

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

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 169

March 2017

### Coming Events

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Trinity**

- 6 to 7am daily;

- overnight from 9pm Friday through to 7am Saturdays

**St Patrick** Fri 17

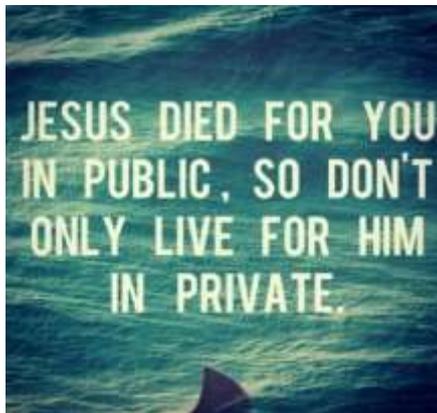
**St Joseph Husband of Mary** Mon 20

**Annunciation - when the Word was made Flesh!** Sat 25

**Good Friday 14 April - Divine Mercy chaplet at 2.45pm**

**Easter Vigil Sat 15th will be at 6pm**

**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 29 th.

## Lent - House Renovation Time!



“Imagine yourself as a living house.

God comes in to rebuild that house.

At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised.

But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not

seem to make any sense.

What on earth is He up to?

The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards.

You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace.

He intends to come and live in it Himself.”

*C.S. Lewis*



## pastor's page



Happy Lent! And St Patrick's Day, and St Joseph's, and the Annunciation, and so many more!

The Catholic Church is the most Feast-Day-full church I know. Compared with our calendar, the Christian denominations' calendars are boring. Sorry to boast, but we have more martyrs, missionaries, teachers, virgins, children and parent saints on our calendar. Others have less colour too: less violet and green and red and white, less light and shade. The richness of our calendar is a reflection of the rich blessings God has given us on our journey to the Eternal Feast of Heaven.

Our Calendar takes us on a journey recapturing the history of the People of God in the Old Testament, and then, more importantly, the history of God the Son who became Man and "passed over" from death to life so as to open the Gates of Heaven for us. We re-live the mysteries of His life and words, so that they are always fresh in our minds. We do it *liturgically* so that, guided by the Church and our Sacred Scriptures, we are caught up into the Mystery of God.

We are now entering a purple time, Lent, the valley we must pass through on the way to a bright Easter. No pain, no gain. Now is exercise time, spiritual exercises to help us shed the pounds of spiritual

sloth and the bad diet of worldly distraction so that we can be like the Angels (Chesterton opined: How do Angels fly? They take themselves lightly.)

In Lent we work, or rather CO-OPERATE with God, in the great adventure of becoming holy. I saw recently the Lenten fast of the Maronite Catholics which is much more demanding than the Western Catholic way. For the first and last weeks of Lent, they do not eat from midnight till midday. Abstaining for them includes all dairy products.

It is natural, and fun, to feel the good pain of beginning Lent with pining for chocolate or other items we are giving up. **Abstinence** is an important - I would say essential! - part of a good Lent, but it is only fruitful if it is joined to the other parts of Lent, prayer and charity.

**Our Lenten Prayer** should, if at all possible, include more Masses; daily Masses are so rewarding! Nothing prepares us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus better than the Mass which makes these very mysteries present. Daily reading of the Bible, even a paragraph or two, is an excellent practice. As St Jerome said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ", and that is something we don't want. Another form of Lenten prayer is to study our Faith; prayer is the raising of the mind and heart to God, so any growth in our understanding of the Faith, and Who Jesus is, can be a wonderful boost to our prayer life.

**Lenten Charity** begins at home: doing promptly, cheerfully and with care our chores but also little acts of kindness. These are even more uplifting when they are done secretly. "Your left hand should not know what your right hand is doing, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you." Our charity should also flow out from the home to include our neighbours and others we have the

ability to help. Be imaginative, think outside the box, help especially those who fall through the cracks and have no one else thinking about them.

Lent is above all a time of **repentance**, *metanoia*, a real change of heart. It is a time to grow in the fundamental Christian attitude, "*Lord, what would you have me do?*" Are you ready to do whatever God wants, to give up anything in your life which is not in accordance with His Will, to give God an unconditional "Yes"?

