

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

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 160

June 2016

Coming Events

June 3 Sacred Heart of Jesus

June 4 Immaculate Heart of Mary

June 24 6pm Confirmation of West Wagga young people at St Michael's Cathedral

June 24 Solemnity of St John the Baptist

June 24-26 Visit by Bishop Hanna to West Wagga Parish

Bishop Gerard will visit Holy Trinity primary school, and attend each weekend Mass, as well as being available to hear confessions at the usual times. Please come along to the cuppa after Masses including the 6pm at San Isidore and 9am and 5.30 pm at Holy Trinity. Donations of cakes etc gratefully received.

June 29 Saints Peter and Paul Apostles

July 2 Election: Please pray, and vote for those who will best serve God's plan for humanity, including marriage between man and woman and the rights of the unborn.

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

Month of the Sacred Heart



**Sacred Heart of Jesus,
bless our West Wagga parish.
Teach us how to love the Father and to love one
another. Move us to live our faith more fervently so
as to draw many people to the happiness of being
united to You. O Heart of Jesus, burning with love
of us, make our hearts burn with love of You.**

pastor's page

Hello's and goodbyes...

Welcome Bishop Hanna, welcome home Fr Ryan, and welcome to Valentine, who along with Danistan, Quan and Paul have this year joined the Confraternity of Christ the Priest and our parish community!

As with the first Christians, we experience many comings and goings, hi's and goodbyes in our Catholic Family. In the Acts of the Apostles we read how St Paul knelt down on the beach at Miletus, now part of Turkey. He prayed with the Faithful from Ephesus. They were crying at the thought of never seeing him again.

For St Paul, this would have been a bitter-sweet experience; sorrow at missing his dear friends yet marvelling at God's providence which had united so many people in one family, people who twenty years before would never have imagined being friends. The sadness was part of a bigger picture of so many wonderful friendships and the world-wide unity of the Catholic Church.

And the bigger picture does not stop in this world; it goes all the way to heaven. We are united as friends, helping one another to know and love and remain faithful to the Lord. In a sense we are all turned towards the Lord, seeking Him, receiving His Word and grace, and longing for His coming again. And the sorrow of parting is more than made up for with the confident hope of being reunited one day in Heaven.

Later this June we have the chance to meet with Bishop Gerard during

his episcopal visit. It is also a chance to thank him for all he has done for us in the Diocese of Wagga, promoting a personal knowledge and love of Jesus, a desire to serve like Jesus, love of Our Lord in the Eucharist, concern for the unborn, and so many other things. God's providence brought him from the Armidale diocese to Wagga Wagga, and so we are grateful to both God and Bishop Gerard for his years of service. We wish him well for the years that will follow his retirement sometime after September, and pray for whomever will be appointed to shepherd us after that time, that God will again give us "a shepherd after His own heart".

We thank God for bringing Fr Gerard back to us after his studies in Rome, and for the vocations of all who have left home and family to accompany us on the road to eternal life.

Parish projects...

Sand and cement and the smell of fresh paint have been evident around Holy Trinity recently. The Confraternity students have shown themselves adept at concreting and rendering, brightening up the foyer and adding a wider path towards the door which will soon be opened in the front wall.

Discussions at the parish council meetings and with parishioners after Masses have given helpful feedback on the idea of making the door of the Church more visible for passers-by. Pope Francis has talked about the modern symptom of closed doors. We close the doors to

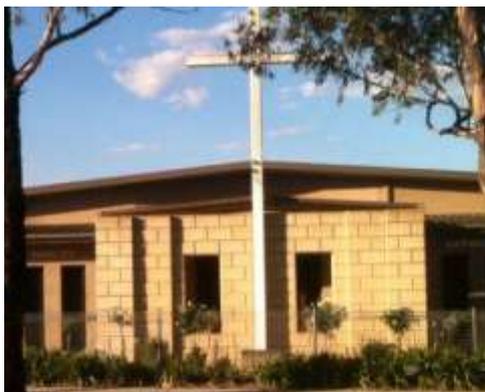
provide protection but find ourselves more shut in as a result. Opening doors includes a certain risk (not least in Ashmont) but we are called by Pope Benedict and Pope Francis to "open the doors of Faith". In a sense, every Church door is a mercy door, an entrance to the place where, in a unique and powerful way, the mercy of God can be experienced. We pray that the modifications to the front of Holy Trinity may lead to more people experiencing the mercy of God and community in the family of the Catholic Church.

