

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

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 157

March 2016

Coming Events

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

Adoration - 6 to 7am daily, all night Fridays starting 9pm

St Patrick Thu 17

St Joseph Husband of Mary Sat 19

Palm Sunday Sun 20

Holy Thursday Thu 24

Good Friday Fri 25

Easter! Sun 27

Fr Gerard Retreat May 20 to 22

"We adore You, Oh Christ and we thank You, because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world."



"The Crucifix does not signify defeat or failure. It reveals to us the love that overcomes evil and sin."
- Pope Francis



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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: Wednesday March 30th.



pastor's page

- Mercy

The message of Mercy is being put before us fresh in this Jubilee Year, and it is a good time to rediscover some of the many wonderful writings and sermons about mercy to be found in every century as saints meditated on the Gospels. Here is one such teaching still as true today as when it was written.

From a homily by Saint Asterius of Amasea, bishop, c. 350 – c. 410 AD

You were made in the image of God. If then you wish to resemble him, follow his example. Since the very name you bear as Christians is a profession of love for men, imitate the love of Christ. Reflect for a moment on the wealth of his kindness. Before he came as a man to be among men, he sent John the Baptist to preach repentance and lead men to practise it. John himself was preceded by the prophets, who were to teach the people to repent, to return to God and to amend their lives. Then Christ came himself, and with his own lips cried out: Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. How did he receive those who listened to his call? He readily forgave them their sins; he freed them instantly from all that troubled them. The Word made them holy;

the Spirit set his seal on them. The old Adam was buried in the waters of baptism; the new man was reborn to the vigour of grace. What was the result? Those who had been God's enemies became his friends, those estranged from him became his sons, those who did not know him came to worship and love him. Let us then be shepherds like the Lord.



We must meditate on the Gospel, and as we see in this mirror the example of zeal and loving kindness, we should become thoroughly schooled in these virtues. For there, obscurely, in the form of a parable, we see a shepherd who had a hundred sheep.

When one of them was separated from the flock and lost its way, that shepherd did not remain with the sheep who kept together at pasture. No, he went off to look for the stray. He crossed many valleys and thickets, he climbed great and towering mountains, he spent much time and labour in wandering through solitary places until at last he found his sheep. When he found it, he did not chastise it; he did not use rough blows to drive it back, but gently placed it on his own shoulders and carried it back to the flock. He took greater joy in this one sheep, lost and found, than in all the others. Let us look more closely at the hidden meaning of this parable. The sheep is more than a sheep, the shepherd more than a shepherd. They are examples enshrining holy truths. They teach us that we should not look on men as lost or beyond hope; we should not abandon them when they are in danger or be slow to come to their help. When they turn away from the right path and wander, we must lead them back, and rejoice at their return, welcoming them back into the company of those who lead good and holy lives.

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS

Pope Francis' decree on Holy Thursday's foot washing rite

Pope Francis has issued a decree changing the way that the Holy Thursday foot-washing rite is celebrated around the world.

The decree was published on January 21 this year by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

The Vatican website has published a letter from Pope Francis to Cardinal Sarah confirming the changes.

The letter, written in Italian, says that the Pope made the changes so that the foot washing ceremony "might express more fully the meaning of Jesus's gesture in the Cenacle, His giving of Himself unto the end for the salvation of the

world, His limitless charity".

The Pope continues: "I therefore decree that the Pastors of the Church may choose the participants in the rite from among all the members of the People of God.

The foot-washing rite is known as the *Mandatum*, after the first word of Jesus' saying in John 13:34 before He washed His disciples' feet:

"Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos" ("I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another").

In performing this rite, bishops and priests are invited to conform

intimately to Christ who 'came not to be served but to serve' and, driven by a love 'to the end', to give His life for the salvation of all mankind.

Pastors may now choose a group of faithful representing the variety and unity of every part of the People of God. This group may consist of men and women, of the young and the old, healthy and sick, clerics, consecrated persons and lay people.



March Jokes



The little old couple walked slowly into McDonalds that cold winter evening. They looked out of place amid the young families and young couples eating there that night.

Some of the customers looked admiringly at them. You could tell what the admirers were thinking.

"Look, there is a couple who has been through a lot together, probably for 60 years or more!"

The little old man walked right up to the cash register, placed his order with no hesitation and then paid for their meal. The couple took a table near the back wall and started taking food off of the tray.

There was one hamburger, one order of french fries and one drink. The little old man unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half. He placed one half in front of his wife.

Then he carefully counted out the french fries, divided them in two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them.

