

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 172

June 2017

Coming Events

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Trinity

- 6 to 7am daily;

- overnight from 9pm Friday through to 7am Saturdays

Feast of Christ the Priest Thu 8

Trinity Sunday Sun 11

Corpus Christi Sun 18

Sacred Heart of Jesus Fri 23

Birth of John the Baptist Sat 24

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



Our Lady of Fatima

Second Apparition

June 13 1917

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

Fatima's Francisco and Jacinta Marto Canonised!

On May 13th, 100 years after the first apparition of Our Lady to the three children in Fatima, two of the three have been declared saints.



The message of Fatima is as necessary today as it was 100 years ago, and this year is a great year to relearn or learn for the first time about this message. On page two there are five prayers that were taught to the children of Fatima - do you know them?

pastor's page - Fatima

2017 marks the Centenary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Lucia, St Francesco and St Jacinta in Fatima, Portugal. Most Catholics have grown up hearing about the visits of Mary and to some extent about her message. It is a message no less urgent today than it was 100 years ago. It is, like all true apparitions of Mother Mary and the saints, a call to faith and a call to live that faith. How many Catholics are abandoning their faith! Maybe some are still having their children baptised, but by missing most Masses and rarely having family prayer, they are teaching their children that they do not take their Faith seriously. To not take belief in God and eternal realities like Heaven and Hell seriously is scarcely different from not believing them at all.

On the third visit of Mary to these children, she showed them a vision of hell. She said, "Many souls are going to hell because there is no one to pray and do penance for them. These children began to offer many

penances, such as placing pebbles in their shoes, and they prayed fervently the Fatima prayer we say after each decade of the Rosary, "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of Thy mercy." This prayer is like a little creed with belief in Jesus our saviour, heaven and hell and the spiritual warfare St Paul described.

Mary spoke about the need for prayer, including prayer for peace. Surely we need to pray for peace now, with the threat of Islamic jihadist attacks and tensions growing with China, and sins of abortion and sins against God's plan for marriage. Part of the message of Fatima was that our prayers, especially devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament, consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and daily Rosary, are powerful to overcome evil and war, powerful to save souls. So Fatima brings a message of mercy and hope.

A great example of the power of

prayer happened in 1960. The leader of Communist Soviet Union declared that he would crush America. Pope John XXIII called on Catholics to storm heaven. At Fatima that year on October 12-13 over a million pilgrims prayed all night. And Mary intervened! At a missile test in Russia, with 400 top military and science personnel present, the missile failed to launch. After 15 minutes, the scientists came out from bunkers. The missile exploded, killing Russia's leading experts, disrupting the Soviet nuclear program and probably preventing nuclear war which could have killed millions.

Through the intercession of Sts Francesco and Jacinta, (and Lucy who may one day be canonized too) may the message of Fatima spread to all of the faithful in our parish and diocese, leading to greater faith and prayer, peace in our hearts and in all the world.

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS

The 5 Prayers Revealed at Fatima that Every Catholic Should Know

The apparition of an angel and Our Lady to three poor children in Fatima, Portugal in the early 20th century is one of the most famous miracles in the world.

The children received many messages, mostly calling for personal conversion and prayer, as well as the words of 5 new prayers.

1) The Fatima Prayer/Decade Prayer

"O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy. Amen."

Mary told the children that people should add this prayer to the end of each decade of the Rosary.

2) The Pardon Prayer

"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee! I beg pardon for all those that do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee."

This prayer was given to the children by the angel that visited them in 1916, the year before Mary appeared to them.

3) The Angel's Prayer

"O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary I beg the conversion of poor sinners."

This is another prayer given to them by the angel. There was a Eucharistic host and chalice suspended in the air, and the angel led them in kneeling before it and praying this prayer.

4) The Eucharistic Prayer

"Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee!

My God, my God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament."

When Mary appeared to the children for the first time on May 13, 1917, she said, "You will have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort." According to Lucia, one of the children, a bright light shone all around them, and without thinking about it, they all started reciting this prayer.

5) The Sacrifice Prayer

"O Jesus, it is for the love of Thee, in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and for the conversion of poor sinners [that I do this]."

Mary gave the children this prayer, as well as the Fatima Prayer/Decade Prayer, on June 13th, 1917. The prayer is meant to be recited when you are offering up suffering to God.

So get praying!

