

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 185

July 2018

Coming Events

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

Saint Thomas	Tue 3
Saint Elizabeth of Portugal	Wed 4
Saint Maria Goretti	Fri 6
Blessed Peter To Rot	Sat 7
Saint Benedict	Wed 11
Saint Henry	Fri 13
Saint Camillus de Lellis	Sat 14
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Mon 16
Saint Bridget of Sweeden	Mon 23
Saint Sharbel Makhluf	Tue 24
Saint James	Wed 25
Saints Joachim and Anne	Thu 26
Saint Peter Chrysologus	Mon 30
Saint Ignatius Loyola	Tue 31

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 August 1st.

Confirmed in 2018!

On Sunday, June 24 at 11.30 am, the West Wagga Catholic Parish celebrated Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation for NUMBER young Catholics.



Fr Peter Thompson from Vianney College was given the authority and privilege of Confirming these newly strengthened disciples of Jesus.

The names of the Confirmed are:

Isabelle Bruckner
Bayley Clout
Madison Dibiccari
Ethan Drum
Sabrina Ellis
Bridget FitzGerald
Alexcia Godden
Kayden Hooper
Jariah Lancaster
Mia Larkin
Olivia Lewis
Annaliese Lugton
Annalyse Norville
Chelsea Purcell

Congratulations!



pastor's page - Hi from Rome!



I'm actually writing this Pastor's Page before I travel to Rome. This trip is on behalf of the Confraternity of Christ the Priest in order to do a course for "Formators" of seminarians. I will be joining rectors from seminaries around the world for a month long study, the same course which Fr Peter Thompson, Fr Sean and Fr Rick have previously done to help them in their roles at Vianney College. Our Confraternity of Christ the Priest has nine men in formation hoping one day to become Priests. After they do their religious Novitiate at San Isidore they progress to seminary formation in Vianney College, along with seminarians for the Wagga Diocese and for a couple of other dioceses and religious congregations.

Priestly formation includes firstly formation as dedicated disciples of Jesus. Like the first disciples and the Apostles, these men grow in their personal knowledge and love of Jesus. Their own personal conversion and conviction, their joyful and grateful experience of grace, their love of the Church and their wholehearted "Yes" to Our Lord's call, are no less important than the study of Theology. We pray that all future priests will study the One they love, and love more and more the One they study.

So priestly formation is personal as well as academic, in the heart as well as in the head. This prepares men who will be shepherds with the

heart of the Good Shepherd, willing to lay down their lives for the flock, i.e., for you.

Every Thursday before the 7am Mass in our parish we pray the Litany of Christ Priest and Victim, by which we honour the first Catholic Priest, Jesus Christ, and pray for all priests. The devil attacks them, knowing all the good they can do. He attacks them in their faithfulness to Christ, in their fidelity to true doctrine and in their willingness to teach that truth with love. Our prayers for priests are like Aaron and Hur who held up the arms of Moses as he prayed for Joshua and the Israelites in battle. Every time Moses' arms became weary and dropped, the enemy gained against Joshua, so Aaron and Hur sat him on a stone and each held up an arm to help Moses pray. By your prayers for us priests, you uphold us in our duty, for the good of all the Church.

Back to Rome: it is a great privilege to be there for an extended time. I am hoping as well as doing that study to visit many holy sites, tombs of saints, the catacombs, the Holy Stairs which were moved from Jerusalem to Rome, the very stairs used by Jesus on Good Friday, and some cities outside Rome such as Assisi. Hopefully I will be able to give you a few short video greetings from these places, posted on our parish Facebook page. I will pray for our parish over there.

Rome is a reminder to us that we belong to the world wide, 'Catholic' Church, united to the faithful from every land. At every Mass we should remember that we are praying not only as members of our local parish, diocese and Australia, but in a way which unites us with Catholics throughout the countries and centuries. We share one teaching, not going off in different

directions; therefore we must resist the temptation to change doctrines and the moral law and Sacramental practices due to particular issues in our Western culture. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Do not allow yourselves to be led astray by all sorts of doctrines." (Letter to the Hebrews) It is wonderful that, despite the different languages used, we can feel quite at home in any Catholic Church in any country. And we can pick up the lives of the saints who lived at the time of St Augustine (400s), of St Francis (1200's) or St Teresa of Avila (1500s) and also feel just as familiar about the Faith they loved and proclaimed. It is great to be Catholic!

