

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

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 165

November 2016

Coming Events

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

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica Wed 9

Saint Leo the Great Thus 10

Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe Sun 20

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mon 21

Dr David Van Gend Stealing from a Child Book Launch
7 pm Astor Hotel
104 Edward St. Wed 23
RSVP by 21 Nov
waggamarriageaction@gmail.com

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 Nov 30th.

Farewell and Congratulations

Peter Gooden

We farewell Peter Gooden after so many years in our parish. Peter was one of the most familiar faces in San Isidore as the school bus driver and active member of our parish, prayer groups and a great helper for the refugee committee from its beginning.

A farewell Mass and meal was held at San Isidore Saturday Oct 29. Peter, we will miss you but are so grateful to have had you as a companion on our journey to Heaven.

More on page 4.



Nick Rightfully Honoured

Just at the end of October Nick Fletcher, a regular at our parish Masses from the time he began attending Mass at the Glenfield Community Centre on Sunday evening, featured in the Daily Advertiser.



Nick along with Kevin Ritzau were honoured for their many years of devoted service to Kurrajong Waratah. Indeed, Kevin and Nick are Kurrajong Waratah's two most loyal workers. Kevin clocked up 45 years of employment while Nick is rounding off 40 years. Both men were acknowledged for their impressive combined career of 85 years with KW. For both, their daily work is not just a commitment to the good that is done by Kurrajong

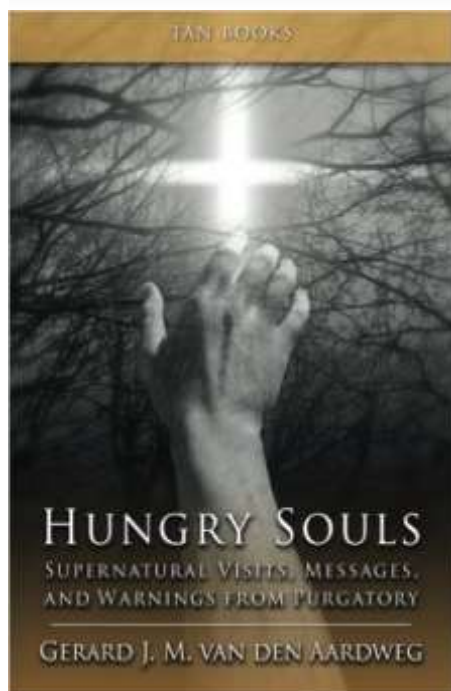
Waratah but indeed to a company that more resembles a family.

Nick, a gentle and faithful soul, now enjoys giving glory to God at the 9 AM Mass at Holy Trinity. Nick was honoured at the Annual General Meeting of Kurrajong Waratah and, all going well, he may be able to see out 50 years at KW. Nick is a resident at the Riverina Gums and we are grateful for his presence in the parish, his warm friendliness, and attendance at the Holy Trinity Mass on Sundays.

We congratulate Nick on his years of employment and look forward to many other years of friendship with him.



pastor's page - Pray for the Holy Souls



November is the month of the "Race that stops a nation". For Catholic nations, and for most Catholics living in countries that have very few Catholics, this month is significant for another reason - because it is the month of the Holy Souls. While many people are excited about betting and dressing up and drinking (and these things are ok in moderation), others have their minds on far more significant things.

On November 2nd, we stop going about our normal concerns and remember in a powerful way those who have died. We remember that, like our dearly departed family and friends, we are dust "and unto dust we shall return". This is a time to show acts of love, not just flowers and visits to cemeteries but prayers, a loving gift that pierces heaven and the grave, an exchange as Pope Benedict XVI wrote, that is more powerful than death.