June Jollies



Little Tony was in his uncle's wedding. As he came down the aisle during the ceremony, he carefully took two steps, then stopped and turned to the crowd. When facing the congregation he put his hands up like claws and roared loudly. So it went, step step, turn, roar, step step, turn, roar, all the way down the aisle. As you can imagine, the congregation was near tears from laughing. By the time little Tony reached the altar, he was near tears too. When later asked what he was doing, the boy sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear."

What did the farmer say when he lost one of his cows?

What a miss-steak.

What do you call an Arab dairy farmer? A milk sheik.

What do you call an arctic cow?
An eski-moo.

Little Jason was practicing his violin to pay a solo in the church, and the torturous noise was making the dog howl. Upstairs, the boy's father was trying to work. After trying to put up with the combined racket of the violin and the dog for twenty minutes, the father finally called down, "Jason, can't you play something the dog doesn't know?"

Q: What do you call a cow who works for a landscaper?

A: A lawn moo-er.

Q: What do you call a cow that just gave birth to a calf?

A: Decalfenated.

Q: What are grumpy cows called?

A: Moo-dy

Organist

Back in the days when the church janitor had to pump air into the pipe organ to make it work, Eloise, the new organist, dearly wanted to make an impression on the visiting clergyman with her playing. She wrote a note to the old janitor who had been slack in pumping the organ air and handed it to him just before the service started. But, making a natural mistake, the janitor passed the note on to the visiting preacher, who opened it and read, "Keep blowing away until I give you the signal to stop."

Q: What were the cow's favourite subjects in school?

A: Moosic, psycowlogy, and cowculus



A Sunday school teacher was teaching her class about the difference between right and wrong. "All right, children, let's take another example," she said. "If I were to get into a man's pocket and take his wallet with all his money, what would I be?" Little Harold raised his hand, and with a confident smile, he blurted out, "You'd be his wife!"

Q: What did the mommy cow say to the baby cow?

A: It's pasture bedtime.

What sound do you hear when you drop a bomb on a cow? Cowboom!

An exasperated mother finally asked, "Tommy, how do you expect to get into heaven someday?" The boy thought it over and explained, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the gate until St Peter says, "For heaven's sake, Tommy, come in or stay out!"

A priest walking down the street one sunny afternoon notices a very small boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street. But the door bell is too high for the little boy to reach. After watching the boy's efforts, the priest decides to give the lad a hand. So he crosses over and goes up to the house and gives the bell a solid ring. Crouching down to the little boy's level, the minister smiles benevolently and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Now we run!"

A family is greeting their pastor after Mass. Junior looks up and declares, "My dad says my mum is a pagan because she serves burnt offerings for dinner."

What do you get if you cross a cow with a spaniel, a poodle, and a rooster? A cockerpoodlemoo!

What do you call it when cows do battle in outer space? Steer Wars.

Q. What does a cow make when the sun comes out? A. A shadow

Camper: Look at that bunch of cows.

Farmer: Not bunch, herd.

Camper: Heard what?

Farmer: Of cows.

Camper: Sure I've heard of cows.

Farmer: No, I mean a cowherd.

Camper: So what? I have no secrets from cows!



Seminarian risks life to save Blessed Sacrament from Islamic State

Karamlesh, Iraq, May 23, 2017



Martin Baani was just 24 years old when he risked his life as a seminarian to rescue the Blessed Sacrament from the imminent invasion of Islamic State terrorists in his hometown.

Now, he is returning to his native village as a priest, ready to serve the people through the Eucharist.

On August 6, 2014, Baani received a call from a friend who warned that a nearby village had fallen into the hands of ISIS, and that his hometown of Karamlesh would be next.

Baani promptly headed to the San Addai church and took the Blessed Sacrament, to prevent the jihadists

from desecrating it. That day, he fled in a car along with his pastor, Fr. Thabet and three other priests.

"I was the last one to leave Karamlesh, with the Blessed Sacrament in my hands," he told the pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need.

Despite threats from ISIS, Baani chose to stay in Iraq instead of fleeing with his family to the United States. He continued his studies at Saint Peter's Seminary in Erbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan.

In September 2016, Baani was ordained a priest along with six other men.

Around 500 people attended the ordination, which was presided over by the Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church, Louis Raphael Sako.