Rome is also where the Pope is, who has the special vocation and charism from God to "strengthen the faith of the Brethren". I may have the chance to meet the Pope, but more importantly we all have the opportunity and duty to pray for him that he may have all the graces he needs to teach the faith in charity and clarity. In 2016 when I and other parishioners went to Rome for the canonization of St Mother Teresa we were able to visit the tomb of St Peter and celebrate Mass there with Cardinal Pell. There, in and under St Peter's Basilica we prayed to the first Pope for the whole Church: Pope; priests and all the children of God.

May God bless us all on our pilgrim way.

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS



The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

July Jokes



OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES!!

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday school teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mum looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "And she turned into a telephone pole!"

GOOD SAMARITAN

Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan.

"If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the silence, "I think I'd throw up ..."

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"

MOSES AND THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy

lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements.

They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his Mother asked,

"Well, no, Mom, but, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

UNTIMELY ANSWERED PRAYER

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews.

Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?"

Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

TIME TO PRAY

A priest asked a boy if he said his prayers every night.

"Yes, Father," the boy replied.

"And, do you always say them in the morning, too?" the priest asked.

"No Father," the boy replied. "I ain't scared in the daytime."

Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: 6.

Teacher: What? How is that possible?

Kid: He became father only when I was born.

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

Maria: Here it is.

Teacher: Correct. Now, Class, who discovered America?

Class: Maria.

Teacher: Glen, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

Glen: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

Teacher: No, that's wrong.

Glen: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

Donald: H I J K L M N O

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Donald: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

Teacher: If I give you two rabbits and two rabbits and another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Patty: Seven!

Teacher: No, listen carefully again.

If I give you two rabbits and two rabbits and another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Patty: Seven!

Teacher: Let's try this another way.

If I give you two apples and two apples and another two apples, how many apples have you got?

Patty: Six.

Teacher: Good. Now if I give you two rabbits and two rabbits and another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Patty: Seven!

Teacher: How on earth do you work out that three lots of two rabbits is seven?

Patty: I've already got one rabbit at home now!

Two cows are standing in a field. One says to the other "Are you worried about Mad Cow Disease?" The other one says "No, It doesn't worry me, I'm a horse!"

Teacher: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

Clyde: No, sir; it's the same dog.



The Eucharistic Miracle

of Sokółka, Poland



Laboratory analyses confirm that the structure of the cardiac muscle fibers and the structure of the bread are intertwined in a way impossible to reproduce by human means.

Every day, on the altars of Catholic churches around the world, the greatest miracle possible takes place: the transformation of bread and wine into the true Body and Blood of Christ.

Nonetheless, when we receive Communion, we can only touch its true nature with our faith, because our senses only perceive bread and wine, physically unaltered by the consecration.

What are the implications, then, of the Eucharistic event in Sokolka, Poland?

It took place on Sunday, October 12, 2008, two weeks after the beatification of Servant of God Fr. Michael Sopocho.

During the Holy Mass celebrated at the parish church of St. Anthony in Sokolka, at 8:30 a.m., a consecrated host fell from the hands of one of the priests during the distribution of Communion, next to the altar. The priest interrupted the distribution of Communion and picked up the host, and, in accordance with liturgical norms, placed it in a small container of water—in this case, one found in some churches beside the tabernacle, where the priest may

wash his fingers after distributing Communion. The host was expected to dissolve in the water, which would later be disposed of properly.

Sister Julia Dubowska, of the Congregation of the Eucharistic Sisters, was the parish sacristan. At the end of the Mass, at the request of the pastor, Fr. Stanislaw Gniedziejko, she poured the water and the host into another container. Knowing that the consecrated host would take some time to dissolve, she placed the new container in the safe located in the parish sacristy. Only she and the pastor had the keys to the safe.

A week later, on October 19, Mission Sunday, when the pastor asked her about the condition of the host, Sister Julia went to the safe. When she opened the door, she noticed a delicate aroma of unleavened bread. When she opened the container, she saw, in the middle of the host—which was still largely intact—a curved, bright red stain, like a blood stain: a living particle of a body. The water was untainted by the color.