We meditate on all that God did for us in order to pay for our sins, because He loves us so much. In Lent, we become like the lady who wept on our Lord's feet tears of grateful love. Remember the conversation Jesus had with the host? "Simon, who loves more? The one who was forgiven little or the one who was forgiven much?"

Let's look at St Luke's words,

*Then Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. \*But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The others at table said to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

(Luke 7:44-50)

So, happy Lent, happy fasting, prayer and works of kindness, and happy journey to the joy of Easter!

*Fr Thomas Casanova CCS*

### Edith Stein: "Do not accept anything as love which lacks truth."

Edith was a Jew. She became a Catholic nun taking the name Sr Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. She died at the hands of the Nazis at Auschwitz concentration camp.

Sr Teresa was declared a saint in 1998.

# March Merries



## Kids

I don't care how cute your kid is. When you wake up in the middle of the night and see them standing next to your bed, they are terrifying.

Son: what do you want for the holidays? Me: peace and quiet  
Son: lol, well that's not going to happen. What else?

[two of my four kids burst into tears]  
Random lady walking by: Why are you crying, girls?  
Me: It's cute that you think there's a reason.

My kids wanted to know what it's like to be a mum so I woke them up at 2am to let them know my sock came off.

4yo: You're a good dad.  
Me: Thanks.  
4yo: You'd be better if you said yes more.  
Me: Okay.  
4yo: Can I have ice cream? Think about what I said.

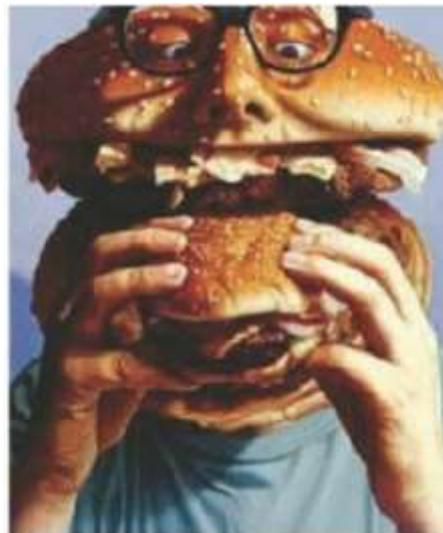
Me: Most people in the world are good, but there are some bad people out there too  
6: You mean like people who sell broccoli?  
Me: Exactly

## Adults

So my colleague and I were eating our lunch in our cafeteria when we overheard one of the admin assistants talking about the sunburn she got on her weekend drive to the shore. She drove down in a

convertible, but "didn't think she'd get sunburned because the car was moving."  
While looking at a house, my brother asked the real estate agent which direction was north because, he explained, he didn't want the sun waking him up every morning. She asked, "Does the sun rise in the north?" When another person jumped in and explained that the sun rises in the east (and has for some time), she shook her head and said, "Oh, I don't keep up with that stuff."

I used to work in technical support for a 24x7 call center.  
One day I got a caller who asked what hours the call center was open. I told him, "The number you dialled is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week." He responded, "Is that Eastern or Pacific time?"



I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area. So I went to the lost luggage office and told the woman there that my bags never showed up. She smiled and told me not to worry because they were trained professionals and I was in good hands. "Now," she asked me, "Has your plane arrived yet?"  
It is February 22, the third Friday of Lent, and the faithful parishioner stumbles through pouring rain past hamburger huts and steak houses into the monastery at Mount Angel and requests shelter. He's just in time for dinner and was treated to the best fish and chips he's ever had.

After dinner, he goes into the kitchen to thank the chefs. He's met by two brothers, "Hello, I'm Brother Michael, and this is Brother Francis."

"I'm very pleased to meet you. I just wanted to thank you for a wonderful dinner. The fish and chips were the best I've ever tasted. Out of curiosity, who cooked what?"

Brother Michael replies, "Well, I'm the fish friar."

The man turns to the other brother and says, "Then you must be . . ."

