

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 181

March 2018

Coming Events

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Trinity

- 6 to 7am daily;

- overnight from 9pm Friday through to 7am Saturdays

3rd Sunday of Lent Sun 4

Saints Perpetua and Felicity Wed 7

4th Sunday of Lent Sun 11

St Patrick Sat 17

5th Sunday of Lent Sun 18

St Joseph Mon 19

Palm Sunday Sun 25

Holy Thursday Thu 29

Good Friday Fri 30

Easter Sunday Sun 1

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 March 28th.

Happy Birthday!

The West Wagga Catholic Parish wishes Happy Birthday to:

Fidelma Kennedy - 90th Birthday



Mary Kennedy - 90th Birthday

Bev Crouch - 80th Birthday



Lyn Banks- 75th Birthday



Sabina McIntyre - 60th Birthday

and

Jackie Ambler - 50th Birthday.



May God bless you all and grant your prayers!

Parish Mission

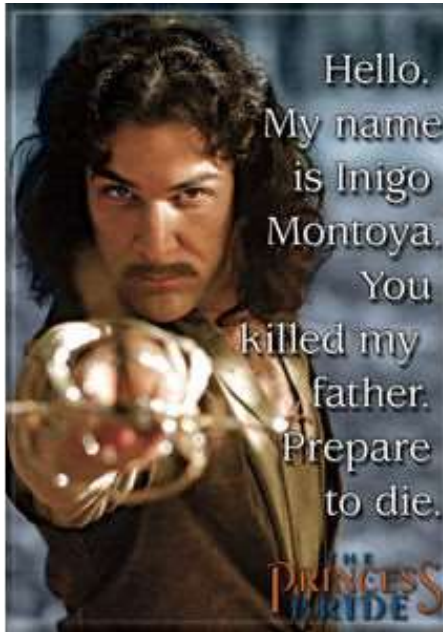
The Congregation of the Fathers of Mercy was founded in 1808. One of its priests, Fr. Ricardo Pineda is coming to the West Wagga Parish to preach a mission this year.

The primary apostolate of the Fathers of Mercy is to conduct parish missions and retreats, which are now given throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. As with previous parish missions, it is a time for all parishioners to receive from Almighty God many additional graces for themselves and their families. Fr. Michel Corriveau preached a mission here in 2007.

Watch this space for more.



pastor's page - Prepare for a happy death



"Prepare to die!" This has been a line common in movies, for example "Princess Bride", where a young man spent years training in sword fighting and then searching for the six-fingered man who murdered his father. When he finally meets him, he says those words practiced so many times before,

"Hello, my name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father, prepare to die." I won't tell you what happens at the end of the movie. But I do want to highlight those words, "Prepare to die".

All of us will face death one day. Many prepare only by blocking out the thought of it, which doesn't really help. As Christians, we should have both a healthy fear of death and sense of self-preservation, and yet a looking forward to what is on the other side of that door, ie meeting Our Lord and being welcomed into Eternal Life. Death in itself is not a good thing, a fruit of original sin; Jesus cried at the death of Lazarus, and came to conquer sin and death. And yet, by dying He destroyed our death, and so St Paul could write, "Death, where is your sting?" For Christians, our faith in and longing for eternal life becomes stronger than the fear of death, and takes away the sharpness of the sting, the regret at not living longer fading before the prospect of living forever.

We can become like some pigs I heard of. They longed to make their

way into a delicious vegetable garden, but the farmer had an electric fence blocking them (Jim Ellis told me about this one). The farmer watched stunned as those pigs trotted with strong resolve towards the electric wire; they began squealing before they touched it, but did not stop their forward march, enduring the sparks till they were in the garden.

So, how do we prepare to die?

We get ready by growing in our Faith - faith in Heaven, our true home; faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus by which heaven is opened for us; faith in the life of grace which makes us able to live in heaven. Being close to the Saints means being close to heaven. Praying for the souls in purgatory will help us to keep clear in our minds the Last Things, ie, our death, judgement, heaven and hell.

