

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 141

November 2014

Coming Events

All Saints Solemnity	Sat 1
Hookway & Strong Nuptial	Sat 1
All Souls Day	Sun 2
Vigil Prayers for Peace	Thurs 6
Divine Mercy Prayers	Fri 7
Kairos Outside for Women	Fri-Sun 14-16
Patrician Talk	Fri 14
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	Mon ?
Presentation of B Virgin Mary	Fri 21
Catechist's Reflection Day	Sat 22
Solemnity of Christ the King	Sun 23
Legion Advent Retreat	Sat 29



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Wag Contacts

Email: westwaggaparish@hotmail.com
Web Page: westwaggaparish.com
Phone: 6931 3601

The due date for the next Wag is:
Sunday December 7th.

Vale Mrs Betty Cattell



Long time San Isidore resident Betty Cattell passed away in October this year.

Betty and her husband Charlie moved to San Isidore with their 6 children in 1962. Betty and Charlie had two more children while living in San Isidore.

Together with her work in what the author of the Narnia series of books C.S. Lewis called the supreme career (homemaking), we remember Betty for her decades of community service.

Soon after arriving in San Isidore, Betty joined Charlie in his volunteer work with St Vincent De Paul. Among other tasks, at Christmas Betty helped with booking out all the

Christmas hampers and toys. In 2007 Betty received a certificate for service of 30 years or more. After ceasing to be an active member of St Vincent de Paul, Betty continued volunteering at the shop up until her death.

Together with Charlie, Betty used to run the Bingo on Thursday nights in the parish hall (present Holy Trinity Church) to raise money for charity. For those who know, this was a very big job, rearranging the church twice a week for school, bingo and Mass at the weekend. The money raised saved the parish.

Betty took on selling the Catholic Weekly at San Isidore church after Charlie died in 1977. She was treasurer at the West Wagga Parish for 20 years or more.

Betty moved from San Isidore in 1989 but still very much had West Wagga Parish in her blood and up until her death has remained friends with many of this parish, including through her participation in the parish's Wednesday craft ladies.

Betty's extra parish activities included her membership in the Home of Compassion Auxiliary where she was treasurer for 20 years, also helping with fates and street stalls.

As St Peter says, let us respect all who do good and "praise good citizenship" (1 Peter 2:14).

Mrs. Betty Cattell,
requiescat in pace.

Mrs Judy Lyons,
Mrs Phyllis
Graves, Mrs
Pauline Black, Mrs
Betty Cattell, past
parish St Vincent de
Paul members



pastor's page



Praying for the Holy Souls

About the middle of October Bishop Gerard wrote to all the priests reminding them of the coming month of November which is traditionally the month to remember the Holy Souls. He wrote, "Parishioners should be reminded to pray for the Holy Souls, and Mass intention envelopes need to be made available for that purpose. A list of the Deceased for whom Mass/Prayers are requested this November, may be published in the Parish Church precincts."

Bishop also wrote a short summary of the Catechism noting, "Because of the Communion of Saints, the faithful who are still pilgrims on earth are able to help the souls in purgatory by offering prayers in suffrage for them, especially the Eucharistic Sacrifice" (cf. CCCV no. 1030-1032)

I was reluctant to write on the Holy Souls again because it seemed to me that I have done this many times already in the Wag and at other times. But given the Bishop's instruction I thought I would do this once again. Excuse me if you are already a serious devotee of prayers and Masses for the Holy Souls and know about what I write.

I know that when we have prayed for the Holy Souls there is a connection that can be most palpable. It is almost as if the spiritual cosmos reaches in to us and implores our assistance. As a priest many, many people have confided to me their personal experiences of Holy Souls and their "other-worldly touch". By the way, for those who may not have experienced this, it is in no way scary or spooky. It is rather a confirmation of Church teaching and an affirmation of love. It is closer to an experience of a loved one revisiting moments of their love for us and our expression of our love for them, expressed spiritually but also experienced naturally.

