alive but without my permission.

5 The patient refused autopsy.

6 Patient's medical history has been unremarkable with only a 40-pound weight gain in the past three days.

7 Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.

8 She is numb from her toes down.

9 The skin was moist and dry.

10 The patient was to have a bowel resection. However, he took a job as a stockbroker instead.

11 Patient was seen in consultation by Dr. Blank, who felt we should sit on the abdomen and I agree.

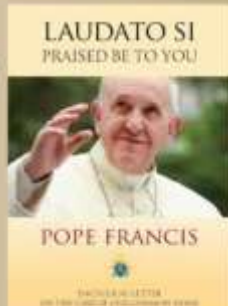
12 Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.



‘Laudato Si’ - Encyclical Letter by Pope Francis on the Environment

(75) A spirituality which forgets God as all-powerful and Creator is not acceptable.

That is how we end up worshipping earthly powers, or ourselves usurping the place of God....



Pope Francis has released his historic Encyclical Letter on the care for our common home.

The title, 'Laudato Si', is taken from a hymn by St Francis of Assisi that contains strong emphasis on harmony between God and the creatures of the world.

You've heard or seen some quotes from this encyclical. Have you seen these?

All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. (#14)

We seem to think that we can substitute an irreplaceable and irretrievable beauty with something which we have created ourselves. (#34)

Instead of resolving the problems of the poor and thinking of how the world can be different, some can only propose a reduction in the birth rate. At times, developing countries face forms of international pressure which make economic assistance contingent on certain policies of "reproductive health"... To blame population growth instead of extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the issues. (#50)

We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. (#52)

The creation accounts in the book of Genesis contain ... profound

teachings about human existence and its historical reality. They suggest that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with

our neighbour and with the earth itself. According to the Bible, these three vital relationships have been broken, both outwardly and within us. This rupture is sin. (#66)

Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. (#84)

One Person of the Trinity entered into the created cosmos, throwing in his lot with it, even to the cross. From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole, without thereby impinging on its autonomy. (#99)

We can once more broaden our vision. We have the freedom needed to limit and direct technology; we can put it at the service of another type of progress, one which is healthier, more human, more social, more integral. (#112)

When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities – to offer just a few examples – it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected. Once the human being declares independence from reality and behaves with absolute dominion, the very

foundations of our life begin to crumble. (#117)

There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology. When the human person is considered as simply one being among others, the product of chance or physical determinism, then our overall sense of responsibility wanes. (#118)

Christian thought sees human beings as possessing a particular dignity above other creatures; it thus inculcates esteem for each person and respect for others. (#119)

Since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion. How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties? 'If personal and social sensitivity towards the acceptance of the new life is lost, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away. (#120)

In this sense, it is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others, but should be the principal dialogue partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed. (#146)

Human ecology also implies another profound reality: the relationship between human life and the moral law, which is inscribed in our nature and is necessary for the creation of a more dignified environment... Valuing one's own body in its femininity or masculinity is necessary if I am going to be able to recognize myself in an encounter with someone who is different. In this way we can joyfully accept the specific gifts of another man or woman, the work of God the Creator, and find mutual enrichment. It is not a healthy

‘Laudato Si’ continued ...

attitude which would seek “to cancel out sexual difference because it no longer knows how to confront it”. (#155)

The emptier a person’s heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. (#204)

A healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change. (#218)

In reality, those who enjoy more and live better each moment are those who have given up dipping here and there, always on the lookout for what they do not have. They experience what it means to appreciate each person and each thing, learning familiarity with the simplest things and how to enjoy

them. So they are able to shed unsatisfied needs, reducing their obsessiveness and weariness. (#223)

Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness. (#230)

The Sacraments are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of mediating supernatural life. (#235)

At the end, we will find ourselves face to face with the infinite beauty of

God (cf. 1 Cor 13:12), and be able to read with admiration and happiness the mystery of the universe, which with us will share in unending plenitude. Even now we are journeying towards the sabbath of eternity, the new Jerusalem, towards our common home in heaven. Jesus says: “I make all things new” (Rev 21:5). (#243)



New Patrons of Marriage?

Pope Francis formally approved on June 27th the decrees necessary for Blesseds Louis and Zelig Martin – known for being the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux – to be declared saints later this year.

The two blesseds will be the first couple ever to be canonized at the same ceremony, which will be held Oct. 18 in the Vatican. The event will take place fewer than three weeks after the Oct. 1 feast of their daughter, and doctor of the Church, St. Therese of the Child Jesus.

The Roman Pontiff approved the decrees for the Martins’

canonization during a consistory of bishops at the Apostolic Palace.

On March 18, the Pope had recognized a miracle attributed to the couple.

Married in 1858 just three months after meeting each other, Bl. Louis and Zelig lived in celibacy for nearly a year, but eventually went on to have nine children. Four died in infancy, while the remaining five daughters entered religious life.

Zelig died from cancer in 1877, leaving Louis to care for their five young daughters: Marie, Pauline, Leonie, Celine, and Therese, who

was only four at the time. Louis died in 1894 after suffering two strokes in 1889, followed by five years of serious drawn-out illness.

Louis and Zelig were beatified Oct. 19, 2008 by Benedict XVI.

The canonizations

of the married couple will coincide with the Synod on the Family, to be held on Oct. 4-25. The three-week gathering of bishops will be the second and larger of two such gatherings to take place in the course of a year. Like its 2014 precursor, the focus of the 2015 Synod of Bishops will be the family, this time with the theme: “The vocation and mission of the family in the church and the modern world.”

Pope Francis venerated the relics of Blesseds Louis and Zelig ahead of the 2014 Synod on the Family, along with those of another married couple: Blessed Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi.

