

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 194

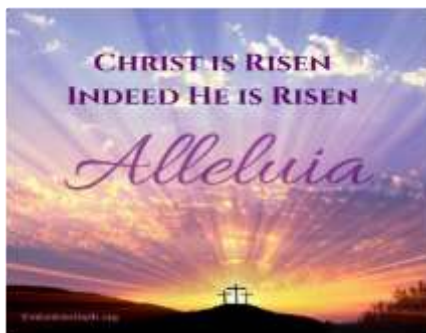
May 2019

Coming Events

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Trinity
- 6 to 7am daily;
- overnight from 9pm Friday through to 7am Saturdays

3rd Sunday of Easter	Sun 5
4th Sunday of Easter	Sun 12
Saint Matthias	Tue 14
5th Sunday of Easter	Sun 19
6th Sunday of Easter	Sun 26
The Ascension of the Lord	Thu 30
The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Fri 31
Saint Justin Martyr June	Sat 1

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



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Wag Contacts

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

Happy Easter Season!



Thanks to all who were able to help so well in the Parish from Palm Sunday through Holy Week to Easter Sunday.

And God knows all your secret prayer and work too - alone, and in your home, and in the community, and He will reward you!

Left, Holy Trinity Church decorated for Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday.

Right, Easter candles painted by Emily Shaw.

Below, Easter Vigil fire and First Holy Communion of Ryder.



Left, Ryder receives his First Holy Communion certificate.

Right, baby Christine and her older sister Valmay were baptised on Easter Sunday by Fr Gerard at Holy Trinity.

With them from left, Godfather Tyeson Young, mother Lillian Naden, and Godmother Cynthia Vine.



PASTOR'S PAGE - "REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE, MOURN WITH THOSE WHO MOURN." (ROMANS 12:15)



Three of the hundreds of Sri Lankan martyrs

I love the Letter of St Paul to the Romans, Chapter 12. It has that verse which tells us to offer ourselves as a sacrifice truly pleasing to God. Accordingly, we are not to waste the sufferings of each day, even simple things like having a cold, getting stuck in traffic, irritations from others' annoying habits, something going wrong at work. We can offer these sufferings in union with that infinitely greater sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. Then all these little things can become a way to be a better person and to reach heaven. St Mother Teresa reminds us to do little things with great love, so we should offer these sacrifices with great love.

St Paul also tells in this chapter, *Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;...rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute [you], bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.... do not look for revenge but leave room for the wrath; for it is written,*

"Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."...Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good. (Romans 12:9-21)

Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. These words are very relevant this Easter.

Together around the world we Catholic Christians rejoiced because of the Resurrection of Jesus, and also because of the many people who received the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion at Easter Vigils around the world. In our parish we heard all the Vigil readings from the Old Testament, spiritually reliving the long preparation of the world for the coming of Our Saviour and then listened to the proclamation of the Resurrection. We renewed our Baptismal promises and our faith in "the resurrection of the body and life everlasting".

But on Easter Sunday, suddenly the Church experienced great pain. We heard of the bombings of churches in Sri Lanka and the death of hundreds. I have been in two of those churches as have two of our Confraternity Seminarians. The brother of one had visited St Anthony's church on Easter morning shortly before it was bombed. For me this brings home the concrete reality of what happened. My thought in the beginning was: this could have been our parish, our parishioners, our families, who were killed for the Faith. These were ordinary people rejoicing in the extraordinary event of the Resurrection who suddenly died or were injured. Children at one church had been asked if they were prepared to die for the faith, and they all raised their hands to say yes. Not long after, the Islamic terrorists took their lives.

In recent years such attacks have become common, in Egypt and in Iraq and in Nigeria to name a few of the places that have experienced deliberate targeting of Christians during holy celebrations.

Our hearts go out to them all.

As we share in the sorrow of this attack against the Body of Christ, we also turn to the same Faith which is sustaining the direct victims. It is the laity in Sri Lanka who are speaking of their hope in "the resurrection of the body and life everlasting." They are also even speaking words of forgiveness, and praying for peace.