Several steps will be taken along the way.

- The steel Cross at the front of the wall will be placed close to the presbytery ready to be raised again in a new location nearby.
- The portico roof will be supported ready for re-joining to the wall.
- The central bricks of the wall will be removed
- A steel frame will be set up to hold the new façade.
- Cladding, rendering and painting will match this new opening to the wall behind, and holy pictures, a bell and a cross will complete the work.

Parishioners and Confraternity students will be doing the bulk of the work, and some offers of free professional help will keep costs down. Any more offers of help are most welcome. God bless,

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS



June Jokes



Two Queensland Police Officers were conducting speeding enforcement on the Cunningham Highway, just west of the Amberley Air force Base at Ipswich.

The officers were using hand held radar devices to check speeding vehicles approaching the crest of a hill. The officers were suddenly surprised when their radar guns began reading 500 kms per hour. The officer attempted to reset the radar guns, but they would not reset and then turned off. Just then a deafening roar over the treetops revealed that the radar had in fact locked on to an RAAF F/A-18F Super Hornet which was engaged in a low flying exercise near the location.

Back at the QLD Police Headquarters the Patrol Sergeant fired off a complaint to the RAAF Base Commander.

The reply came back in true RAAF style:

Thank you for your letter. We can now complete the file on this incident.

You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Hornet had detected the presence of, and subsequently locked on to your hostile radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it, which is why it shut down. Furthermore, an Air-to-Ground missile aboard the fully armed aircraft had also automatically locked on to your equipment location. Fortunately, the Senior Pilot flying the Hornet recognized the situation for what it was, quickly responded to the missile system alert status and was able to override the automated defense system before the missile was launched to destroy the hostile radar position.

The pilot also suggests you cover your mouths when cursing at them,

since the video systems on these jets are very high tech.

Sergeant Johnson, the officer holding the left radar gun, should get his dentist to check his left rear molar. It appears the filling is loose. Also, the snap is broken on his holster.

Thank you for your concern. Wing Commander Brown, SFO RAAF. Amberley. Ipswich, Qld. Dogs look up to you, cats look down on you. Give me a pig. He just looks you in the eye and treats you like an equal.

When a zoo's gorilla dies, the zookeeper hires an actor to don a costume and act like an ape until the zoo can get another one.

In the cage, the actor makes faces, swings around, and draws a huge crowd. He then crawls across a partition and atop the lion's cage, infuriating the animal. But the actor stays in character—until he loses his grip and falls into the lion's cage. Terrified, the actor shouts, "Help! Help me!" Too late. The lion pounces, opens its massive jaws, and whispers, "Shut up! Do you want to get us both fired?!"

What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down? It gets toad away.

A priest and pastor from the local parishes are standing by the side of the road holding up a sign that reads, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!" They planned to hold up the sign to each passing car.

"Leave us alone you religious nuts!" yelled the first driver as he sped by.

From around the curve they heard screeching tires and a big splash.

"Do you think," said one clergy to the other, "we should just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out' instead?"

Joe: I was built backwards.

Mary: How?

Joe: My nose runs, and my feet smell!

Three guys were fishing in a lake one day, when an angel appeared in the boat.

When the three astonished men had settled down enough to speak, the first guy asked the angel humbly,

"I've suffered from back pain ever since I took shrapnel in the Vietnam War ... Could you help me?"

"Of course," the angel said, and when he touched the man's back, the man felt relief for the first time in years.

The second guy who wore very thick glasses and had a hard time reading and driving. He asked if the angel could do anything about his poor eyesight. The angel smiled, removed the man's glasses and tossed them into the lake. When they hit the water, the man's eyes cleared and he could see everything distinctly.

When the angel turned to the third guy, the guy put his hands out defensively -- "Don't touch me!" he cried, "I'm on a disability pension!"

What did the cannibal order for take-out? Pizza with everyone on it.