I can't resist telling you a lovely testimony of Father Berlioux (wrote in his book "*A Month with Our Friends, the Souls in Purgatory; Knowing Them, Praying to Them, Delivering Them*". [<http://books.ioba.org> Revised by Therese Guay]

In this wonderful book on the souls in Purgatory, Fr Berlioux writes concerning the help offered by these souls to those who relieve them by their prayer and suffrages. He tells the story of a person who was particularly devoted to the Holy Souls who had consecrated her life to their relief through prayer, penance and Masses. At the end of her good life she lay dying. Fr Berlioux wrote, "At the hour of her death, she was attacked with fury by the demon who saw her at the point of escaping from



him. It seemed that the entire abyss was united against her, surrounding her with its infernal troops. The dying woman struggled restlessly for some time, when suddenly she saw entering her apartment, a crowd of unknown people of dazzling beauty, who put the demon troubling her to flight. They approached her bed, and spoke to her with the most heavenly encouragement and consolations. Not long thereafter with her last breathes and with obvious great joy, she cried; 'Who are you? Who are you, please? That you should do so much good to me?' The lady then reported to Fr Berlioux beside her that, "The benevolent visitors told me: 'We are inhabitants of Heaven, whom your

help has led to Beatitude. And we in our turn come in gratitude to help you cross the threshold of eternity and rescue you from this place of anguish to bring you into the joy of the Holy City.' Having spoken these words, "a smile lit up the face of the dying woman, her eyes closed and she fell asleep in the peace of the Lord. Her soul, pure as a dove, was present to the Lord of lords. It seems that she had found as many protectors and advocates, as souls she had delivered from Purgatory, and recognized worthy of glory, she entered in triumph, among the applause and blessings of all those she had rescued from Purgatory."

Some may say, "But this is just a private revelation of a dying lady. We don't need to accept this." And that is true. But perhaps a better point would be, 'what would you like your dying moment to be like? An attack from the evil one or a visitation of celestial persons.' Without being too gullible, I would prefer the latter experience. Hence when we pray for the Holy Souls in offering the Rosary we have the words, 'pray for us now and at the hour of our death'. These words must have some significance or else why have billions of people prayed them over the centuries.

You see, the souls delivered by our prayer are extremely grateful: they in turn help us in our lives; it's most perceptible. I strongly recommend that you experience this yourself! They do help us; they know our needs and obtain many graces for us. We can pray simple prayers at mealtimes; offer aspirations of supplication during the day; attend a daily Mass; pray the Rosary as an individual, or better still as a family. We can also ask a priest to offer a Mass for deceased souls whom we have known and loved. If we cannot afford to have a special Mass offered by a priest by presenting a stipend (\$20 for deceased, \$10 for the living), then we can certainly co-offer any and every Mass for the Holy Souls by our personal and actual intention during that Mass.

Eternal rest grate unto the Holy Souls and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Fr Gerard

November Jokes



This is dedicated to anyone who is trying to learn English We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes; but the plural of ox became oxen not oxes.

One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese, yet the plural of moose should never be meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice; yet the plural of house is houses, not hicie.

If the plural of man is always called men, why shouldn't the plural of pan be also called pen?

If I spoke of my foot and show you my feet, and I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth, why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those, yet hat in the plural would never be hose, and the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren, but though we say mother, we never say methren.

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him, but imagine the feminine, she, shis and shim.

What should you do when you see an endangered animal that is eating an endangered plant?

Wife: "I have changed my system for labelling homemade freezer meals.

"I used to carefully note in large clear letters, "Meatloaf" or "Pot Roast" or "Steak and Vegetables" or "Chicken and Dumplings" or "Beef Pot Pie."

"However, I used to get frustrated when I asked my husband what he wanted for dinner because he never

asked for any of those things. So, I decided to stock the freezer with what he really likes.

"If you look in my freezer now you'll see a whole new set of labels. You'll find dinners with neat little tags that say: "Whatever," "Anything," "I Don't Know," "I Don't Care," "Something Good," or "Food."

"My frustration is now reduced because no matter what my husband replies when I ask him what he wants for dinner, I know that it is there waiting.

Letters from Children to God

Dear God, Are you really invisible or is that just a trick? Lucy

Dear God, I want to be just like my Daddy when I get big but not with so much hair all over. Sam

Dear God, Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident? Norma

Dear God, I keep waiting for Spring but it never came yet. Don't forget. Mark

Dear God, instead of letting people die and haveing to make new ones why don't you just keep the ones you got now? Jane

Dear God, You don't have to worry about me, I always look both ways. Dean

Dear God, I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay? Neil

Dear God, I think the stapler is one of your greatest inventions. Ruth M.