No doubt the Jihadists need to be arrested and the jihad preachers expelled or imprisoned, but we pray that all ordinary Muslims in Sri Lanka and around the world will accept that all people are equal and that no one should be forced to follow Muslim customs. Some accept this basic human right, but others adhere to certain texts of the koran, the haddith and the sira which mandate forcing all people to comply with Islamic shariah law and order severe punishment for anyone who chooses to leave Islam. This is a complicated problem which will not be solved for a long time. We who know who Jesus is, God the Son and Saviour of the world should pray that Muslims will come to know, love and serve Him.

Fr Thomas Casanova
CCS



The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians - Tertullian 197AD

May Merries



Sir Jokes!

Sir, I mustache you a question...
Ah, never mind, I'll just shave it for later.

A man was walking down the street with a swivel chair under one arm, a computer under the other and a desk strapped to his back. A policeman ran over to him and handcuffed him, saying "I'm arresting you for impersonating an office, sir"

What Knight is never wrong? Sir Tain

Which Knight makes pottery? Sir Amic.

What do you call a knight who is afraid to fight? Sir Render.

Which English king invented the fireplace? Alfred the Grate.

Who invented King Arthur's round table? Sir Cumference!

Why did Arthur have a round table? So no one could corner him!

When were King Arthur's army too tired to fight? A: When they had lots of sleepless knights!

What do you call a mosquito in a tin suit? A bite in shining armour.

What was King Arthur's favorite game? Knights and crosses.



What fish did the knights of old eat? Swordfish.

Geography Jokes!

Tectonic Relationships: There's just too much friction between us... It's not my fault!

Plateaus: the highest form of flattery.

What do you call the little rivers which flow into the Nile? Juveniles.
What sort of pudding roams wild in the Arctic circle? Moose.

Where do fish keep their money? In riverbanks.

Which is the pirates' favourite country? Aaarrgghhentina!

Mountains:

How do mountains see? They peak!
Mountains aren't just funny..... they are HILL AREAS!
What's the laziest mountain
Mount Ever-rest

History Jokes!

If you need an Ark, I Noah guy.

The problem with studying history is that the teachers just seem to Babylon.

There are many marbleous statues in Greece, but many people take them for granite.

How was the Roman Empire cut in half? With a pair of Caesars.

How did the Vikings send secret messages? By norse code!

A teacher asks one of their pupils, "Can you describe Napoleon's origin?"
The pupil replies, "Course I can." (Corsican)

Napoleon may not have designed the coat he wore, but he did have a hand in it.

Last night on Dancing With The Tsars, Peter and Catherine were great but Ivan was terrible.



If someone else had flown first, it just wouldn't have been Wright.

People disliked Ho Chi Minh because he was Hanoi-ing.

Weather or not

How do you prevent a Summer cold? Catch it in the Winter!

What did the snowman and his wife put over their baby's crib? A snowmobile!

What do you call a snowman that tells tall tales? A snow-fake!

What do snowmen eat for lunch? Icebergers

What did one raindrop say to the other? Two's company, three's a cloud

Why did the woman go outdoors with her purse open? Because she expected some change in the weather.

As we waited for a bus in the frosty weather, the woman next to me mentioned that she makes a lot of mistakes when texting in the cold. I nodded knowingly. "It's the early signs of hypothermia."



Easter Message April 16, 2019

Forgiveness is the door through which healing peace enters our world this Easter

One of the last statements of Jesus on the Calvary Cross was: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23/24).

Forgiveness of every person who harms us is one of the great saving lessons of Good Friday.

Then, the first words of the

Risen Lord Jesus at the Resurrection Victory of Easter is: "Peace be with you." (Luke 24/36). Easter peace is the first gift to us from our healing God.

This Easter let us receive these gifts of forgiveness and healing peace like never before! Let us begin in our hearts, so easily torn apart by bitterness and selfishness.

Let forgiveness and healing peace flow into our families and friends. May these gifts give us courage to develop real neighbourliness to those in

our streets and communities. Let the homeless and lonely this Easter receive not more pious sentiments but real practical charity and care.

Let the forgiveness and healing peace of the Risen Lord Jesus reign this Easter! May we be filled with joy and hope.