The new preacher had just begun his sermon. He was a little nervous, and about ten minutes into the sermon his mind went blank. After a brief second of complete panic, he remembered what they had taught him in seminary about situations like this: repeat the last point. His teacher assured him this would help him remember what was supposed to come next. So he gave it a try.

"Behold, I come quickly," he said.

Still his mind was blank. He tried again. "Behold, I come quickly." Still nothing.

He tried one more time -- speaking and gesturing with such force that he fell forward, knocking the pulpit to one side, tripping over the flower pot, and falling into the lap of a little old lady in the front row.



What Does Pope Francis Think of “Gender Theory”?

by ChurchPOP Editor -

Transgenderism is in the news. [Think of the falsely named “Safe Schools Coalition” in Australian state schools and what is happening in America.]

This sharp distinction between biological sex and gender identity is often referred to as “gender theory.” While the ideology has been around in academia for decades, it’s just started to go mainstream more recently.

So what does Pope Francis think of gender theory? He completely rejects it and has taught against it throughout his papacy.

Confusion of “Gender Theory”

They are modern-day “Herods,” he said in an interview published in January 2015, who “disfigure the face of man and woman, destroying creation.”

“Let’s think... of gender theory, that does not recognize the order of creation. With this attitude, man commits a new sin, that against God the Creator. [...] The design of the Creator is written in nature.”

During a general audience a few months later, he hit on the subject again: “I ask myself if the so-called gender theory is not, at the same time, an expression of frustration and resignation, which seeks to cancel out sexual difference because it no longer knows how to confront it. Yes, we risk taking a step backwards. The removal of difference in fact creates a problem, not a solution.”

Around the same time in a meeting with young people he condemned “the mistake of the human mind – gender theory – creating so much confusion,” saying that it was one reason why “the family really is

under attack.”

“The sin of trying to replace the Creator”

But his most complete rejection of gender theory has come fairly recently, when he condemned it in his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*.

“Another challenge [for the family],” he writes in a passage worth quoting at length, “is posed by the various forms of an ideology of gender that ‘denies the difference and reciprocity in nature of a man and a woman and envisages a society without sexual differences, thereby eliminating the anthropological basis of the family.’

This ideology leads to educational programmes and legislative enactments that promote a personal identity and emotional intimacy radically separated from the biological difference between male and female. Consequently, human identity becomes the choice of the individual, one which can also change over time.’

It is a source of concern that some ideologies of this sort, which seek to respond to what are at times understandable aspirations, manage to assert themselves as absolute and unquestionable, even dictating how children should be raised.

It needs to be emphasized that ‘biological sex and the socio-cultural role of sex (gender) can be distinguished but not separated.’ On the other hand, ‘the technological revolution in the field of human procreation has introduced the ability to manipulate the reproductive act, making it



independent of the sexual relationship between a man and a woman. In this way, human life and parenthood have become modular and separable realities, subject mainly to the wishes of individuals or couples.’

It is one thing to be understanding of human weakness and the complexities of life, and another to accept ideologies that attempt to sunder what are inseparable aspects of reality.

Let us not fall into the sin of trying to replace the Creator. We are creatures, and not omnipotent. Creation is prior to us and must be received as a gift. At the same time, we are called to protect our humanity, and this means, in the first place, accepting it and respecting it as it was created.”

So it’s pretty clear where he stands on the issue. It should be of no surprise that this is the same position the Catechism takes and that previous popes took.

Love and Truth

Of course, those who sincerely experience gender dysphoria should be treated with compassion and love. That does not mean, however, that people should enable or support their confusion, much less that the government should force others to do so. Rather, Catholics should live in accord with the truth – and lovingly point others toward it as well.

“The complementarity of man and woman... is the root of marriage and family.”

Speech at Humanum Conference, Rome, Italy, November 17th, 2014

“The family is threatened by growing efforts on the part of some to redefine the very institution of marriage, by relativism, by the culture of the ephemeral, by a lack of openness to life.”

Address to families, Manilla, Philippines, January 16th, 2015

Marry Someone Who Loves God MORE Than They Love You

- ChurchPOP



forgiving. We feel hurt. We feel selfish. We may even feel that we've been wronged. In our humanity, we want to run...we want to hide...we want to get revenge. But in those moments, something GREATER

I have a secret I'd like to share with you: My husband loves someone else more than he loves me.