As the man began to eat his few bites of hamburger the crowd began to get restless. Again you could tell what they were thinking. "That poor old couple. All they can afford is one meal for the two of them."

As the man began to eat his french fries one young man stood and came over to the old couples table. He politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple to eat. The old man replied that they were just fine. They were used to sharing everything.

Then the crowd noticed that the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She just sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink. Again the

young man came over and begged them to let him buy them something to eat. This time the lady explained that no, they were used to sharing everything together.

As the little old man finished eating and was wiping his face neatly with a napkin the young man could stand it no longer. Again he came over to their table and offered to buy some food. After being politely refused again he finally asked a question of the little old lady.

"Ma'am, why aren't you eating? You said that you share everything. What is it that you are waiting for?"

She answered, "The teeth".

A man observed a woman in the grocery store with a three year old girl in her basket. As they passed the cookie section, the little girl asked for cookies and her mother told her, "No." The little girl immediately began to whine and fuss, and the mother said quietly, "Now Monica, we just have half of the aisles left to go through - don't be upset. It won't be long now."

Soon, they came to the candy aisle and the little girl began to shout for candy. When told she couldn't have any, she began to cry. The mother said, "There, there, Monica, don't cry - only two more aisles to go and then we'll be checking out."

When they got to the checkout stand, the little girl immediately began to clamor for gum and burst into a terrible tantrum upon discovering there'd be no gum purchased. The mother said serenely, "Monica, we'll be through this check out stand in 5 minutes and then you can go home and have a nice nap."

The man followed them out to the parking lot and stopped the woman to compliment her. "I couldn't help noticing how patient you were with little Monica," he began.

The mother replied, "I'm Monica - my little girl's name is Tammy."

A lady was walking down the street to work and she saw a parrot on a perch in front of a pet store. The parrot said to her, "Hey lady, you are really ugly." Well, the lady is furious! She stormed past the store to her work. On the way home she saw the same parrot and it said to

her, "Hey lady, you are really ugly."

She was incredibly angry now. The next day the same parrot again said to her, "Hey lady, you are really ugly."

The lady was so ticked that she went into the store and said that she would sue the store and kill the bird. The store manager replied, "That's not good," and promised he wouldn't say it again.

When the lady walked past the store that day after work the parrot called to her, "Hey lady."

She paused and said, "Yes?"

The bird said, "You know."

A six-year-old ran up and down the supermarket aisles shouting frantically: "Marian, Marian!" Finally reunited with his mother, he was chided by her: "You shouldn't call me 'Marian.' I'm your mother" "I know," said the child, "but the store is full of mothers."

A woman walks into the butcher shop just before closing.

She says, "Thank Heavens I've made it in time! Have you any chicken?"

The butcher opens his fridge and takes out his only chicken, and plops it onto the scale. It weighs 2 1/2 pounds.

"Ah, haven't you anything bigger?" the woman inquires.

The butcher returns the chicken to the fridge, takes it out again, and plops it onto the scale, only this time, he keeps his finger on the chicken. The scale shows 3 1/4 pounds.

"Marvelous!" says the woman. "I'll have both of them please."

The shopkeeper was dismayed when a brand new business much like his own opened up next door and erected a huge sign which read BEST DEALS.

He was horrified when another competitor opened up on his right, and announced its arrival with an even larger sign, reading LOWEST PRICES.

The shopkeeper was panicked, until he got an idea. He put the biggest sign of all over his own shop-it read... Main entrance.

A New (Old) Way to Apologize

by Simcha Fisher



Last May, this post got well-deserved attention among my mum friends: A better way to say sorry. The author is a teacher who realized that when kids hurt each other, it didn't exactly instil true repentance or healing when she forced them to apologize. But what choice did she have? You can't just let bad behaviour go.

So she came up with this alternative formulation, and made erring kids go through it step by step, every time:

I'm sorry for...

This is wrong because...

In the future, I will...

Will you forgive me?

She says that the kids really took to it, and even the one kid that nobody liked jumped at the chance to acknowledge that he was annoying everyone.

He apologized to the whole class for being really, really annoying and stated his plans to change. I was among the many individuals exchanging puzzled but impressed glances, and indeed it was one big step in this child's personal growth.

It was especially heart-warming to see how his classmates interacted with him afterward. They really wanted to give him a second chance, and they sincerely tried to help him be his best. I'm sure it wasn't easy for him to admit to the class that he was annoying, but it was a powerful first step in changing his relationships with everyone. While not perfect, his behaviour improved greatly after this event and I am glad I gave him the tools and space to "reset" this way.