Happy Easter to all!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of
Canberra and Goulburn
Apostolic Administrator of
Wagga Wagga



MAY 31
6-9PM
VENUE: Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Griffith

CHOSEN YOUTH

CHOSEN RALLY GRIFFITH

FAITH, FUN, FRIENDS, FOOD, GUEST SPEAKERS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, ADORATION AND MORE

OVER 100 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SCHOOLS AND PARISHES ACROSS THE DIOCESE AND BEYOND

The event is FREE!

Small fees apply to any provided transport and merchandise will be available for purchase

Find us on social media:
Facebook: Chosen Youth
Instagram: chosenyouthaustralia
For more info contact:
Christopher Giffney: 0429544158
youth.murtaghewagga.catholic.org.au

Things aren't always as they appear

A WOMAN was flying from Melbourne to Brisbane ... Unexpectedly, the plane was diverted to Sydney. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay, and if the passengers wanted to get off the aircraft the plane would re-board in 50 minutes..

Everybody got off the plane except one lady who was blind. A man had noticed her as he walked by and could tell the lady was blind because her Seeing Eye Dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of her throughout the entire flight. He could also tell she had flown this very flight before because the pilot approached her, and calling her by name, said, 'Kathy, we are in Sydney for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?'

The blind lady replied, 'No thanks, but maybe Max would like to stretch his legs.'



Picture this:

All the people in the gate area came to a complete standstill when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a Seeing Eye dog! The pilot was even wearing sunglasses. People scattered. They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines! True story... Have a great day and remember...

...THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR.



"MY FAITH IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN MY CAREER AND ALWAYS WILL BE"
ISRAEL FOLAU

Sri Lanka Appeal



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

Dear Parish Friends,

You would now be aware of the tragic situation that unfolded in Sri Lanka on Easter morning. The horror of the suicide bomb attacks has ricocheted across the globe.

We are aware that many of the Australian Catholic people wish to reach out to their Sri Lankan brothers and sisters at this time. ...

At this moment the most pressing work of the Church in Sri Lanka is

the burying of the dead & the consoling of the faithful, however we want to be ready to support the Sri Lankan Bishops and the local Church to rebuild their places of worship and heal their wounds.

Any offerings for the Church in Sri Lanka can be made online:

www.aidtochurch.org/SriLanka

Or deposited into ACN's bank account: Account name: Aid to the Church in Need Account number: 008601759 BSB: 012321

*Please ensure any deposit includes in the reference field:

SL (for Sri Lanka).

You are also welcome to email us at

info@aidtochurch.org or call 1800 101 201 to ensure your donation is received and acknowledged.

And above all, please join us in continuing to pray for the Catholic people in Sri Lanka and all those affected by these violent attacks.

Sincerely,

Bernard Toutounji
National Director
Aid to the
Church in
Need
Australia

PONTIFICAL
FOUNDATION



The Surprising Story of One Priest's Hospital Stay on Divine Mercy Sunday: How He's Saving Souls

This really shows us the sacrifices our priests make daily!

Fr. Goyo Hidalgo, associate pastor of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Simi Valley, Cali., recently had surgery to remove kidney stones.

He spent Divine Mercy weekend in the hospital recovering. However, he did not expect to actually hear confessions in his hospital bed!

Here's what Fr. Goyo's tweet says:

"A person knocking on my hospital door,

'Hi. We heard you are a priest. I was hoping I could go to confession.'

'Of course. Come in... wait what do you mean WE?'

'Oh yeah. There are more people outside waiting.'

Another person peaking in,

'Hey father.'

#DivineMercy at its best"

One user tweeted, "□ you, Fr Goyo, are awesome. Priests admitted to the hospital i worked at usually had DO NOT DISTURB signs on the door..and some used aliases"

Fr. Goyo responded, "To be fair I had do not disturb when I was taking the pain medicine because it put me out. The pain was bad, really really bad."

Another user added, "Santo subito! These #hospitalstories are so inspiring. You're living Sheen's call to not waste suffering. It's one thing for priests to make hospital visits, it's another thing when the priest is in the hospital himself and STILL serving others. I'm in awe. God is good!"