A few months before his ordination, Baani told Aid to the Church in Need: "Every day I go to the refugee

camps to accompany the families. We are Christian refugees. ISIS wants to eliminate Christianity from Iraq but I have decided to stay. I love Jesus and I don't want our history to disappear."

Almost a year later, following the liberation of the villages of the Plain of Nineveh from ISIS control, Fr. Banni confirmed his decision to stay in Iraq in order to "serve my people and our Church."

"Now I am happy to celebrate Holy Mass in Iraq," he said.

Aid to the Church in Need has currently planned the reconstruction of about 13,000 Christian homes that were destroyed by ISIS.

Several weeks ago, the foundation held an "olive tree ceremony" where they delivered an olive plant to the homeowners of 105 Christian homes in the villages of Bartella, Karmaleh and Qaraqosh as a symbol of peace and reconciliation.

A Convenient Excuse - we're just not compatible!

"We're just not compatible." A convenient excuse used by thousands of husbands and wives to validate their divorce. A ploy to remove the focus of their own unwillingness to grow and place it on some ungovernable formula that determines the outcome of a marriage.

I'm not buying it! A successful marriage isn't a place of victimhood fuelled by chance, it's a place of maturity fuelled by choice.

Here's the truth, regardless if you and your spouse "don't have anything in common" or you're "always fighting" or you're "just not happy" let's not forget that marriage wasn't designed to make you happy, it was designed to make you holy.

Compatibility has nothing to do with what you have in common-- instead, it's driven by your willingness to resolve those things you don't have in common.

Ultimately, a marriage is never

incompatible, it's often just filled with people who refuse to grow. Remember, mistakes will be made but your marriage is never a mistake.



Dale Partridge

"Only heroic families will survive this war. Only heroic bishops, only heroic priests will survive this global conflict between the powers of darkness and the powers of light. Only heroic religious will be able to last. Only heroic men, women and children will remain Catholics and Christians and faithful followers of Christ.

Where can we get the light and strength we need to remain spiritually alive in the modern world? The sources are available. They are constant, humble prayer and frequent reception of the sacraments and devotion to Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist.

Either we have recourse to the sources of divine grace available through prayer and the sacraments, or we shall become casualties in the ongoing war between the followers of Satan and the followers of Jesus Christ."

~ Fr. John Hardon, Servant of God ~

Swiss Guard Offers Glimpse of Pope St. John Paul II's Holiness and Humour

Jerri Donohue

"It was his example that inspired me. His words that give me hope and his ideas that gave direction to my life."

Mario Enzler and three other Swiss Guards played cards at an outdoor table, enjoying an Easter break at Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer retreat. Then Enzler tossed down a bad card, and his partner uttered a mild curse. Almost simultaneously, the Holy Father's skullcap landed in the center of their table.

The four startled men looked up to see Pope John Paul II peering down at them from a balcony.

"Oops!" the Pontiff said.

Enzler related this incident and other fond memories of the saint on May 6, the anniversary of the Swiss Guards, when he spoke at a benefit gala for The Lyceum, an independent Catholic school in the Cleveland diocese.

"He was a very special person with an enormous ability to communicate and a brilliant intellect," Enzler said of the Pope he served for more than three years in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Enzler described the teasing relationship he maintained with the Pope's butler and a prank that prompted a flash of Papal humour. After each general audience, the butler toted two heavy bags of rosaries as he led the Pontiff out of the auditorium. Enzler was already standing at attention and saluting when his friend passed. With no warning, the man elbowed the Swiss Guard at the bottom of his sternum, causing Enzler to double over in pain just as Pope John Paul II reached him. Tipping forward, the Guard almost toppled into the Pope. The Holy Father paused and

said in his sonorous voice, "Mario, there is no need to bow."

Enzler cherishes a rosary the saint gave him at a moment when the Guard felt discouraged. It was Enzler's seventh consecutive day on duty in the palace. His feet ached, he suffered in the hot weather, and his spirits plummeted as he stood alone hour after hour. He longed for the Pope to notice him.

He finally heard the tell-tale shuffle — caused by Parkinson's disease — that announced the Pontiff's approach. When the Holy Father passed Enzler without glancing at him, the weary, disappointed Guard briefly closed his eyes. He opened them a moment later to gaze into Pope John Paul II's face. Enzler marvels that the Pope had returned to him without making a sound.

The saint pulled a simple rosary from his pocket and handed it to the Swiss Guard, advising him to make it his "most powerful weapon."