"Yes, I'm afraid I'm the chip monk."

Someone threw a bottle of omega 3 pills at me!! Fortunately my injuries were only super fish oil.

What did the lettuce say to the celery? - Are you stalking me?

Why did the Tomato go out with a prune?  
- Because he couldn't find a date!  
What did one vegetarian spy say to the other vegetarian spy?  
- We have to stop meating like this.

Why do people kill animals?  
- Fur convenience steak.

Turning vegan is a big missed steak.

I bet the worst part about being a birthday cake is when you're set on fire, and then eaten by the hero that saved you.

Q: Why do the French like to eat snails? A: Because they don't like fast food!

Q: Why shouldn't you tell a secret on a farm? A: Because the potatoes have eyes and the corn has ears.



# 3 Reasons Why Lent Determines Your Happiness Year Round

Dr Taylor Marshall

## Lent as Your Training Camp for Human Happiness

*Everyone wants to be happy, but few are truly happy. Let's look at what our view of Lent reveals.*

In Christianity there is a subtle difference between **internal** and **exterior** happiness. **Internal** happiness is usually identified with "joy" (laetitia in Latin). **External** happiness depends on happenstance. In the case of "external happiness," the happiness depends on "what happens" with our money, love life, health, relationships, politics, etc.

The Christian has learned from Christ that internal happiness (joy) is the secret to life. And the annual Christian practice of Lent is a training camp for internal happiness.

We refocus the lens of our soul on internal joy but restricting the sources of external happiness. The Roman Stoic (not Christian) Seneca followed natural law and came up with his own personal Lenten season:

*Set aside a certain number of days, during which you shall be content with the scantiest and cheapest fare, with coarse and rough dress, saying to yourself the while: "Is this the condition that I feared?"*

So he would drink water and plain meals and wear cheap clothes just to prove to himself that it didn't deeply diminish his happiness. And so much more for the Christian who has Christ within the soul!

There are three reasons why Lent reveals your level of human

happiness:

**1. If Lent robs you, it reveals the extent to which you are focused on "external happiness."** This sets you up for misery in the future. Because the externals can be ripped away by bankruptcy and disease. Saint Paul wrote:

*Not that I complain of want; for I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. (Phil 4:11-13)*

Christ is at the center of Paul's internal joy.

**2. Lack in external happiness requires either despair or a turn to Christ within.** When we cannot take comfort in alcohol, food, TV Facebook, etc. we must either lack all happiness OR take a turn into the core of our heart and search for Jesus to give us joy.

Lent turns into a discovery expedition. Is Christ still hidden deep in your heart? Can you see Him? Can you hear Him?

**3. Lent as Desert vs. Dessert.** Catholicism has a perennial respect for the Desert Fathers and Mothers who lived in the Egyptian desert to deny themselves of the pleasures of the world. Lent allows you to become a hidden Desert Father or Mother. The daily denial. The embrace of the wilderness.

Compare the desert monks and those we see on Food Network undergoing great stress and competition while



they attempt to create the most tasty cupcake. I like cupcakes just like everyone else. There's nothing evil about cupcakes. But do we try half as hard as the contestants on Cupcake Wars to keep a good Lent?

Living a life of little is living a life of great interior joy. As Saint Francis de Sales taught, we should be like the pharmacist in the pharmacy. The pharmacist is surrounded by powerful drugs that can either heal or hurt those that receive them. The pharmacist has a duty to avoid poisoning himself with the substances he handles.

Lent reminds us that we can live in a prosperous world, and yet not inwardly digest the wealth that surrounds us.

The pharmacist finds joy, not in secretly giving himself oxycontin from beneath the counter, but by his interior knowledge of how to heal the sick.

TV, Facebook, cupcakes, and wine are not evil per se. But our attachment to them can be toxic. If we have become addicted to the exterior drugs that surround us, Lent marks a season of rehab.