Dear God, in bible times did they really talk that fancy? Jennifer

Dear God, I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying. Elliott

Dear God, I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. Nan

Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy. Joyce

Dear God, If you watch in Church on Sunday, I will show you my new shoes. Mickey D

Dear God, Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. Ginny

Dear God, I would like to live 900 years like the guy in the bible. Love Chris

Dear God, We read Thomas Edison made light, But in Sunday School they said you did it. So I bet he stoled your idea. Sincerely, Donna

Dear God, If you let the dinasor not extinct we would not have a country. You did the right thing. Johnathan

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. They picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him. The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't you just go on and get lost." God listened patiently and kindly to the man and, after the scientist was done talking, God said, "Very well! How about this? Let's have a man-making contest."

To which the man replied, "OK, great!"

But God added, "Now we're going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt. God just looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You go get your own dirt!"



Don't Quit - Keep Playing

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took the small boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE." When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that her son was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle

Little Star." At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's



ear, "Don't quit, keep playing." Then leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child and he added a running obligatio. Together, the

old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was mesmerized.

That's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't exactly graceful flowing music. But with the hand of the Master, our life's work truly can be beautiful. Next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You can hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit, keep playing." Feel His loving arms around you. Know that His strong hands are playing the concerto of your life. Remember, God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called.

Challenges Facing Families Today

Archbishop-elect of Sydney Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, Catholic Communications, Sydney, 10/10/14

I think the biggest challenge to the family today is that people have forgotten how to love. That sounds odd, I know, but what I'm getting at is the cross-shaped Easter sort of loving rather than the heart-shaped Valentine's sort of loving. We are less and less willing to commit, for the long haul, to another person or a small community of persons, come what may, even when the loving is hard. We are less and less willing to engage in the self-sacrifice that requires, the compromising of our wilfulness, even unto death.

The results are plain to see: in our grandparents' day nearly everyone got married; now fewer than half do. Of those who ever give marriage a try, it's generally only after a long period of experimentation and cohabitation, even though this reduces marital sticking power. And many don't stay married. Many adults think children are an optional extra and

many children grow up without the experience of a Mum and Dad committed to each other and to them over the long haul. I think the big pastoral challenge is to teach people how to love again.

The "Gospel of Life and Love", as St John Paul II called it, is the Church's received wisdom about family. It has a natural basis, reflects the experience of the faithful over twenty or thirty centuries, and is perfected in the teachings of Christ. On that view family is not just our play-thing, to remake as we like: it has its own



inner logic.

Christians - and most other believers too - believe that for man and woman to join in marriage and be fruitful is at the heart of the original vocation of humanity. The family is also the vital cell of society, where we are raised and learn how to exercise our humanity. Family life is the context of so much that is good and necessary such as protection of life, promotion of health, early education, care of the elderly, transmission of faith and values, experience of love. There's no better place to learn reverence for the dignity of every person, self-sacrifice and commitment, how to be a man and a woman and ultimately another family... In places like contemporary Australia, where the family is under great pressure and often breaks down, it's little wonder that that sense of reverence and responsibility and consequent altruism are declining. Reinventing marriage and the family as something it isn't is not the solution to that: it's just another symptom.

8 Year Old's EPLANATION OF GOD

Written by Danny Dutton, age 8, from Chula Vista, California, for his third grade homework assignment to "Explain God."

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way, He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least



there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK.

His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore, He could stay in

heaven. So He did. And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to hear you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the times. You should always go to Church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong! And, besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can.

It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim very good and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