The Pope identified the Rosary as his favourite prayer, and Enzler also came to treasure it. Today he keeps the Pope's gift with him always.

"A man should carry the most powerful weapon with him," he said.

At Castel Gandolfo, the Swiss Guards attended daily Mass celebrated by St. John Paul II. Enzler had often seen the Holy Father absorbed in prayer after Mass, but he was especially moved when he stumbled upon the Holy Father alone in his chapel one afternoon. A package had arrived, but no household staff appeared to carry it upstairs, and so Enzler assumed the task. He noisily mounted the stairs and strode down the hall.

As he passed the chapel, the Swiss Guard glanced inside. The Pope was



kneeling on the granite floor, with his head resting against the hand he pressed to the altar.

Enzler was providing security that evening when the Pope strolled in his garden. Spotting him, the Holy Father approached and asked, "Mario, why don't you join me next time?"

"How did he know it was me?" Enzler wondered.

In the years since he left the Swiss Guards, Enzler built a successful career in banking and finance. He is happily married and raising five children. He and his wife eventually founded an independent Catholic school much like The Lyceum, and Enzler also teaches at The Catholic University of America.

He recalled that St. John Paul II frequently showed the Swiss Guards his gratitude for their service. For his part, Enzler is grateful to have been part of this force that has protected popes for more than 500 years. He had not internalized his faith until his experience as a Swiss Guard and his ongoing contact with Pope John Paul II. The saint's humility, prayerfulness, and deep spirituality made a lasting impact on Enzler.

"It was his example that inspired me," Enzler said. "His words that give me hope and his ideas that gave direction to my life."

Dad, someone said Jesus didn't really feed over 5000 people by multiplying a few loaves and fish. Do we Catholics think all those things in the Gospels really happened?

Yes!

Vatican II, Dei Verbum 19:

"Holy Mother Church has **firmly** and with **absolute constancy** **held, and continues to hold,** that the four Gospels just named, whose **historical character** the Church **unhesitatingly asserts,** **faithfully hand on** what **Jesus Christ,** while living among men, **really did and taught."**

I was there at Pentecost

Dr. Ralph F. Wilson



Ah, Pentecost. People ask me about it every once in a while. I remember it as through it were yesterday -- though it's been twenty years or more since then. History was being made, the end of an old era, the beginning of the new -- and I was there.

I was 19 or so, up to Jerusalem from Galilee for Passover. Just a kid. It was the year they crucified Jesus, a fellow Galilean. I was stunned, heartbroken. After his death I just didn't go home. I hung around with some of his followers, in hiding actually. And then on Sunday, word came that He had risen from the dead. And so I stayed in the city.

Those were heady days, with Jesus appearing to the apostles and others for weeks on end. Then He ascended, went up into heaven. We were to wait in the city, the apostles told us. Something about power and witnessing and the Holy Spirit. So we waited -- meeting morning and evening, talking, reading scripture, praying. Nearly ten days we waited like that.

Then one morning when we had gathered together for early prayer -- about 8 o'clock or so -- the building where we were meeting was hit by a whirlwind -- or so it seemed. You could hear the howling of the wind but couldn't feel it in the room.

"O dear Jesus," someone called out. And then came the flames -- dancing flames appeared in the room above us.

"God Almighty," another person shouted. Peter was praying loudly,

other apostles joining in. It was eerie, when I think about it. Wind that didn't blow, flames that didn't burn -- like the glory of God on the mountain when he appeared to Moses.

All over the room flames were licking, flaring over the Apostles. And as they did, joy would flood their faces, tears course down their cheeks, praise fill their lips. ...

The sounds were amazing, too. Moments before, the air had been filled with the sound of a windstorm. Now the room was full of the murmurs of voices -- some loud, some soft.

But it wasn't Greek or Aramaic. It seemed like different languages coming out of our lips -- powerfully, joyfully -- but different. We were pouring out into the square now, attracting attention. Since Pentecost was a major Jewish feast day, there were tens of thousands of pilgrims in the city from all over the world.

As the Apostles were speaking, people began to gather round to listen. A couple of families came by. Then some of them ran off to get others and soon there were hundreds of people gathered in groups around each Apostle. Finally, I seemed to run out of words and just stood there with joy on my face.

Someone called in a language I didn't know.

"What?" one of the Apostles answered in Greek -- everybody knew some Greek.