We get ready for death by living a good life, keeping the Commandments, growing in virtue (like patience, kindness, purity, generosity, courage, prudence etc), and doing our part to build up society and the Church, works of charity. We remember that our judgment will include works of Faith: "I was hungry and you fed Me, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink...:

When we die, we will have to let go of many things, in fact, all things that pass away. We can't take them with us. We will be stripped, like Jesus before the Crucifixion. So an important part of preparing for death is learning to be detached from earthly things. We may enjoy them but not be addicted to them, ready to give them up every time charity and duty requires it.

Doing penance in Lent helps free us from too much attachment from material things. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also", Jesus told us. We should understand, and sometimes practice, not caring too much for material things except as they can help us get to heaven.

Confession to God through the priest, saying sorry to those we have offended, and saying "I forgive you" to those who seek our mercy,

are also necessary ways to prepare for our last hour.

And most of all, we prepare for death and eternal life by prayer! In the Rosary we pray to the Mother of God and our mother, "...pray for us now and at the hour of death", and "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven, especially those who most need Thy mercy." Through these prayers, more happens than the advantage of being reminded about the last things; we also obtain vital graces to help us prepare to die, to pass from this life into the next, into heaven.

Prayer for a happy death:

O Blessed Joseph,

you gave your last breath in the loving embrace of Jesus and Mary.

When the seal of death shall close my life, come with Jesus and Mary to aid me.

Obtain for me this solace for that hour -

to die with their holy arms around me.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I commend my soul, living and dying, into your sacred arms.

Amen.

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS



March Merries



One day David went to an auction. While he was there, he bid for a parrot. David really wanted this bird, so he got caught up and thoroughly involved in the bidding. He kept on bidding, but kept getting outbid, so he bid higher and higher and higher.

Finally, after he had bid much more than he had intended, David won the bid; the parrot was his at last.

As he was paying for the parrot, he said to the auctioneer, 'I hope this parrot can talk. I would hate to have paid this much for it, only to find out that he can't talk!'

'Don't worry.' said the auctioneer, 'He can talk. Who do you think kept bidding against you?'

Q: Why did the horse cross the road?

A: Because the chicken was having a holiday.

Q: How did the bubble gum cross the road?

A: On the bottom of the chicken's foot!

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road, roll in mud, then cross the road again?

A: He was a dirty double crosser!

Q: Why did the rooster cross the road?

A: To prove he wasn't a chicken!

Q: How did the egg cross the road?

A: It scrambled across!

Q: What do you call a sick eagle?

A: Illegal

Police called out to investigate reports of a young child left home alone found a talking parrot instead. Police were called to the house in Koblenz, Germany, by an elderly lady who said she could hear a child next door constantly screaming, 'Mama, Mama'. The woman felt the child must have been left home alone as nobody was answering the cries. When officers broke into the house they found the cries were coming from a 25-year-old talking parrot.

Q: What do you get if you cross a parrot with a woodpecker? A: A bird that talks in morse code!

Q: Why did the parrot wear a raincoat? A: Because she wanted to be a Polly unsaturated!

Q: What flies through the jungle singing opera? A: The parrots of Penzance!



Q: What do you call a parrot that flew away? A: A polygon

Person 1: One of my friends sounds like an owl.

Person 2: Who?

Q: Why did the owl, 'owl?'

A: Because the woodpecker would peck 'er!

Q: How do you catch a unique bird?

A: Unique up on it.

Q: How do you catch a tame bird?

A: The tame way, unique up on it!

Q: What's the difference between bird flu and swine flu?

A: If you have bird flu, you need tweetment. If you have swine flu, you need oink-ment.

Don't talk to the parrot!

Wanda's dishwasher quit working so she called a repairman. Since she had to go to work the next day, she told the repairman, 'I'll leave the key under the mat. Fix the dishwasher, leave the bill on the counter, and I'll mail you a check.' 'Oh, by the way don't worry about my bulldog Spike. He won't bother you. But, whatever you do, do NOT, under ANY circumstances, talk to my parrot!'

'I REPEAT, DO NOT TALK TO MY PARROT!!!'

When the repairman arrived at Wanda's apartment the following day, he discovered the biggest, meanest looking bulldog he had ever seen.