To the outside listener, that might sound totally strange and maybe even completely inappropriate. You might think we're having marital problems or settling for a mediocre relationship.

But for us, that thought makes complete sense in light of our personal relationships with God, through Jesus Christ.

My husband John loves God even more than he loves me.

And I love God even more than I love my husband.

It's always been that way. And my prayer, is that it always will be.

Our individual relationship with God trumps our relationship with one another. And in my sincere opinion, that is the VERY truth that keeps our marriage alive, strong, and complete.

You see, for as many great days we have in marriage, there are also days when we simply don't feel so great. Days when each of us don't feel like loving...or giving...or

takes over.

Because those are the very days when our relationship with God becomes the anchor for our love, holding us in place. Our relationship with God is the supernatural relationship that pours into us, so that we can pour into each other.

As Christians, we believe that when we enter into relationship with God, we're filled with His Spirit. It's that Spirit that breeds in us the qualities we need for a healthy life, and in turn, a healthy marriage. According to the bible, the qualities of God's spirit being poured out in a person's life are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control.

And as a professional counselor, I can tell you that those are the EXACT qualities you need to have a thriving relationship. Is that simply a coincidence? I say no.

On the hard days, more than trusting my husband to love me like he should, I trust God's Spirit at work in His life. I am thankful that he loves God more than he loves me, because it's that relationship with God that he's learned to love me like he should.

And it's in that relationship with God, that I've learned to love him like I should.

Am I saying that a person outside of relationship with God can't experience a healthy marriage? No. But what I am saying, is that outside of a relationship with God, you never get a glimpse of COMPLETE love. Because it's only in God that COMPLETE LOVE was created and experienced, and only in Him can it be given freely. He is the very definition of love...outside of Him, we can only get a hazy glimpse.

Hands down, the BEST marriages I've witnessed in my life, are the ones that are displaying this kind of love in their lives, fueled by their unwavering commitment and devotion to Jesus Christ. Because it's a love that changes everything, slowly transforming both you and your spouse into the person God has called you to be.

This is why I'm so adamant about the importance of marrying someone who loves God more than they love you, as much as I'm adamant about you becoming that kind of person in your own life.

So don't just marry a so-called "good person", or a self-proclaimed "Christian"...marry a passionate, desperate, head-over-heels lover of God, because you'll see the evidence of His Spirit in EVERY part of their lives.

And then watch that supernatural love transform your life, and in turn, your marriage.

Have questions? Want answers? Ready to test our knowledge*?

Here's your chance to ask questions about our Catholic faith— Church history, the sacraments, God, Angels, ethics... We'll answer your questions and put one of the questions/answers into the WAG (keeping your name under wraps).

Three ways to get your written question to us: question box at the church entrance (Holy Trinity); email westwaggaparish@hotmail.com; hand it directly into the Presbytery.

(*disclaimer—yes we will cheat! We'll look up the official teachings of the Church and get help from experts.)



3 steps to keeping your kids Catholic

Do you know the early warning signs of a young Catholic losing his faith? I do. I've seen them countless times in many young people over my nearly thirty-year career in Catholic apologetics and evangelization.

They include:

- * **Apathy**
- * **Uncertainty & doubt**
- * **Giving in to difficult moral challenges and temptations**
- * **Feeling unloved or unaccepted by fellow Catholics**

No doubt you've seen these warning signs in people you know. And maybe you've noticed these red flags with your own children. If so, don't worry; I'm not here to judge you! In fact, I can help.

Here are three steps you can take to help your children:

Family prayer

I strongly encourage praying the family rosary. It may be a challenge at times to gather the whole family together, but the spiritual benefits of praying the rosary as a family are enormous, especially if each child is allowed to take part in reciting this beautiful prayer.

Other acts of piety such as prayer before and after meals (every meal), night prayers with devotions like

the act of contrition, the prayer to St Michael the Archangel, etc., can strengthen young people's faith.

Lead by example

Faith must inform the daily routine and decisions in your home. Children must see their parents as truly prayerful. Not in a showy way, but in a way they can see. Look to almighty God trustingly throughout the day and don't be too proud to ask for help from above.