The teacher started scheduling weekly "clean-ups." Students relished in the opportunity to admit wrongdoing, share intent to change, and restore friendships. It was a beautiful, beautiful thing. They walked out stiff and uneasy, and returned with bright smiles on their faces.

She says that one day, she spontaneously demanded an apology from a kid for a mild infraction: not paying attention.

"Um..." he began, looking around bewildered, "I'm sorry for... not paying attention. This is wrong because... I wasn't paying attention..."

"Try again."

"...because you're upset?" he offered.

"Nope."

"...because I'm not learning?" he asked.

"Yes, and?"

"And because..." he glanced down nervously.

"Because," I finished for him, "Now the whole class is waiting for you and you're wasting our time."

"Because the whole class--"

"Start from the beginning."

Yeah, I can be pretty tough on them sometimes. Tough love. He started again, "I'm sorry for not paying attention. This is wrong because I'm not learning and the whole class is waiting and I'm wasting their time. In the future, I will pay attention. Will you forgive me?"

"Yes," I said, then turned to the others, "Class?"

The students nodded their heads and we resumed our lesson.

Catholics, o Catholics, does this sound familiar?

Bless me, Father, for I have sinned ...

I'm sorry for...

This is wrong because...

I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of Hell, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God ...

In the future, I will...

I firmly resolve, with the help of thy grace...

Will you forgive me?

Will you forgive me?

Oh Catholic Church! Always ahead of the curve with your understanding of human psychology. What a difference it

makes to say it out loud, acknowledge why it was wrong and how it hurt you and others, to make a plan to change, and to ask for forgiveness. And of course we have a bonus that extends far (eternally!) beyond psychological benefits.

Now we just need to start scheduling weekly "clean-ups" -- yes, even for minor infractions, because they hurt the whole class, too -- and we'll begin to see some real change on the playground.

Holy Week Timetable

Palm Sunday: San Isidore 6pm

Holy Trinity 9am and 5.30pm

Home of Compassion 10.30

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Holy Trinity 7pm

Good Friday - Holy Trinity

Stations of the Cross, 11am,

Good Friday, 3pm Service

Easter Vigil - San Isidore 7.30pm

Easter Sunday: Holy Trinity 9am 5.30pm

Collingullie 9.30am

Home of Compassion 10.30am

Salford's Mercy Bus project is blessed by Pope Francis

www.catholicherald.co.uk



The double-decker bus will tour Greater Manchester and Lancashire and have priests available to hear Confession.

Pope Francis has given his blessing to the Diocese of Salford's Mercy Bus, which will soon be touring parts of Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

The double-decker bus will have priests available to hear Confession, or just to talk and listen to people. It will also have live music and volunteers distributing leaflets to passers-by and inviting them on board. The bus is a response to Pope Francis's announcement of the jubilee year last March. The Year of Mercy, which began on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, celebrates the

mercy of God and forgiveness of sins.

Bishop John Arnold of Salford said: "The Mercy Bus is a way of reaching out to people who might not otherwise have contact with the Church. We are going to them, rather than expecting them to come to us." Pope Francis blessed the Mercy Bus project, before being photographed with a large card showing images of the bus. He also blessed badges, which will be given out by the volunteers. Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States, organised a VIP ticket for Fr Frankie Mulgrew, one of the three priests who will be on the bus, so that he could present the Mercy Bus project to the Holy Father. The Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation was also involved in arranging the meeting.

The bus [has been] blessed by Bishop Arnold next Saturday, after which it will go out on the streets and to shopping centres, schools and prisons from 11 am to 4 pm every Saturday until Easter. With Fr Mulgrew, Fr Michael Cooke and Fr

Duncan McVicar, the bus will tour Manchester, Salford, Burnley and Blackburn, "following the example of Jesus who spoke in synagogues and also brought the gospel on the streets, on hilltops, at dinner in people's homes", said Fr Mulgrew. "We were inspired by the Pope. In fact, when he served as cardinal in Argentina, the Holy Father would officiate open-air Masses in the poorest areas of the country", he said. "The fact that Francis approaches ordinary people travelling to their workplaces or bringing their children to school, testifies to the love and the compassion of God. It's also an important commitment for evangelisation which we seek to mirror through our bus".



Saint Oswald the Leap Year Saint

By Dr. Taylor Marshall

It was his custom every day in Lent. Saint Oswald would wash the feet of the people of his diocese (York, England). In fact, he died on February 29 in the year of Christ 992 (leap year) while washing feet.

Leap year reminds us that every four years we must adjust our solar calendar in order to remain true the clock of the universe.