Just as she had said, the dog just lay there on the carpet watching the repairman go about his work. The parrot, however, drove him nuts the whole time with his incessant yelling and name calling. Finally the repairman couldn't contain himself any longer and yelled: 'Be quiet, you stupid, ugly bird!' To which the parrot replied, **'Get him, Spike!'**

Q: Why did the pelican get kicked out of the restaurant?

A: Because he had a very big bill.

Q: What did they call the canary that flew into the pastry dish?

A: Tweetie Pie!

Q: What did the gamekeeper say to the lord of the manor?

A: 'The pheasants are revolting!'

Q: How many birds does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Toucan do it.

You want to make bird puns?Toucan play that game.



Your Best Lent Ever!

Bud Macfarlane, CatholiCity.com



Dear CatholiCity Citizen,

Our only purpose today is to help you begin your Lent well. (Yes I am including our famous, scary, and comprehensive Stuff to Give Up List.)

This is one message you may want to forward to your friends and relatives before Ash Wednesday arrives. Let us begin with... [a motto]

Go for it!

Don't Waste Another Lent

We only have so many years on this earth and to waste another Lent (you know who you are—I'm guilty too). Challenge yourself spiritually in 2018.

Mortification—prayer, fasting, giving up things we love—is a very positive way of walking with Jesus, who did these things, taught his apostles to do this, and gave up His very life!

And, now, for some suggestions. My goal below is to make you exclaim: "Oh no, not that! I can't give that up!"

Yeah, we (and you) are looking for the perfect Oh No Not That to give up because this year, our [motto] is

Go For It!

I can only offer this bold encouragement because I am weak, slothful, wimpy, selfish, lazy, prideful, ashamed, and cowardly.

Here are some suggestions to get into the spirit of **Go For It**, followed by helpful hints, resources and comments...

1. Pray the Rosary every day.
2. Receive Communion at Mass every day.
3. Go to Confession once a week.
4. Pray the Family Rosary every day or once a week.
5. Pray in silence 20 minutes a day.
6. Make a Eucharistic visit every day.
7. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet every day.
8. Fast on bread and water one to three times per week (join me!).
9. Read a spiritual book.
10. Give a painfully large donation to charity.
11. Donate to charity instead of buying something for yourself.
12. Pray "Jesus, I love you!" in the first waking seconds of the day.
13. Listen to Catholic CDs.
14. Do something major to improve your marriage.
15. Volunteer anywhere: at your kid's school, homeless shelter, etc.
16. Visit a home for the elderly.
17. Read a Gospel or all four Gospels.
18. Memorize ten favourite Bible verses.
22. Give up something you absolutely love, crave, or spend time on, or that annoys the people you love, including:
 - your mobile phone (or, texting, shopping online, social media, etc.)
 - television or your favourite show
 - television before a certain hour
 - television after a certain hour
 - eating while watching television
 - coffee (yes, coffee)
 - caffeine in any form
 - soft drink,
 - donuts,
 - hamburgers
 - pizza (yes, pizza), • chocolate

- anything with chocolate flavor
- all snacks or desserts
- going to movies or Netflix, etc.
- the Internet
- following your favourite sports team
- video games, • magazines
- golf (an objectively grave moral evil) (only kidding)
- booze (yes, booze)
- watching golf on TV
- a destructive, irresistible "friendship"
- foul language
- sports, music, talk radio
- restaurants
- driving when you could walk
- fast food drive-throughs
- shopping for clothes or food
- not stopping by your neighbours to say hello for weeks
- failing to visit or call your "not close by" relatives
- the beach, • the woods
- working on cars
- some of your "alone" time doing any hobby
- your absolute favourite, passionate hobby (aha, you just fainted!)
- not reading
- reading (ha!)
- not exercising (enough)
- exercising (too much)
- nagging your husband (you know who you are)
- criticizing your wife (she knows who you are)
- interrupting others
- not smiling whenever you meet someone
- knitting, crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, sudoku
- knitting? (you addicts understand)
- those filthy, filthy cigarettes



Go For It! continued ...

- half or a third of those cigarettes
- chips, • ice cream
- not eating your vegetables (even you adults)
- gossiping
- stealing "little stuff" from your employer, including time online
- talking when you should be listening
- buying anything you don't need

Little Children

That, ahem, should get you started. We are also big advocates of little children giving up video games, tablets, and television. Have them put 10% of their piggy bank into

the collection basket. Bring them with you if Your Best Lent Ever includes corporal works of mercy.