It was announced that Blessed Louis and Zelig Martin will be canonized alongside two others: Blessed Vincenzo Grossi, an Italian priest and founder of the Institute of the Daughters of the Oratory, and Bl. Maria of the Immaculate Conception, Spanish superior general of the Sisters of the Company of the Cross.



Birth Control in USA Drinking Water: An Environmental Catastrophe in the Making?

A recent report from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) found that birth-control hormones excreted by women, flushed into waterways and eventually into drinking water can also impact fish fertility up to three generations after exposure — raising questions about their effects on humans, who are consuming the drugs without even knowing it in each glass of water they drink.

The survey, published in March in the journal *Scientific Reports*, looked at the impact of the synthetic hormone 17 α -ethinylestradiol (EE2), an ingredient of most contraceptive pills, in the water of Japanese medaka fish during the first week of their development. While the exposed fish and their immediate offspring appeared unaffected, the second generation of fish struggled to fertilize eggs — with a 30% reduction in fertilization rates — and their embryos were less likely to survive. Even the third generation of fish had 20% impaired fertility and survival rates, though they were never directly exposed to the hormone.

Widespread Contamination

In a landmark 1999-2000 USGS survey, 80% of water samples from 139 American rivers and streams in 30 states were found to be contaminated with drugs, ranging from antibiotics and antidepressants to contraceptives and hormone replacements.

But scientists are particularly concerned about the contraceptive chemical EE2 because of its ability to “feminize” male fishes and its association with plummeting fish fertility.

A landmark 2007 study, for example, described a seven-year whole-lake experiment in northern Ontario, Canada, in which tiny amounts of EE2 induced “intersex” male minnows ...; this ultimately resulted in the “near extinction” of the species from the lake, as well as

a threat to larger fish populations. Numerous subsequent studies across the globe have linked birth-control hormones to impaired fertility, “transgender fish” and reduced fish populations. Minnesota pollution researchers looking for the endocrine disruptors found them even in remote lakes thought to be pristine; and when they lowered cages of male lab minnows into the lakes, most of them were feminized within three weeks.



By 2009, USGS scientists found that one-third of 111 American waterways they tested contained some intersex fish, particularly male bass. A year later, scientists were reporting that 80% of the fish in the Potomac River — whose water is pumped into the homes of 4 million people — showed “intersex” features.

The impact of EE2 has been demonstrated experimentally in mammals as well.

Unabsorbed Contraceptives

About 50 million women worldwide are taking contraceptive pills, and it is the leading form of birth control in the U.S., consumed by about 10.5 million women annually, according to the Guttmacher Institute. Up to 68% of the contraceptive drugs being consumed are not absorbed, but excreted into sewage systems, according to the USGS study. And according to one 2009 study of loss of fertility in rats due to EE2, about 3%- to 4% of women

continue to take birth control inadvertently in the first trimester of pregnancy, raising concerns about their babies’ early exposure to endocrine disruptors, though it’s impossible to say how many babies and children are inadvertently exposed through drinking water and to what doses or what impact the hormones are having on adults, if any.

With unexplained soaring incidences of testicular cancer, infertility, childhood “gender dysphoria” in increasingly young children, who are confused about their sexual identity, and [more], some scientists are asking if the fish in the study are like miners’ canaries: They are warning of a problem that has not yet been fully realized.

But in the absence of public awareness and outcry, little has been done about the problem in the U.S. or elsewhere.

Evidence Ignored

The Catholic Church has always taught that pharmaceutical contraception to prevent pregnancy is “intrinsically evil” and “contrary to the good of the transmission of life” (Vade Mecum for Confessors 2:4, Feb. 12, 1997), even without considering its effects on the environment or public health. The effects of BPA from plastics are well recognized, but the impact of birth control on the environment and fertility has been downplayed and dismissed — a reaction vom Saal thinks is not based on science. “Clear evidence for equal potency is ignored by the industry,” he said. “It’s strange how even the most ardent environmentalists suddenly go silent when confronted with evidence of how birth-control pills harm aquatic ecosystems. Instead of angry calls for the regulation of a pollutant that is causing a ‘silent spring’ of hermaphroditic fish unable to breed, we hear nothing,” said Steven Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute.

Grandfather's Bowl

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law and four year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered.

The family ate together at the table, but the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about grandfather," said the son. "I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor."

So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. When the family

glanced in grandfather's direction, he sometimes had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four year old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Momma to eat your food from when I grow up." The four year old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no words were spoken, both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took grandfather's hand and gently led

him back to the family table.

For the remainder of his days, he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.



Not going to church because of the "hypocrites" is like not going to the gym because of "out of shape people"



ANYWAY

(Blessed Teresa of Calcutta had the following words enlarged, framed and hung in the front lobby of her orphanage. The original wording comes from the "Paradoxical Commandments" written in 1968 by Kent Keith')

People are unreasonable, illogical, self-centered ...love them anyway.
 If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives
 ...do good anyway.
 If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies
 ...be successful anyway.
 The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow ...do good anyway.
 Honesty and frankness will make you vulnerable ...be honest and frank anyway.
 People love underdogs but follow only top dogs
 ...follow some underdog anyway.
 What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight ...build anyway.
 People really need help but may attack you if you try to help
 ...help people anyway.
 If you give the world the best you have, you may get kicked in the teeth
 ...but give the world the best you have ... ANYWAY.

The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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



Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Mark 6:8 (NIV)



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|-----------|----------|
| FAMILY | EVIL |
| AUTHORITY | VILLAGE |
| TWELVE | JOURNEY |
| TAKE | BREAD |
| REPENT | HEALED |
| SANDALS | TEACHING |
| SPIRITS | STAFF |
| JESUS | SENT |
| TUNIC | PREACH |
| MONEY | NOTHING |
| BAG | |

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