Another user added, "I am wondering how many of these



A person knocking c
"Hi. We heard you a
could go to confess
"Of course. Come in
mean WE?"
"Oh yeah. There are
waiting."
Another person nick



people never would have gone to confession if you weren't there and what their blessings are because they did. I bet there will be some stories to tell. That is the work of Divine Mercy!"

This user also said, "Maybe this was the whole reason for the kidney stone: to get those people to confess for Divine Mercy. Still praying for you to recover quickly."

God Bless you, Fr. Goyo!

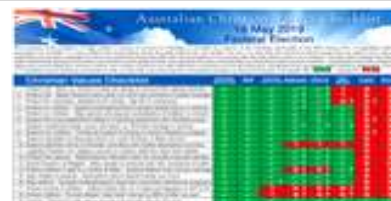
Please keep Fr. Goyo and all priests in your prayers!

Federal Election May 23rd

Please pray for political leaders who are better than Australia deserves.

A great Christian Values Checklist can be found here:

christianvalues.org.au



Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris has burnt - but our Faith will not be overcome!

As a French Priest Père Cédric Burgun wrote, "After this terrible evening ... we discover when we wake up this photo that expresses so well our hope: the altar and the cross intact and brilliant in the night of the ravage! Christ is always stronger than death. The reconstruction begins with this force!"



HEROISM IN PARIS: Firefighters Plunge Into Notre Dame To Save Religious Treasures



By Hank Berrien

On Monday, as the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris was ablaze, millions of Catholics around the world were distraught at the prospect not only of losing a building dearly beloved to them, but also the numerous religious artifacts inside the structure.

But this is where the French showed genuine heroism. Not only did the Chaplain of the Paris Firefighters plunge into the blaze to save the Blessed Sacrament and the Crown of Thorns, but a human chain of firefighters was formed to

save the treasures inside.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo commented: "Thanks to the @PompiersParis, the police and the municipal agents who realized



tonight a formidable human chain to save the works of #OurDame. The crown of thorns, the tunic of Saint Louis and several other major works are now in a safe place."

As news.com.au reported, "France's

Interior Ministry said firefighters had managed to save the main structure and the building's two bell towers, despite two-thirds of the roof and Notre Dame's iconic spire destroyed. Among the most celebrated artworks inside are its three stained-glass rose windows, placed high up on the west, north and south faces of the cathedral. Its priceless treasures also include the Catholic relic, the crown of thorns, which is only occasionally displayed, including on Fridays during Lent."



He knew God was not dead



There was an archbishop of Paris who gave a very famous sermon at Notre Dame Cathedral. In the course of his sermon, he told of a priest who was hearing confessions. And in his confessional, he could hear three boys outside.

They were revolvers; they were saying that God is dead. Then they decided to see if they could make fun in some way of what was in there. Then they hit upon the idea of one of them going in and making a confession. Just for the joke of it. So they agreed that anyone who would be brave enough to go in and

make a confession – they would give him five francs.

The one boy said, "All right! I'll go in." And when he went in and made his confession, the priest, pretending he did not know anything about the conversation, and accepting the confession as if it was genuine, gave him as a penance to go up to the Communion rail, kneel down at the Communion rail and say, "God is dead. And I would not want you to help me, even if I needed you." So the boy said he would go there.

So the boy came out and said to the others, "Give me the five francs." And they said, "Oh no! You must

have gotten a penance. Go and say your penance." So he went up to the Communion rail and he started. He got out the words "God is dead", and he choked. He could not finish the words, and he began to cry.

And the archbishop, continuing his sermon, said to his congregation, "I am that boy!" And that is the way I think the world is today: the brave little boy just half brave. And yet, on the way to light where there is hope beyond the resurrection. We can bear anything in this world, any kind of a how, so long as we know the why. And the why was given on the way to Emmaus.

Venerable Fulton Sheen

I Worshipped the Goddess of Reason — Until I Met the God of Mercy in Notre Dame



By the time the trip was over, I knew for certain that I needed to be baptized and start to live a Christian life

Charles Lewis

I am watching Notre Dame Cathedral burn on television from my living room in Toronto. I want to look away but I cannot. I have watched the spire collapse. I now see the glow from inside the church. It is bright orange. Now I realize it is Holy Week. And I think I hear the commentator say the historic church will be gone forever. It is too awful. Tens of thousands of people around the globe are now thinking of their own visits to Notre Dame. Millions since it was built in 1163 went to their graves with their own stories of being inside its hallowed walls.