You Are Not Dead

May we mildly suggest that you are not dead. You are not a corpse. You are alive. You are breathing. This is Lent.

And it is Lent 2018 and it shall never come again, and it shall never begin again, so that is why it is so important to have courage.

Lent is about two billion people around the world changing how they live for forty days so we can all grow closer to Jesus.

In sum Your Best Lent Ever will help other souls around the world, and over time, in ways only God can fathom.



How I failed as a Father on Valentine's Day

By Dr. Taylor Marshall

Sometimes a father's zeal is too zealous.

My adorable four year old daughter took Valentine's Day stickers and went through our home sticking them on all of our religious art.

I (regretfully) became angry with her. For example, I was pretty upset to see a cheap sticker on this authentic egg-tempera painted icon of the Holy Theotokos and Christ Child:

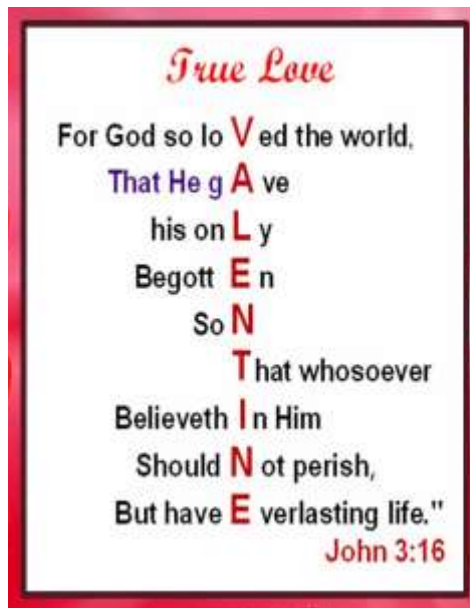


I scolded her and told her that she should not place stickers on holy things. We should revere holy images and not treat them disrespectfully.

I watched her eyes well up with tears and she turned her face away from me in shame. My sweet wife Joy said, "Honey, I think she was

doing something else." And then it hit me. Maybe it was my Guardian Angel slapping me upside the back of my head.

I asked her, "Were you placing all these stickers on Jesus, Mary, and the Saints because you love them and want to show your Valentines love for your friends?"



She nodded her head "yes" with teary eyes. I gave her a hug and told her what a good girl she was. I felt bad. She was innocently showing childlike "dulia" for these holy images in full accord with the Seventh Ecumenical Council.

And the silly stickers came off no problem and damaged nothing.

It reminded me of the Apostle Paul's exhortation to Christian fathers:

And you, fathers, provoke not your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and correction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)



Fathers, be slow to correct and consider the motivations of the little ones. We don't want to drive away their innocent devotion to that which is good.

Happy Valentines Day and Happy Ash Wednesday.

PS: I'm sealed for death and resurrection in Christ!

‘Paul, Apostle of Christ’ – movie review

FEBRUARY 2018 • 8:46PM

By: Movies Change People

A new biblical film, ‘Paul, Apostle of Christ’ is scheduled for cinemas this Easter – starring James Faulkner (Downton Abby) as Saint Paul, and Jim Caviezel (The Passion of the Christ) as Saint Luke.

It depicts Paul, a known persecutor of Christians, who was then radically converted to Christianity, and demonstrates his pivotal role in the formation of the early church.

The story of two biblical figures

Paul, Apostle of Christ follows the story of two men – Luke and Paul, as they struggle against a determined emperor and the frailties of the human spirit in order to live out the Gospel of Jesus

Christ and spread their message to the world.

Luke, as a friend and physician, risks his life when he ventures into the city of Rome to visit Paul, who is held captive in Nero’s darkest, bleakest prison cell. The Emperor is determined to rid Rome of Christians, and does not flinch from executing them in the most horrific ways possible.

Bound in chains, Paul’s struggle is internal. He has survived so much—floggings, shipwreck, starvation, stoning, hunger and thirst, cold and exposure—yet as he waits for his appointment with death, he is haunted by the shadows of his past misdeeds. Alone in the dark, he wonders if he has been forgotten . . . and if he has the strength to finish well.