I have been reading a great book on the Holy Souls. It has pictures of prayer books with hand-shaped burn marks, very distinct and

unmistakable, documented cases of people who have died asking for prayers. It begins with a retelling of a near-death experience in which a man, previously un-religious, felt himself separate in a sense from his body and then become aware of an overwhelming beauty, goodness to which he felt drawn. He was approaching, he said as he struggled to find the words, as if in a circle, but getting closer with every turn around this brilliant light which was the Centre and cause of all things, and as he came closer to God, he felt incredible happiness. Then he stopped: he could not go closer because he was not ready, because the imperfections from his own sins and faults were not compatible. Another account was of a Dominican priest who after he died visited a lady to ask for prayers and to give priestly advice. He described to her how he found himself in the amazing and joyful presence of God but then fell back to the place of purification with a profound sense of homesickness, sorrow at having to wait to be in the blessed glory of heaven which is seeing God face-to-face.

The Holy Souls, that is to say, real people who have died in God's grace but still with wounds of sin and not quite ready for heaven, are suffering but at the same time with confidence: some time soon this good suffering will be complete and then they will have happiness for all eternity. They are contrite, more and more sincerely aware of their shortcomings and fault, which makes them more beautiful, humble, loving, generous, unselfish. They receive great consolations from God so that their experience is sweet-and-sour. And they are not alone. They are part of the Church and as for us, to suffer in company and with purpose is so much easier. Our mindfulness of them and our prayers really offset the pain they experience, and quicken the process

of their coming through the purification each one must experience. So in this holy month, let us pray! Pray at Masses, during visits to the Church, and especially visits to gravesides. There are plenty around, including two places in our parish: at the Carmelites and at the Best Family private burial ground opposite about 10 Truscott Avenue, at the back of the little park there. Take your children. For us the grave is a good and blessed place where we can do good for the deceased and they can also do good for us.

Pope Francis a year or so ago told consecrated priests, nuns and brothers that it was their job to "wake up the world", to be a reminder to the spiritually asleep that we are made for heaven, that our eternal salvation is at stake, that God is real and has created us and all things and also come into the world to die for us and call us to heaven. Thinking about those who have died and praying for them is another powerful way to wake up. It is like a splash of chilled water in the face, maybe shocking for a moment, but also refreshing, reviving. When we are "contrite", truly sorry for our sins, that has the same effect of opening us up to think clearly about God, heaven and hell, grace, our obligations to love our neighbor, to be truthful, pure, holy. Our friends in Purgatory, like the saints in heaven, dearly want us to stop being so distracted with all that passes, including the races, so that we can pass from the good things of this world, saved from the temptations of this world, to enter the infinitely better and lasting world of heaven.

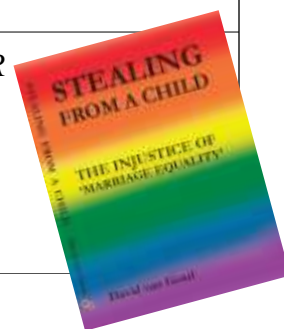
May the souls of our dearly departed family and friends and all the holy souls rest in peace. Amen.

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS

The book the printer band is now a BEST SELLER

You're invited to hear Dr David van Gend, a Toowoomba GP and President of the Australian Marriage Forum, speak about his best-selling new book.

This important book gives all the information and clear reasons we need to say 'no' to changing marriage. More details in "Coming Events", front page.



November Jokes



Geoff said to Fred, 'I put \$20 on a horse last week and he came in at twenty five to one.', 'Wow! you must be loaded', said Fred. 'Not really' said George, 'the rest of the field came in at twelve thirty.'

Q: Which side of a horse has more hair? A: The outside

Q: How do you make a small fortune on horse racing? A: Start with a large fortune.

Q. Where do horses go when they're sick? A. The horsepital.

The trainer was giving last minute instructions to the jockey and appeared to slip something into the horse's mouth just as a steward walked by. "What was that?" inquired the steward. "Oh nothing" said the trainer, "just a polo". He offered one to the steward and had one himself. After the suspicious steward had left the scene the trainer continued with his instructions "Just keep on the rail. You are on a certainty. The only thing that could possibly pass you down the home straight is either the steward or me".