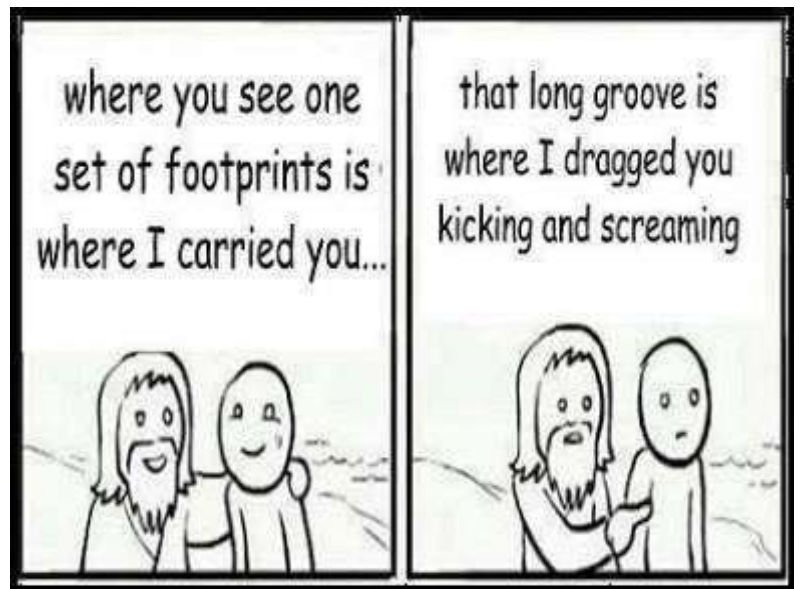
But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases.

And that's why I believe in God."

Quote of the Month

"It takes three to make love, not two: you, your spouse, and God. Without God people only succeed in bringing out the worst in one another. Lovers who have nothing else to do but love each other soon find there is nothing else. Without a central loyalty life is unfinished."

— *Venerable Fulton J. Sheen*



Bless Your Children

Is the average family as close-knit as it used to be? Hardly. To even a casual observer the declining unity of the modern family is evident. The scattered members of many families seem never to have experienced "*how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.*" Home, in many instances, is a place to be shunned rather than a haven to be sought.

Cars, movies, public recreation, and innumerable clubs and organisations are often blamed for causing the breakdown of home life. But they are not the cause of family disunion. Nor is even an overuse of these things causing the difficulty. An abuse of outside recreation is merely a symptom of the lack of family oneness and home attraction, not its cause.

What is lacking is a unifying principle, a bond that will cement the members of a family together so tightly that the disruptive agencies will lose their power. Natural ties are not strong enough; they can be overcome by natural forces. The bond that can really keep parents and children close to one another is their mutual love "in Christ." All love comes from God. So the family that is close to God will naturally develop stronger ties between its members.

There is a little known custom that can go a long way toward developing this awareness of God's love and its connection with family living. It's called the parental blessing.

Parents have always blessed their children

Parental blessing is as old as the human race. It began with the oldest patriarchs. Throughout the Old Testament it was the usual method of transmitting divine favours.

The blessings conferred on their children by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are known to all who read the Bible. The Bible gives us an

authoritative statement on parental blessing:

"In word and deed honour your father that his blessing may come upon you; for a father's blessing gives a family firm roots, but a mother's curse uproots the growing plant" (Eccles. 3:8-9).

There are many Scriptural instances in which a parent's blessing is efficacious. Consider young Tobias. He had to undertake a long journey to collect a debt for his aged, blind father. Before departing he received the blessing of the elder Tobias in these beautiful words: "May you have a good journey, may God be with you in your way, and may His Angel accompany you."

God sent the Angel Raphael, disguised as a traveller, to accompany the young man. He protected Tobias and saw that he collected the money. Tobias won the daughter of the debtor for his wife, and when he returned to his father, the father was cured of his blindness. Surely God answered the blessing of this father.

Christ wants you to bless your children

Our Lord used to gather little children around Himself and bless them. "Suffer the little children to come unto Me," He said. "And embracing them, and laying His hands upon them, He blessed them." Parents of today love their children. They embrace them. Why do they not lay their hands upon them in a blessing?

Parents so rarely bless their children that one is inclined to think the privilege no longer exists. Has the parental blessing lost its efficacy in the New Testament? Has Christ's coming changed the essential relations between parent and child? Has matrimony, elevated by the Saviour to the dignity of a sacrament, been lowered in spiritual value? Surely not. Jesus, in the New Testament, has increased the

number and capacity of the channels of grace, of which the parental blessing is one.

Jesus wants children to be blessed. Certainly the blessing bestowed by Jesus is more efficacious than that bestowed by parents. So also is the blessing of a Priest. Even so, parental blessing is something so holy, so powerful, that it deserves to be called the "Sacramental of the Domestic Hearth." The picture of a young mother placing hands of benediction on an innocent child is beautiful. No less inspiring is the sight of an aged parent, giving with trembling hands a blessing to a full-grown son or daughter.