## Holy Water Fonts and Lent

While the holy water fonts are emptied from the Mass of the Lord's Supper until they are refilled with water blessed at the Easter Vigil, they should not be emptied prior to Holy Thursday. The following letter from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments rejects this practice. Note the strong bias (reason 1) against inventing practices not called for in the liturgical law. Forcibly rejected is the argument used by some to justify their abuses that "It is not forbidden, so I can do it." In reality, no one may do in that liturgy that which is not prescribed by the Church, specifically the Apostolic See, who alone has authority over it (SC 22, canon 838).

# Miracle In Phoenix: Woman With Irreversible Blindness Regains Sight After Praying At Church



Hazel Torres 12 February 2017

Dafne Gutierrez delivers her testimony at the St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church in Phoenix, Arizona, on how she regained her vision after praying.

Everything around her became pitch black in November 2015 when she completely lost her vision.

Doctors told 31-year-old Dafne Gutierrez she would never see the light of day again after being diagnosed with benign intracranial hypertension, a condition that causes pressure to mount in the brain, WNCT reported.

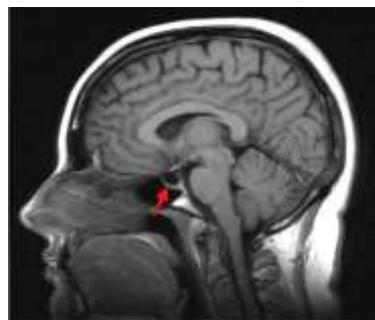
But the Arizona mother of four refused to give up hope. She knew that what looks like impossible to man is very much possible to God, if only people would pray with absolute conviction and faith.

After two failed surgeries to correct her vision, Gutierrez turned to God. Although she was not a member of the St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church in Phoenix, Arizona, she asked that she be taken to the

church to pray to God to heal her so that at least she could see the faces of her children again.

"For me, I was like, 'please God, let me see those faces again. Let me be their mother again.' Because I feel like [my children] were watching me, taking care of me 24-7," she told the The Maronite Voice.

She learned that the miraculous relics of Saint Charbel would be brought to the church that day in January 2016.



Saint Charbel was one of the saints whose bodies have survived decomposition for decades, even centuries, according to Miracles of the Church. The Lebanese monk died in 1898, drawing attention when extraordinary bright light appeared on his tomb for 45 nights following his interment.

When his body was exhumed 23 years later in 1921, it was miraculously found in perfect condition. Later, pores from his skin exuded a liquid that was found to cure various ailments when applied.

A priest blessed Gutierrez with the holy oil from Saint Charbel as she prayed over the relics.

Right at that moment, she felt a

change in her body. She went back to the church the following day for Sunday Mass and experienced the same feeling.

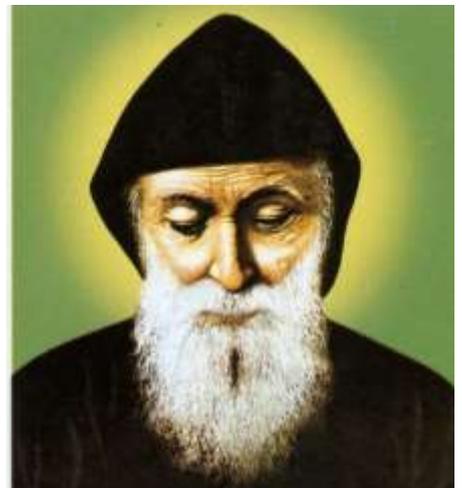
When she woke up the next day, she felt pain.

"I was just wiping my eyes, and I'm like, 'They burn! They burn!'" she said.

Then, lo and behold! Gutierrez suddenly regained her vision — as clear as day.

"This is something we just don't see. A long-standing damaged optic nerve causing blindness does not just all-of-a-sudden look normal in two days with complete restoration of vision," her doctor, Dr. Anne Borik told the Voice.

"After a thorough physical exam, extensive literature search and review of all medical records, we have no medical explanation and therefore believe this to be a miraculous healing through the intercession of Saint Charbel."