Before Paul’s death sentence can be enacted, Luke resolves to write another book, one that details the beginnings of “The Way” and the birth of what will come to be known as the church.

Free seminar

Retirement Planning

Want to maximise your super savings for retirement? Catholic Super is here to help.



catholic super

Our seminar will cover:

- Retirement goals and budgets
- Transition to retirement strategy
- How much retirement income do I need?
- Explanation of account based pensions
- How do I increase my retirement savings?
- Details of the Age Pension

How to register:

Online -

go to csf.com.au/seminars and enrol for the session you would like to attend;

Telephone -

phone 1300 655 002 and give your name, member number and the seminar you would like to attend.



Are You Available For God?



God never asks about our ability or our inability – just our availability. One of the items in *Ripley's Believe It or Not* is a picture of a plain bar of iron. It is valued at \$5. The same bar of iron has a far different value, however, if it is fashioned into different items.

As a pair of horseshoes, it would be worth \$50

As sewing needles, it would be worth \$5,000

As balance springs for fine Swiss watches, it would be worth \$500,000

The raw material is not what is important. What's important is how raw material is developed!

Each of us has been given talents and abilities – some have received more, others less, but all have received something as a unique gift from God.

As Christians, we also enjoy spiritual gifts which flow from the Holy Spirit. The value of these raw

materials, however, is a moot point unless we develop and use our talents, abilities and spiritual gifts as a force for divine good in this world.

If you don't know what your abilities and gifts are, ask God to reveal them to you. Then ask Him to show you what He wants you to do with them. Your happiness and success in life will be found in fulfilling His plan for your life.

I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Isiah 6:8 AV

(From God's Little Devotional)

Major Protestant YouTube Star Announces She's Converting to Catholicism



ChurchPOP Editor - Feb 19, 2018
YouTube star Lizzie Estella Reezay of the YouTube channel LizziesAnswers has announced that she's converting from Protestantism to Catholicism.

"I want everyone to know that I hated that this was happening," she explains in a recent video. "I fought so hard to get out of this intellectually. I did not want to be Catholic. Not only did I think Catholicism was wrong, I just didn't like the vibe of Catholicism. I wanted to be anything but Catholic."

She explains how hard it was for her to make her announcement video because she knew many of her Protestant family and friends would perceive it to be a betrayal.

But, she explains, she was obliged to become Catholic by the force of one simple fact: it was true.

Lizzie grew up in the Protestant denomination Churches of Christ (CoC). She started her YouTube channel 8 years ago when she was just 16 years old and had a few videos giving teenage relationship advice go viral. Since the beginning, though, she wasn't shy about also talking about her Christian faith.

As of this writing, she has amassed a huge following, with over +183k subscribers to her YouTube channel and over 34 million video views.

She attended Pepperdine University (which is affiliated with CoC), where she studied philosophy and religion, and she was planning on moving to Thailand soon to work as a CoC missionary. But in the last year or so she also started exploring Catholicism on her channel, with videos like "10 Lies Protestants Believe About Catholicism! (From a Protestant)," "PROTESTANT VISITS LATIN MASS! What I LOVED and HATED," and "WHY 'FAITH ALONE' SALVATION IS

WRONG! (From a Protestant)."

Then, on Ash Wednesday just a few days ago she announced she was converting to Catholicism! She said she would explain more in an upcoming video, which she released a few days later.

Reading the writings of the early Church fathers was particularly impactful for her, since she said they were so clearly Catholic. She also realized that the Catholic Church's teaching about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist was more biblical than she thought. Finally, she said she decided to become Catholic rather than Eastern Orthodox after being convinced of the truth of the papacy by Steve Ray's book *Upon This Rock*.



1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given

The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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

Can you find the path to Jesus?



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

DISCIPLES	CROSS
HIMSELF	GOOD
FORFEIT	DENY
FOLLOW	SOUL
WORLD	SAVE
CROWD	LOSE
WHOLE	GAIN
GOSPEL	LIFE

Take Up Your Cross

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Mark 8:36



I will follow Jesus, our leader.

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