I have visited many churches in Europe but perhaps outside of St. Peter's in Rome, Notre Dame holds the most meaning.

My wife and I went to Paris in September 2006 to celebrate our 10th anniversary. There was no profound plan: Eat good food, absorb the gorgeous architecture and see the sites. Everyone should see Paris.

We stayed near the Jardin du Luxembourg. We could see rooftops from our room. The view was

postcard-worthy. There was an amazing restaurant around the corner. The gardens were a dream. We bought wine for the room and cheeses and bread.

We walked for miles and miles. Eventually we made our way to Notre Dame, as most tourists do. We climbed the narrow spiral staircase, all 387 steps. I remember talking to a woman who was having a panic attack halfway up the stairs. I used to have terrible panic attacks so I was able to be reassuring. We were rewarded with a spectacular view at the top.

Then we went into the church proper.

Let me say this first. At this point I identified with no religion, though I considered myself spiritual. Religion seemed unnecessary. Jesus never spoke about building giant edifices. I used to think the money could be spent on something better. Churches were about rules. To me, sin was subjective.

In a word, I was clueless.

When we walked into the church, I remember being impressed by the number of people and the silence. It is rare to see large gatherings of people with no sound. I saw others dip their hands in the holy water, and I did the same. I am not sure why I did.

Then I saw something that has stuck with me all these years. The confessional, as I see it in my mind's eye, was clear glass. I was surprised that I could see into it. There was a beautiful young woman, perfectly dressed, kneeling. I think the hyperbeauty that struck me about her had something to do with holiness. Here was this woman

confessing for anyone to see. Who does that?

At first I felt odd looking, but then it was hard not to look. The scene before could have been a painting.

For many years I had been attracted to the faith. But I would keep talking myself out of it with what I thought was reason. If you had told me faith was higher than reason, I would have scoffed.

Once we left the church, we went for ice cream and then walked more and more. I did not obsess about what I saw, but it wormed its way into me.

I visited a number of churches over those two weeks. But that interior scene in Notre Dame is what I remember best. There was something about the rawness, the honesty, of someone confessing that I had never seen before.

I knew that she would find relief from her sins. But what about me? Who was I to bring my sins to? To logic? To reason?

By the time I the trip was over, something was stirring in me. I knew for certain that I needed to be baptized and start to live another life, a Christian life — which is what I did, though it took a bit of time.

Thanks be to God for that trip to Notre Dame.

Pray for the people of Paris and France.



The fire at Notre Dame in Paris is not the only trouble our brothers and sisters are facing in France.

There have been very many attacks on churches over the past four years.

Please pray for France and persecuted followers of Christ around the world.

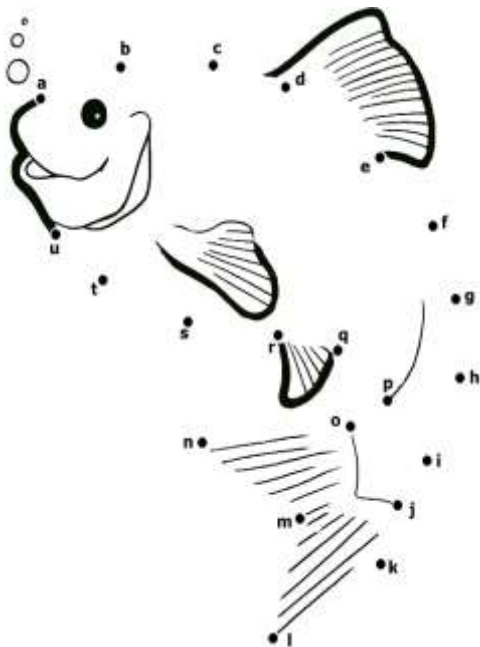


The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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



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

BREAKFAST	LORD
DISCIPLES	BOAT
SHORE	FULL
WATER	FISH
COALS	FIRE
BREAD	SEA
PETER	NET
JESUS	

Breakfast on the Beach

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. John 21:12 (NIV)



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