This is a privilege that belongs to fathers and mothers. Often you are urged to do your duty. Here you are urged to use a privilege that is yours by divine grant - a privilege that goes with the dignity of parenthood. Why not bless your children?

The value of blessing

If this "Sacramental of the Domestic Hearth" were more frequently administered, there would be more happy, contented families. The two indispensable factors for happiness in the home are amiable authority on the part of parents and loving obedience on the part of the children. Parents who bless are reminded frequently of their responsible dignity. In their power to bless they recognise the channel of grace that they do not want to obstruct by bad example. It is easy too for the child to see God's representative in a parent before whom he frequently kneels for blessing. With this recognition come the love, reverence, and obedience that children owe to their parents.

If your home is not all that you would like it to be, try blessing your children: regularly. It will encourage oneness, love, reverence, and obedience.

In the lives of the Saints and the

by Archabbot Ignatius

saintly we find many examples to spur us on in promoting this worthy custom. The last words of the mother of St. Gregory of Nyssa were her words of benediction pronounced over her ten children.

The dying mother of St. Edmund called her son from Paris to England to bestow on him her blessing. St. Thomas More, even when advanced in years and dignity as the Lord Chancellor of England, never left his father's home without asking for his blessing.

St. Therese, The Little Flower, whose simple sanctity has made her so popular, tells us that the custom of blessing the children prevailed in the Martin home. In her autobiography she expressly mentions the blessing received from her father on one occasion, the day she entered the convent. She writes: "The next morning, after a last look at the happy home of my childhood, I set out for the Carmel, where we all heard Mass. I embraced my dear ones, and knelt for my father's blessing. He, too, knelt down and blessed me through his tears."

Some years ago the papers attracted the attention of readers with the headline: "Bishop Kneels for Mother's Blessing." The bishop was the Right Reverend F. T. Roch, D.O., Bishop of Tuticurin, India. He met his mother at the railway station.

There, in the presence of a crowd of people, he "knelt before his mother to receive her blessing, and the grand old lady, placing her wrinkled hands on the head of her illustrious son, moved many a spectator to tears."

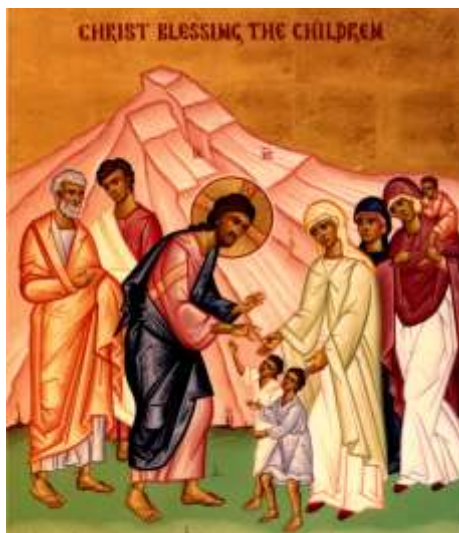
Fathers and mothers, open up to your children this effective means of grace. Make a diligent and frequent use of this great privilege.

When to bless your children

When ought parents to bless their children? At night or after evening prayers, is a very good time to give a daily blessing. Before going on a trip, undertaking an important or

dangerous task, and during sickness, children ought to get their parents' blessing. At the more important turning points in life -entering school, First Communion, marriage, or upon entering a convent or monastery - parents ought to solemnly bless their children.

Send a blessing even to your absent children before you go to bed at night, think of the absent sons or daughters. They may be in real need for your help. Your blessing is the most powerful help you can give them. Protect them with the sacred sign of the Cross that you make over them. Include a "God bless you, my child" in your letters. If possible, your last blessing should be given to all the children when you are at the point of death.



How to give the blessing

How is the parental blessing given? It should be done in a simple but reverent manner. Place your hand on the head of the kneeling child. Say: "[*bless you, my child, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*]" While saying this, make the sign of the Cross upon his forehead with the thumb of your right hand. If you bless all your children at once, simply extend your right hand over them all, and trace a Cross over them, while pronouncing the words.

Actually, the form of the blessing is not important. Any appropriate words of your own choosing may be used.