A pony goes to the doctor and tells him, "Doc, I think I'm dying. I have this terrible sore throat." The doctor assures him, "It's okay—you're just a little horse."

Did you hear about the man who was hospitalized with six plastic horses inside him? The doctor described his condition as stable.

Horse Terms:

Auction: A popular social gathering where you can change your horse from a liability into an asset.

Endurance ride: End result when your horse spooks and runs away with you.

Fence: Decorative structure built to provide your horse something to chew on.

Grooming: Fine art of removing dirt from your horse's body and applying it to your own.

Hock: Financial condition of all horse owners.

Lungeing: Popular training method in which a horse exercises his owner by spinning him in circles until dizzy.



Riding the favourite at Cheltenham, the jockey is well ahead of the field. Suddenly he's hit on the head by a turkey and a string of sausages. He manages to keep control of his mount and pulls back into the lead, only to be struck by a box of Christmas crackers and a dozen mince pies as he goes over the last fence. With great skill he manages to steer the horse to the front of the field once more when, on the run in, he's struck on the head by a bottle of sherry and a Christmas pudding. Thus distracted, he succeeds in coming only second. He immediately goes to the stewards to complain that he has been seriously hampered.

How do you spell 'Hungry Horse' in four letters? M T G G (Empty Gee-Gee).

Q: What did the horse say when it fell? A: "I've fallen and I can't giddyup!"

A man wakes up in the morning and it is 5:55 a.m. The temperature is 55 degrees and the humidity is 55%. He turns on his TV to channel 5. He gets up and it is May 5th. He heads to work and his car has 55,555.5 miles on the odometer. He gets to work goes to the 5th floor. He has five messages. IT DAWNS ON HIM. He rushes to the race track. His ticket is \$5 and he is put in section 5, row 5, seat 5. In the fifth race is a horse called, "Double Nickels". He understands fate as spoken. He bets his entire bank account and maxes all credit cards. The race is won... Double Nickels came in fifth.

Does it disturb anyone else that "The Los Angeles Angels" baseball team translates directly to "The The Angels Angels"?

When my 15-year-old son, Pat, stepped up to the plate during a Colt League baseball game, the young announcer declared, "Now batting, the right fielder, number 12, Pathogen!" After some confusion in the stands, the announcer came back on over the loudspeaker. "Oh, I get it — Pat Hogan!"

Q: What do you get if you cross a skunk and a pair of tennis rackets? A: Ping Pong!

Q: What did the honey bee striker say? A: Hive scored!

Q: Why did Cinderella get kicked off the baseball team? A: Because she ran away from the ball!

Q: Why was Cinderella such a lousy basketball player? A: She had a pumpkin for a coach!

Q: How did the basketball court get wet? A: The players dribbled all over it!

Q: What stories are told by basketball players? A: Tall stories!



Peter Gooden Moves to QLD

The Saturday evening Mass at San Isidore saw many people gather to thank God for the presence of the Gooden family within the parish for the last 50 years.

Later after the Mass, Peter along with his daughter Catherine and husband Steven Dawson were given the place of honour at the barbecue and refreshments beautifully prepared and wonderfully arranged for the occasion thanks to the Strongs, the Confraternity students and other generous contributions.

Peter and Jean Gooden came to the parish and settled at San Isidore in 1964/65. As the family developed, some of the Gooden family members married and moved interstate, and most of them are now in Queensland and Sydney. Peter, Jean, and Virginia were frequent attendees at the Masses at San Isidore and Holy Trinity. Special tribute was owed to Peter for his many years of hands-on service within the parish. Though many parishioners have given a great deal to the establishment, development, and the ongoing maintenance, and especially to the parish's spiritual dimension, Peter has been particularly proactive.

At the barbecue there were a number of speakers who recounted Peter and Jean's contribution not only to the parish but to many families who have come to settle in the parish and eventually move on. Andrew Kennedy spoke of his early days as a boy in San Isidore and referred to Peter's driving of the school bus and some of the shenanigans that the kids got up to and Peter's reaction to the same. Les Allen spoke of Peter's contribution within the community

of San Isidore. And Joan Saboisky related how both Peter and Jean were among the first members of the Refugee Committee and worked most charitably with the early refugee settlers within San Isidore for many years.