The sister immediately informed the priest, who brought in the other priests at the parish and the visiting missionary, Fr. Ryszard Gorowski. They were all amazed and left speechless by what they saw.

They kept a discreet and prudent silence about the event, considering its importance; this was a consecrated host which, by the power of the words of Christ at the Last Supper, was truly His Body. From a human point of view, it was difficult at that point to define if the altered form of the remainder of the host was the result of an organic growth, a chemical reaction, or some other cause.

They immediately notified the metropolitan archbishop of Bialystok, Edward Ozorowski, who went to Sokolka with the chancellor of the Curia and other diocesan officials. They were all deeply moved by what they saw. The archbishop ordered that the host be protected while they waited to see what would happen.

On October 29, the container with the host was transferred to the Divine Mercy Chapel in the rectory, and placed in the tabernacle. The next day, by decision of the archbishop, the stained host was taken out of the water and placed on a small corporal, which was then put back in the tabernacle. The host was kept this way for three years, until it was solemnly brought to the church on October 2, 2011. During the first year, it was kept secret. During that time, the Church authorities reflected on what to do, since they were dealing with a sign

'the host is tissue from the heart of a dying man'

from God which needed to be interpreted.

By mid-January of 2009, the altered fragment of the host had dried out naturally, and remained like a blood stain or clot; since then, its appearance has not changed.

That same month, the archbishop requested histopathological studies be done on the host. On March 30, he created an ecclesial commission to study the phenomenon.

A piece of the altered host was taken and analyzed independently by two experts, Prof. Maria Sobaniec-Lotowska, MD, and Prof. Stanislaw Sulkowski, MD, in order to ensure the credibility of the results. Both are histopathologists at the Medical University of Bialystok. The studies were carried out at the university's Department of Pathomorphology.

The specialists' work was governed by the scientific norms and obligations for analyzing any scientific problem in accordance with the directives of the Scientific Ethics Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The studies were exhaustively described and photographed. The complete documentation was



given to the Metropolitan Curia of Bialystok.

When the samples were taken for analysis, the undissolved part of the consecrated host had become embedded in the cloth. However, the red blood clot was as clear as ever. This transformed part of the host was dry and fragile, inextricably interwoven with the rest of the fragment, which had kept the form of bread. The sample that was taken was large enough to carry out all the necessary studies.

The results of both independent studies were in perfect agreement. They concluded that the structure of the transformed fragment of the host is identical to the myocardial (heart) tissue of a living person who is nearing death. The structure of the heart muscle fibers is deeply intertwined with that of the bread, in a way impossible to achieve with human means, according to the declaration of Prof. Maria Sobaniec-

Lotowska.

The studies proved that no foreign substance was added to the consecrated host; rather, part of the host took the form of heart muscle of a person near death. This kind of phenomenon is inexplicable by the natural sciences. At the same time, the Church teaches us that the

consecrated host becomes the Body of Christ, by the power of His own words at the Last Supper, repeated by priests during the consecration of the Mass.

The results of the histopathological studies, dated January 21, 2009, were included in the dossier given to the Metropolitan Curia of Bialystok.

In its official communiqué, the Metropolitan Curia of Bialystok stated:

"The Sokolka event is not opposed to the faith of the Church; rather, it confirms it. The Church professes that, after the words of consecration, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread is transformed into the Body of Christ, and the wine into His Blood. Additionally, this is an invitation for all ministers of the Eucharist to distribute the Body of the Lord with faith and care, and for the faithful to receive Him with adoration."

Happy 50th Anniversary to Humanae Vitae!

Praised be Our Lord Jesus Christ!

July 25, 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*, in which Blessed Pope Paul VI confirmed the teaching of the constant Magisterium of the Church regarding the beautiful and clear teaching about God's plan for married love and the transmission of life.



Am I invisible? One mum's pain-relieving response to being excluded

Rachel Macy Stafford



My fifth-grade daughter started a new extracurricular activity a few weeks ago. We're still learning the ropes and aren't quite sure how things run. On the first day, we walked up to two women who were waiting with their children for the activity to start. I politely asked them a question about protocol and explained we were new.

I was met with annoyed facial expressions and curt answers.