"Don't stop!" he said.

"Don't stop what?"

"Don't stop saying the beautiful things you are saying about God's greatness. I've never heard anything like it in Cappadocian."

"Cappadocian?"

"Yes, aren't you from Cappadocia

like the rest of us here?" He pointed to those who had gathered around. "It's like you're saying the Psalms, but in our own language -- so beautiful in our mother tongue! How do you know our language?"

But someone across the square was shouting that we must be drunk. Peter was trying to deal with it. He climbed up on the steps of one of the houses and gestured for people to be quiet.

Peter raised his hand. "We're not drunk, brothers and sisters. It's only nine o'clock in the morning. But what you're witnessing is a fulfilment of Joel's prophecy that your sons and your daughters will prophecy. God's Holy Spirit has come upon us just like Jesus told us He would.

Peter said a lot more that I can't remember, but the crowd was hanging on every word. And he didn't go easy on them. "This Jesus whom you crucified," he said, "God has raised from the dead and exalted on high."

You could hear an audible gasp. Conviction was all over the square. Someone called out, "What should we do?"

Without missing a beat, Peter answered, "Repent and be baptized every one of you for the forgiveness of your sins and you'll receive the Holy Spirit, for the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are afar off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls."

"Where?" someone called. "Where can we be baptized?"

"Bethesda," another shouted. "There's water at the Pool of Bethesda." So the crowd started moving in that direction. Across town, through the narrow streets pushed this strangely quiet crowd of thousands. Down the grade, down the steps until they came to the waters of the pool. They stood

I was there at Pentecost continued ...

at the edges, five to ten deep all around.

Peter was there by now and called for the apostles to join him in the water.

He invited people to come into the pool and they came by the scores. All over the Pool of Bethesda that day we saw thousands -- someone counted three thousand people -- praising God and worshipping.

On that day, in that place, it seemed like the languages of all nations were turned toward God on High Who had brought salvation and the joy of His Holy Spirit upon ordinary people who sought Him -- from Jerusalem to Cappadocia and beyond.

Pentecost. Ah, Pentecost. That was the day that God began to pour out His Holy Spirit and He's never ever

stopped since. Over the years I've seen the Spirit come in many ways - - sometimes like that day, sometimes quietly, sometimes in jubilation. But it's the presence of the Spirit, the Spirit of God, that matters, not our emotions or the circumstances.

Pentecost? Yes, I was there, and have never been the same since.

Fr George Rutler says that openness to the Holy Spirit and love of Truth go together



May 28, 2017

It is a wise policy, issuing from experience, and one hopes not from cynicism, to

distrust email messages that begin by saying that the writer is "excited to share" something. Inevitably, this involves an overuse of exclamation points and much self-advertising. In religion, various movements keep pumping themselves up with excited promises of something great about to happen, some new program or rally or change of custom that blurs the distinction between the Good News and novelty.

Such was the case in the area of Phrygia in what is now Turkey during the second century. A convert priest named Montanus stirred up a lot of excitement when he confused himself with the Holy Spirit and started to deliver various "prophecies" while in a trance. Like the typical fanatic so defined, he was confident that God would agree with him if only God had all the facts. In a languid and dissolute period, his ardor and amiability attracted many as far away as North

Africa and Rome, and even the formidable intellect of Tertullian was misled by it.

Sensational outbursts of emotion were thought to be divinely inspired, and the formal clerical structure of the Church was caricatured as the sort of rigidity that quenches the spirit. Maintaining that prophecy did not end with the last apostle, new messages were declared, sensationalism in the form of purported miracles and exotic languages was encouraged, and women like Priscilla and Maximilla left their husbands and decided that they could be priests.

In the twentieth century, the Montanist heresy sprung up again in the Pentecostalist sect, and even many Catholics were attracted to "reawakenings" that gave the impression that the Paraclete promised by Christ had finally come awake, having been dormant pretty much since the early days of the Church. While bizarre in its extreme forms, such as dancing in churches and barking like dogs while rolling on the floor, any quest for novelty quickly grows bored, for nothing goes out of fashion so fast as the latest fashion.

In preparing for the celebration of

Pentecost, the Church prays for a holy reception of the truth "ever ancient, ever new" that comes not through a Second Pentecost or a Third Pentecost, but through an enlivened embrace of God's timeless grace. Christ makes "all things new" and does not superficially make all new things. (Revelation 21:5) Heresies are fads, but the eternal dogmas of the Faith never go out of date because they never were fashionable to begin with.