## CONGREGATION DE CULTU DIVINO ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot. N. 569/00/L March 14, 2000

Dear Father:

This Congregation for Divine Worship has received your letter ... This Dicastery is able to respond that the removing of Holy Water from the fonts during the season of Lent is not permitted ... for two reasons:

1. The liturgical legislation in force does not foresee this innovation, which in addition to being *praeter legem* is contrary to a balanced understanding of the season of Lent, which ... is also a season rich in the symbolism of water and baptism, constantly evoked in liturgical texts.
2. The encouragement of the Church that the faithful avail themselves frequently [of her sacraments and sacramental] is to be understood to apply also to the season of Lent. The

"fast" and "abstinence" ... does not extend to abstaining from the sacraments or sacramentals of the Church. The practice of the Church has been to empty the Holy Water fonts on the days of the Sacred Triduum in preparation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil, and it corresponds to those days on which the Eucharist is not celebrated ...

Sincerely yours in Christ, [signed]  
Mons. Mario Marini Undersecretary



Geckos have an amazing ability to stick to surfaces — they can even run upside down on polished glass. About a decade ago, it was shown that gecko feet have microscopically structured hairs that exploit atomic-scale attractions (van der Waals (vdW) forces). Later, the same principle was discovered in spiders. This short-range attraction is so strong that a tiny contact area is enough to support the creature's weight.

Not only is this stickiness highly effective, but the surfaces are also self-cleaning. So they avoid the problem that ordinary sticky tape

## How Geckos become unstuck

has of attracting dust and losing its effectiveness. So, scientists imitated the microscopic design of the sticky feet in a fine-structured sticky tape. The tape was both strong—a contact area of only 0.5 cm<sup>2</sup> on glass could bear a load of more than 100 grams — and self-cleaning. However, this tape could be attached and detached only a few times before the fine structure was destroyed.

However, for the gecko to run on surfaces, it must have a good way to become unstuck when needed. New research at Oregon State University has unlocked more gecko secrets to explain why. Unlike the imitation tape, the live gecko can change the angle of the hairs to detach. And the hairs are curved, so they store lots of energy like a spring, and use this energy to separate quickly.

Researcher Alex Greaney, a

professor of mechanical engineering, said, “What’s amazing is just how finely balanced and finely tuned this whole system is.”

One of the reports wrote,

*“with the future of gecko tech looking bright, perhaps it’s time to give some credit where credit is due.”*

It then quoted the discoverer of the vdW mechanism, Kellar Autumn, a biomechanics professor at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon:

“Adhesive nanostructures are such a different way of sticking things together that I don’t think engineers would have invented this if geckos hadn’t done it first.”

Indeed, we should give credit, but not to the geckos that had no control over their foot structure, but to the One who designed both them and their amazing feet.

## Retire in Style - Over 55s living



### Trinity Close Retirement Village Unit - \$249,000

A haven for retirees seeking a quiet, secure lifestyle, bringing people together with like interests

- consists of two bedrooms, spacious lounge room, kitchen/dining, oversized garage with control-a-door, ducted reverse-cycle air conditioning, in-floor heating, good cupboard storage and in-ground sprinkler system

- well appointed kitchen with dishwasher, induction cook-top, internal access from the garage, covered pergola and patio, plus second toilet

- Trinity Close is operated by the West Wagga Parish with the philosophy of providing affordable seniors living

- the location is enhanced by the closeness to the Ashmont shopping mall, supermarket and bus stop

- this unit has been designed with ease of access in mind; no steps and wheel chair friendly pedestrian ways through the village

- a high emphasis on security has been made with the Village being a “gated” community plus many other security measures

- all maintenance is organised by the agent, the weekly fee is \$72 per week per single and \$82 per week for couples which includes council rates, insurance, external water and all maintenance inside and out

- residents may take advantage of the rotunda set in landscaped grounds and make use of the Parish Hall, without cost, for any private use or functions



# Norma McCorvey, responsible for America's abortion laws, dies a Pro-Life Catholic



Imagine yourself being responsible for the legalization of 59,000,000 murders.