Following that response with an introduction seemed inappropriate so I turned to their children and introduced myself and my daughter to them. We talked with the children until the class began. The following week, I saw the women again in the waiting area.

"Hello," I said warmly. "How are you both doing today?" I received mumbled replies and they immediately turned back to each other and continued talking. My daughter and I talked to each other which relieved the painful sense of feeling invisible.

Last week, as my daughter and I walked up to the activity, I saw the women in their usual spot. I felt a twinge of something I couldn't explain in my stomach. It was not a pleasant feeling – perhaps anxiety, embarrassment, awkwardness? Whatever it was, that feeling made me feel like not trying anymore. I stopped my daughter several feet away from the waiting area and suggested we watch some games going on.

That is when the best possible result that could happen from this experience occurred.

I said, "Remember this."

Remember this when you are in familiar territory and someone new walks up looking for guidance.

Remember this when you see someone on the outskirts anxiously holding her own hand.

Remember this when someone approaches you and asks a question – see the bravery behind the words.

Remember this when you see someone stop trying – perhaps he's been rejected one too many times.

Remember this when you see someone being excluded or alienated – just one friendly person can relieve the painful sense of feeling invisible.

Remember the deepest desire of the human heart is to belong ... to be welcomed ... to know you are seen and worthy of kindness.

This week, as Avery and I drove up to her extracurricular activity, I felt a new feeling when I saw those women. As odd as it may sound, it was gratitude. I felt grateful they'd reminded me of one of life's highest lessons. Author Kari Kampakis beautifully describes the concept of using people's hurtful actions as opportunities for self-growth. She writes:

"Regardless of how anyone treats you, you stand to benefit. While some people teach you **who you do want to be**, others teach you **who you don't want to be**. And it's the people who teach you who you don't want to be that provide some of the most lasting and memorable lessons on social graces, human dignity, and the importance of acting with integrity."

The unkind treatment I received became a means to gain awareness, compassion, and connection. When I shared my story of rejection on my Facebook page, there were hundreds of comments and private messages—some quite painful—confirming the need to belong is unmet for many people in our society. In addition to those who shared their painful stories of exclusion, there were people who shared helpful actions and roles

they'd taken **to be an includer** and make others feel welcome.

One of the most powerful responses came from a beautiful writer named Alexandra Rosas. She wrote,

"You didn't know when you wrote that, but you were to be in my life today after I received the coldest shoulder when I greeted a group of women. You, I came home to you. You halved my pain and I halved yours: it's together for each other that we find strength to ask, learn, and never fold up and disappear."

It's together for each other that we find strength to ask, learn, and never fold up and disappear.

Let me remember it now, especially now, when the world's collective pain is so deep, so wide, and so heavy.

There is hope ...

With one invitation, we can take someone

From outsider to insider

From outcast to beloved member

From unknown neighbour to coffee companion

From wallflower to life-of-the-party

From shortened life expectancy to 80 years of joy.

That last line is no exaggeration.

Never underestimate the power you hold as ONE PERSON to save the life of another.

"Come join us," you'll say with a smile.

And the recipient will sigh with relief ... angst gone instantly ... a world of pain cut in half.

One person can do that.



Home of Compassion Rosary Beads



Residents of the Home of Compassion and helpers celebrated their 15th anniversary of making Rosary Beads



Letters from Hong Kong and Kiribati

Rosaries have been donated to people throughout Australia, e.g. Fr Ryan took many when he promoted the message of Fatima during this Centenary year.

Rosaries made here at the Home of Compassion have also reached such places as Hong Kong, Vietnam, Philippines and Kiribati.

If anyone has beads from car seat covers they will be gratefully received.

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THE CATHOLIC GENTLEMAN

I plead with you!
Never, ever give up
on hope, never doubt,
never tire, and never
become discouraged.
Be not afraid.
- St. John Paul II -

Congratulations to Ben Murray!



Ben received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on Saturday June 16, 2018.



The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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



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

SYNAGOGUE	AFRAID
DAUGHTER	CROWD
LAUGHED	HANDS
WALKED	STOOD
BELIEVE	CHILD
HEALED	DEAD
CRYING	LIVE
ASLEEP	

Jesus Raises a Dead Girl

While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?" Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." Mark 5:35-43 (NIV)



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