What do you need to do to adjust yourself to God's plan? Saint Oswald as a bishop made an



adjustment. He washed feet everyday in Lent. And he died doing so. It's a reminder that we need to make adjustments, and that such an adjustment might in fact be our new path to becoming a saint.

What adjustment will you make today? Perhaps, like Saint Oswald, you'll be doing it some years from now in the moment you die.

Suggested "leap year adjustments":

- * Pray a morning offering when your eyes open every morning.
- * Write a Thank You note daily.
- * Read the New Testament daily for 5 minutes (set a timer).
- * Go to confession weekly.
- * Call the elderly in your family.

People who do not use punctuation deserve a long sentence.

Studies show that people who have more birthdays live longer.

The end does not justify the means

Does a little white lie help or hurt? If we can cure all sorts of illnesses just by sacrificing some little test tube human beings, should we do it?

The Gospel message is clear: "One may not do evil that good may result from it"

God made this truth clear to the Greek philosopher Socrates, who lived about 400 years before Jesus was born. Socrates said it is more shameful to do evil than to suffer it, it is better to suffer evil than to do it.

Later, Jesus said, "what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" Mark 8:36

Sometimes people face mighty temptations, even to killing a mere child, in order to avoid or get rid of some evil. The Russian Novelist Dostoevsky in 1880 wrote a very compelling piece about this. Would you consent to make the whole world wonderful for the "little" price of torturing an innocent child to death? No! "One may not do evil that good may come from it."

Some actions are not always morally evil in themselves of course, like making a whip and scaring people with it – Jesus did this; or cutting someone – surgeons do it all the time. Natural Family Planning is another "means" that is

not morally evil, which can be used for the purpose or "end" of avoiding pregnancy for a serious reason, as Pope Francis said in January last year.

But other actions are always morally evil, some of them very evil (killing an innocent child), others slightly evil (telling a "little" lie). Pope Francis in February this year said abortion is always evil. And in January 2015 Pope Francis praised Pope Paul VI for his courage in giving his encyclical *Humanae Vitae* to the world. *Humanae Vitae* courageously tackles contracepted acts, which are always morally evil.

Here are some teachings, from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and from some of our recent Popes, on some things that are always morally evil, that a good intention never makes right.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1757 The object, the intention, and the circumstances make up the three "sources" of the morality of human acts.

1759 "An evil action cannot be justified by reference to a good intention" (cf. St. Thomas Aquinas, Dec. praec. 6). The end does not justify the means.

1760 A morally good act requires the goodness of its object, of its end, and of its circumstances together.

1761 There are concrete acts that it is always wrong to choose, because their choice entails a disorder of the will, i.e., a moral evil. ...

1756 It is therefore an error to judge the morality of human acts by considering only the intention that inspires them or the circumstances (environment, social pressure, duress or emergency, etc.) which supply their context. There are acts which, in and of themselves, independently of circumstances and intentions, are always gravely illicit by reason of their object; such as blasphemy and perjury, murder and adultery. One may not do evil so that good may result from it.

Pope Francis, February 2016: "Abortion is not the lesser of two evils. It is a crime. It is to kill someone in order to save another. This is what the Mafia does. It is a crime, an absolute evil."

Blessed Pope Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae* 14, 1968: doing things with the direct intention of contracepting "are absolutely excluded as lawful means of regulating the number of children... It is never lawful, even for the gravest reasons, to do evil that good may come of it ... even though the intention is to protect or promote the welfare of an individual, of a family or of society in general."

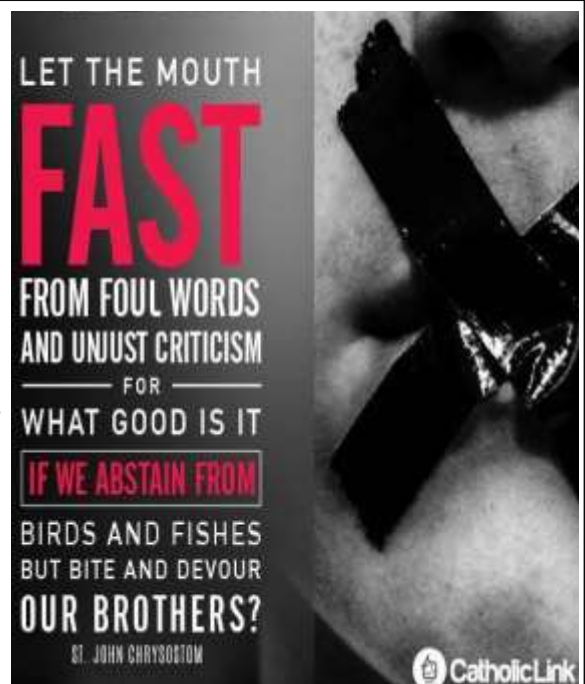
Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*, 1880

"Imagine that you are creating a fabric of human destiny with the object of making men happy in the end, giving them peace and rest at last,

"but that it was essential and inevitable to torture to death only one tiny creature -that baby beating its breast with its fist, for instance- and to found that edifice on its unavenged tears,

"would you consent to be the architect on those conditions? Tell me, and tell the truth."