Chesterton thus described the romance of orthodoxy by which the Church is like a chariot "thundering through the ages, the dull heresies sprawling and prostrate, the wild truth reeling but erect." That truth needs no artificial excitement or manufactured heartiness, and the Gospel has no orchestrated exclamation points, for when the mystery of God is revealed, everything falls silent (Revelation 8:1), and then . . . the Great Amen.

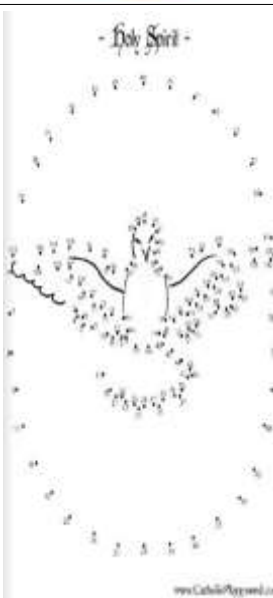


West Wagga Parish Servin

West Wagga Parish



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

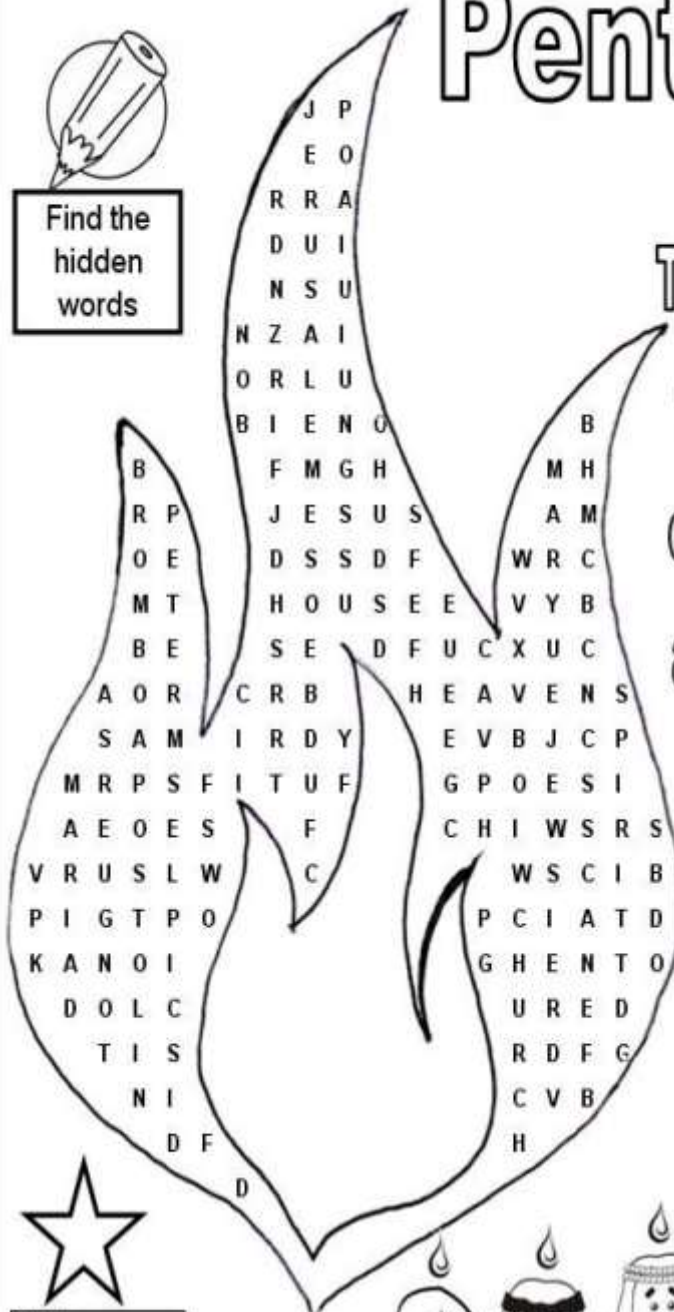


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Pentecost



Find the hidden words



Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

Acts 2:3



- Wind
- Heaven
- House
- Tongues
- Fire
- Spirit
- Jews
- Jerusalem
- Peter
- Jesus
- Wine
- Disciples
- Mary
- Church



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