Vary them to suit the occasion. The words of Tobias quoted earlier in this pamphlet may be adapted to any situation. Simply let the words of blessing indicate what you wish for your children. The children may be in any position for the blessing, though kneeling is naturally more significant. The blessing need not be solemn, but it should be serious.

I hope young parents will welcome this happy privilege. I hope that the proud young father and the grateful young mother will lay hands of blessing upon their precious baby and continue the custom throughout their lives.

And what of the older families, where through ignorance of this sacramental -custom, the parental blessing has never been given? Older parents rather reluctantly make a change in their family life. But they will not refuse their blessing if their grown-up sons and daughters ask for it. Nor ought children hesitate in asking for a gift that surpasses all natural gifts that parents can give. Hopefully, some of these parents will offer a blessing to their children, at least on the major events of their lives.

Good fathers and mothers endure labour, fatigue, and pain to give their children natural gifts, life and life's necessities. Generously add to these bestowals the crowning gift - your blessing. It will help to sanctify all the rest.

St. Ambrose says: "You may not be rich, you may be unable to bequeath any great possessions to your children; but one thing you can give them: the heritage of your blessing. And it is better to be blessed than to be rich." May God doubly bless the parents who bless their children.

The West Wagga Wag

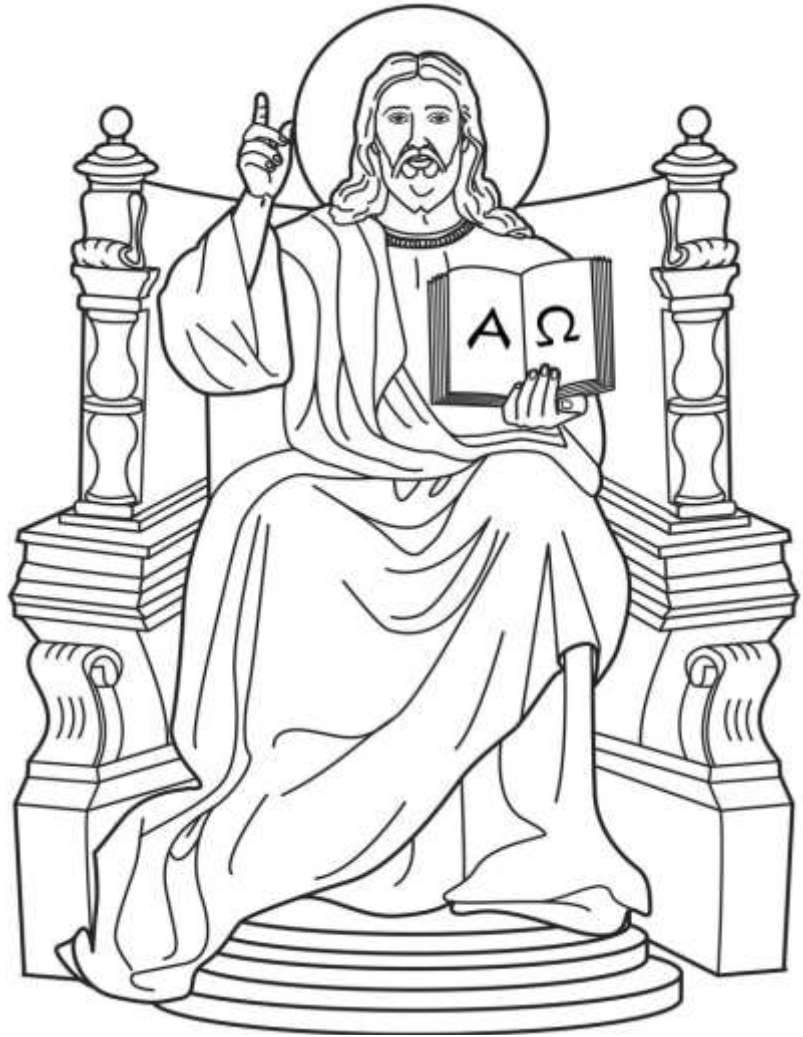
West Wagga Parish



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



CROWN HIM KING!



"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."
John 18:37 (NIV)

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

arrest	fight	priest
born	idea	reason
everyone	king	right
fact	kingdom	saying
listens	priest	servants
palace	reason	testify
people	right	truth
place	saying	world