"No, I wouldn't consent," said Alyosha softly.



St. Thomas Aquinas' 5 Remedies Against Sadness



The saint's surprisingly effective tricks for overcoming sorrow

Don Carlo de Marchi

On certain days we have all been sad, days when we have been unable to overcome an inner torpor or depression that weighs down on us and makes it difficult to interact with others. Is there a trick for overcoming sorrow and recovering our smile? St. Thomas Aquinas suggests five remedies against sadness that have proven surprisingly effective (*Summa Theologiae*, I-II, q. 38).

The first remedy is granting ourselves something we like. It's as though the famous theologian had already intuited seven centuries ago that "chocolate is an antidepressant." This might seem a bit materialistic, but no one would deny that a tough day can end well with a good beer. It's hard to refute this by citing the Gospel, since our Lord took part joyfully in banquets and feasts, and both before and after his Resurrection enjoyed the noble and good things in life. One of the Psalms even says that wine gladdens the human heart (although the Bible also clearly condemns getting drunk).

The second remedy is weeping. St. Thomas says "a hurtful thing hurts yet more if we keep it shut up, because the soul is more intent on it: whereas if it be allowed to

escape, the soul's intention is dispersed as it were on outward things, so that the inward sorrow is lessened" (I-II q. 38 a. 2). Our melancholy gets worse if we have no way to give vent to our sorrow. Weeping is the soul's way to release a sorrow that can become paralyzing. Jesus too wept.

The third remedy is sharing our sorrow with a friend. I recall here the friend of Renzo in Manzoni's great novel *The Betrothed*. Finding himself alone in his deserted home ravaged by the plague and mourning his family's horrible fate, he tells Renzo: "What has happened is horrible, something that I never thought I would live to see; it's enough to take away a person's joy for the rest of his life. But speaking about these things with a friend is a great help." This is something we have to experience in order to understand it. When we are sad, we tend to see everything in tints of gray. A very effective antidote is opening our heart to a friend. Sometimes a brief message or phone call is enough for our outlook to once again be filled with light.

The fourth remedy against sadness is contemplating the truth. Contemplating the "fulgor veritatis" St. Augustine speaks of, the splendour of truth in nature or a work of art or music, can be an effective balm against sadness. A literary critic, a few days after the death of a dear friend, was scheduled to speak at a conference about the topic of adventure in the works of Tolkien. He began by saying: "Speaking about beautiful things to people interested in them is for me a real consolation ..."

The fifth remedy suggested by St. Thomas is perhaps something we wouldn't expect from a medieval thinker. The theologian says that a wonderful remedy against sadness

is bathing and sleeping. It's a deeply Christian viewpoint that in order to alleviate a spiritual malady one will sometimes have to resort to a bodily remedy. Ever since God became Man, and therefore took on a body, the separation between matter and spirit has been overcome in this world of ours.

A widespread error is that Christianity is based on the opposition between soul and body, with the latter being seen as a burden or obstacle for the spiritual life. But the right view of Christian humanism is that the human person (both body and soul) is completely "spiritualized" by seeking union with God.

"No one thinks it strange to seek out a physician who cares for the body as a guide for a spiritual illness," says St. Thomas More. "The body and soul are so closely united that together they form a single person, and hence a malady of one can sometimes be a malady of both. Therefore, I would advise everyone, when confronted with a physical illness, to first go to confession, and seek out a good spiritual doctor for the health of their soul. Likewise for some sicknesses of the soul, besides going to the spiritual physician, one should also go to a physician who cares for the body."



Faith is seeing God's providence when He says yes
and seeing His love when He says no.

- Mother Angelica, *Answers, Not Promises*

The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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



The Parable of the Lost Son Luke 15:23-24

- | | |
|------------|-------|
| COMPASSION | HIRED |
| CELEBRATE | FOUND |
| STARVING | PIGS |
| COUNTRY | FEED |
| PROPERTY | FEAST |
| STOMACH | SPENT |
| ESTATE | FOOD |
| WEALTH | RING |
| FATHER | SONS |
| KISSED | LOST |

The Parable of the Lost Son

Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:23-24 (NIV)