Beyond the externals of prayer and piety in the home, children need to see that Mom and Dad are imbued with the results. They need to see you live out the gifts of faith, mercy, and forgiveness.

Prepare them to face challenges

I believe very much in the practice of "inoculation." Prepare your kids now for what they will face later. I explain to my kids what atheists believe, what skepticism and relativism are, and I seek to give them the answers to these and similar challenges. I also tell them about the errors of Protestants and how to answer their challenges right from the Bible.

Your kids may not understand the importance of everything you tell them at the time, but when they do



encounter these challenges (and they will), your efforts to prepare them ahead of time will have a good effect. They will feel confident in coming to you about other important matters, because they see you as credible and reliable, someone with knowledge and wisdom.

So, become familiar with solid Catholic resources ... There's also the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the shortened Compendium, which, in addition to your Bible, should be standard "tools of the trade" to lead your children toward heaven. Share this information with your kids...

The bottom line is this: Parenthood is a great and awesome responsibility given to us by God the Father. What greater joy could you have than to pass on the riches of the Catholic Faith as a permanent, priceless inheritance to your children? If they have their Catholic Faith and a true love for God, then they have everything.

Written by Patrick Madrid

Baptizing with Beer? Sorry, It Was Condemned in the 1200s - ChurchPOP

For a Church that's been around for 2000 years, just about everything that can happen has happened.

In the 13th century, Pope Gregory IX issued an unusual decree, saying that baptisms with beer (instead of water) were not valid. He wrote:

Since according to the Gospel teaching, a man must be born again of water and the Holy Spirit, those are not to be considered validly baptized who have been baptized with beer.



Apparently there was a region in Norway that had a water shortage that was using beer as a replacement for the sacrament, and he was forced to intervene.

But so what? If the people weren't trying to make light of Baptism and were just using what they had available, why does it matter? It's because of what baptism does and where it comes from.

First, Baptism is one of the most important sacraments in the Catholic faith. It's the first one – you can't receive other Sacraments until you've first been baptized – and receiving it (or the desire thereof) is necessary for salvation. In other words, you don't want to mess around with it; you really want to get it right.

Second, Baptism is not something created by the Church. Rather, it is

was given to the Church by Christ Himself. As such, we don't have the authority to change it as we please. Based on the revelation of Christ in Scripture and Tradition, and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church has been able to specify clearly exactly what constitutes a baptism.

Among those requirements, which include things like the proper intention (to do what the Church does) and the proper words ("I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"), the minister must use water, as was used in the New Testament. An attempted "baptism" without any of these essential things is not a true baptism.

So getting "baptized" with beer, even with the best intentions, doesn't count!

Put your faith back in the Lord

Put your faith back in the Lord - by Dick Hill

When you think the world's against you,
You're confused and very bored,
Life seems at a standstill,
Put your trust back in the Lord.

You may think He doesn't listen,
And no one seems to care,
With a little faith you'll find,
The power that's in prayer.

If you read the bible,
You'll know the Father's will,
When you ask in Jesus' name,
Your wishes He'll fulfil.

Those who have rejected Him,
Will only get reward,
If they have a little faith,
And turn back to the Lord.

Though you think He won't respond,
Your life will never mend,
Test him with a little prayer,
Won't find a better friend.

Who can you rely on,
It never is too late,
Speak to God almighty,
Just treat Him like a mate.
When everything seems hopeless,
And worries you take on board,
Toss those worries to the wind,
Put your trust back in the Lord.

Leave our Aussie Flag Alone - by Dick Hill

To those of you wanting to change our flag,
I reckon you'd all think a-gain
If you went to your nearest airport,
And got on board a plane,

Head up north to Moresby,
Go round to Milne Bay,
Then up the coast to Buna,
Finish up at Lae,

Visit the Aussie War Graves
Walk up every row,
Note their names and ages,
Say a prayer before you go,

They won the Battles on the Kokoda Track,
Then gave a hiding to 'The Nip',
When he landed his troops at Milne Bay,
and tried to take the Gurney Strip,

Some had fought battles in the desert,
Also Greece and Crete,
Then our government got them all back home,
To help in the Japanese defeat,

They won battles all over New Guinea,

Crossed raging rivers when in flood,
Hacked their way through the thick wild jungle,
In the heat, the rain and mud,

They fought as only Diggers can,
Like their fathers did before
Would much preferred to have been back home,
But knew they had to win that War,

The R.A.A.F., supplied the aircraft,
And our pilots patrolled the skies,
Crews in the Biscuit Bombers,
Dropped the ground troops their supplies.