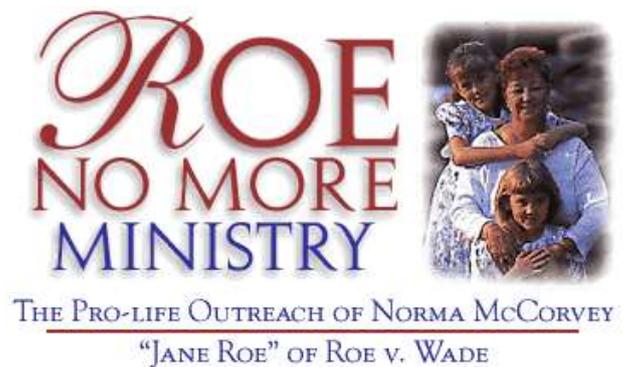
In 1973, Norma McCorvey (otherwise known as Jane Roe in the infamous US Supreme Court abortion case Roe vs. Wade) fought for the women of the United States to legally abort their unborn children. And she won. She was a feminist, a lesbian, and an activist of liberalism in politics, schools, and media. She loved this cause with fanatical zeal until the most

important day of her life. The day she met Jesus. In 1994, a group of pro-life women presented her the Gospel. Norma McCorvey accepted Christ in a puddle of tears at the feet of her "opponents". Years later, she called her work for abortion rights, "The biggest mistake of my life."

She turned from her lifestyle and reformed her identity in God's truth. But more than that, she wrote "I am dedicated to spending the rest of my life undoing the law that bears my name." The lesson is this: There is NO sin too big for God's forgiveness. There is no evil in your life that God cannot repair. We have a God

who can turn hate into healed, broken into beautiful, and monstrous into magnificent. So, if you've walked away from morality. If you're living in rebellion to God's truth. If you're pride is keeping you from being restored. Come back. Come back to the Redeemer of your soul. Come be forgiven. Come to the only One who can give you eternal life. You are loved and you are valuable and your Father is waiting for you. Norma died one week ago today. She's with her Creator in Heaven.

*Dale Partridge*



## Stop Australian Aid Money Funding Abortion!

[www.austfamily.com.au](http://www.austfamily.com.au)

Australia is committing \$9.5 million of taxpayers' money to send abortion to our poorer neighbours – right when the US is stopping their programs!

Incoming US President Donald Trump recently defunded abortion provider International Planned Parenthood.

By reinstating the 'Mexico City Policy', he reinstated a pre-Obama ban on US Government funding of foreign abortion groups.

However, this action has led other governments around the world to 'pick up the slack' and fund these groups.

Shamefully, Australia has just committed \$9.5 million of taxpayer's money to fund SPRINT (the Sex Health Reproductive Program in Crisis and Post Crisis Settings) in the Indo-Pacific region.

The program will be delivered in a continued Australian Government "partnership" with International Planned Parenthood.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has even praised Australia's "total contribution to the program [of] \$26.3 million since 2007", naming Fiji, Nepal and Vanuatu as examples of "crisis-affected places" which have benefitted from "sexual and reproductive health services".

Is there possibly a less neighbourly thing to do than offer abortion?

Please sign the petition found at [www.austfamily.com.au](http://www.austfamily.com.au) and let Julie Bishop know that you oppose this appalling decision!

The petition reads:

*To the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon Julie Bishop MP*

*I wish to state my opposition to continued use of Australian foreign aid*

*funding for abortion-related services.*

*I specifically object to Australia's continued "partnership" with International Planned Parenthood and to the allocation of \$9.5 million in taxpayer funding to the SPRINT program.*

*At a time when the United States has reintroduced its Mexico City Policy, Australia would do well to send a welcome signal to its neighbours by reinstating the then AusAid policy withholding foreign aid funding from any abortion-related service.*

*Any foreign aid funding should be directed to genuine needs.*



# 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.**

- |           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| HOLY      | TEMPLE |
| SPIRIT    | WORLD  |
| DESERT    | HUNGRY |
| DEVIL     | STONE  |
| TEMPTED   | BREAD  |
| WORSHIP   | JORDAN |
| KINGDOMS  | LIVE   |
| AUTHORITY | FORTY  |
| COMMAND   | DAYS   |
| JERUSALEM | ANGELS |

# The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Luke 4:1-2a (NIV)



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