They're resting now under their Aussie Flag,
From an enemy they'd never run,
Gave their lives to keep Australia free,
From the might of the Rising Sun

So you'd better have a re-think,
With our Flag don't ever fiddle,
Because we almost had a big white flag,
With a 'RED BLOB' in the middle.



Christianity and science are opposed...but only in the same sense as that which my thumb and forefinger are opposed - and between them, I can grasp everything

- Sir William Bragg, Nobel Prize for Physics (1915)



The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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

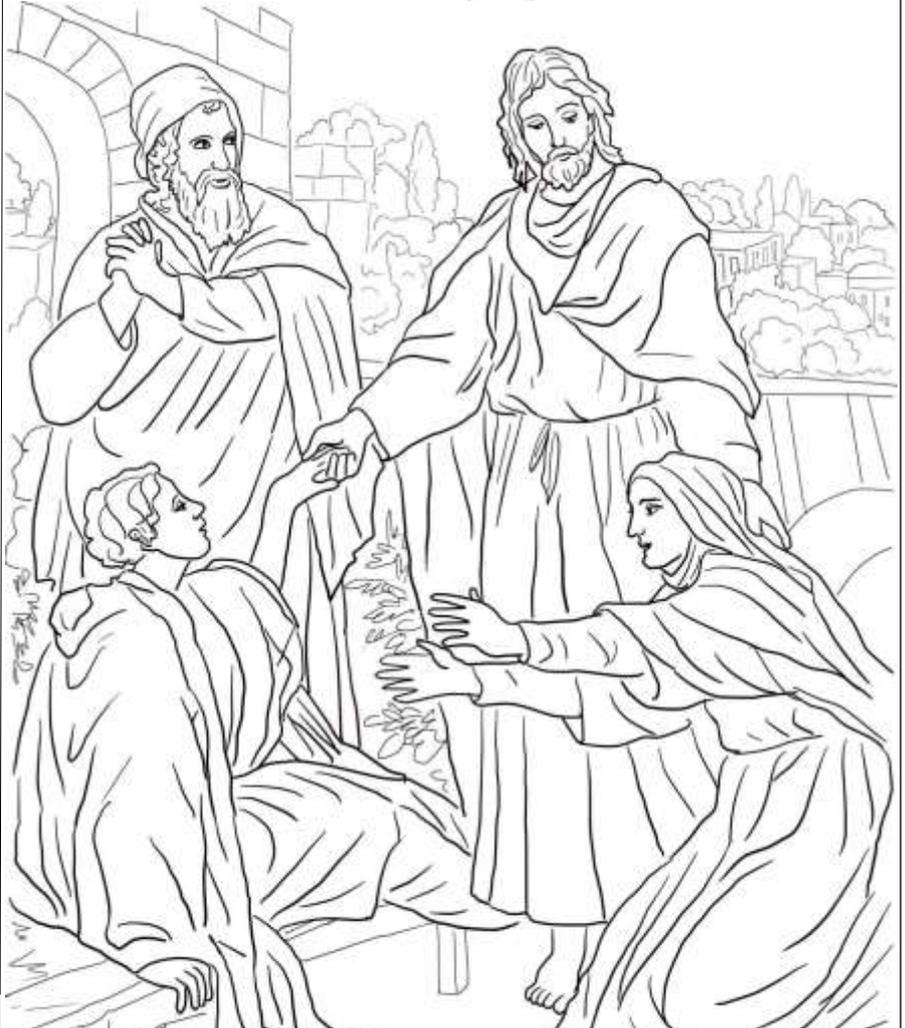


Find the words below hidden in the 225 letters to the right.

TOUCHED	CROWD	JESUS
DISCIPLES	WIDOW	TALK
CARRIED	PRAISE	DEAD
MOTHER	LARGE	GATE
PEOPLE	YOUNG	TOWN
PROPHET	HEART	HELP
PERSON	COFFIN	

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son

The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. Luke 7:15 (NIV)



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