Father Gerard Ryan CCS related how generous and productive Peter had been when the Confraternity of Christ the Priest first moved to the parish in 2003. Though many people worked on the various developments and repairs that have happened over the last 14 years, he identified Peter's contribution as particularly significant; in time and energy, in expertise, and by supplying the many various tools that he made available to the parish in the various renovations and improvements to buildings. Indeed, Peter was the earliest contributor and foundational in the establishment of *Come to Bethlehem*. Not only did he work every year in setting Bethlehem up and pulling it down afterwards, but every evening he played the role of the good shepherd attending the petting farm and its menagerie of animals each year. Peter and Jean were also present at parish spiritual

events, devotional exercises, and the continuation of the School of Evangelisation, until just a few years ago.

Father Thomas Casanova CCS PP gave a special vote of thanks on behalf of the parish and all the contributions that the Gooden's have made. He went on to ask God's blessing on Peter and on his move to be with his family in Queensland.

It was the consensus of all present that Peter is remembered for his gentle spirit, jovial manner, genuine smile and most charitable disposition. While we remember with sadness Virginia's death this year and Jean's the year before, we ask God's blessing on Peter that he may have a fruitful retirement and much blessedness in his new life in the warm state of Queensland. We thank all of the Gooden family members for their contribution to the parish over the last five decades. And as his daughter Catherine remarked, "The night reminded me of what a beautiful, faithful, loving, and giving man he has always been and how much he has done for others. We are so proud of him."



"If Christianity is valid, why is there so much evil in the world?"

"With so much soap, why are there so many dirty people in the world?"

Christianity, like soap, must be personally applied if it is to make a difference in our lives."



Watch out for the devil's election promises!



A politician dies and ends up standing in front of the pearly gates. Saint Peter looks at him for a second, flicks through his book, and finds his name.

“So, you’re a politician...”

“Well, yes, is that a problem?”

“Oh no, no problem. But we’ve recently adopted a new system for people in your line of work, and unfortunately you will have to spend a day in Hell. After that however, you’re free to choose where you want to spend eternity!”

“I have to spend a day in Hell?!” says the politician. “Those are the rules,” replies St Peter, clicks his fingers, and WOOMP, the guy disappears. He awakes, curled up with his hands over his eyes, knowing he’s in Hell. Cautiously, he listens for the screams, sniffs the air for brimstone, and finds... Nothing. Just the smell of, is that fabric softener? And cut grass, this can’t be right?

“Open your eyes!” says a voice. “C’mon, wakey wakey, we’ve only got 24 hours!” Nervously, he uncovers his eyes, looks around, and sees he’s in a hotel room. A nice one too. Wait, this is a penthouse suite... And there’s a smiling man in a suit, holding a martini. “Who are you??” The politician asks.

“Well, I’m Satan!” says the man, handing him the drink and helping him to his feet. “Welcome to Hell!”

“Wait, this is Hell? But... Where’s all the pain and suffering?” he asks.

Satan throws him a wink. “Oh, we’ve been a bit misrepresented over the years, it’s a long story. Anyway, this is your room! The minibar is of course free, as is the room service, there’s extra towels next to the hot-tub, and if you need anything, just call reception. But enough! It’s a beautiful day, and if you’d care to look outside...”

Slightly stunned by the opulent

surroundings, the man wanders over to the floor-to-ceiling windows through which the sun is glowing, looks far down, and sees a group of people cheering and waving at him from a golf course.

“It’s one of 5 pro-level courses on site, and there’s another 6 just a few minutes drive out past the beach and harbour!” says Satan, answering his unasked question.

So they head down in the lift, walk out through the glittering lobby where everyone waves and welcomes the man, as Satan signs autographs and cheerily talks shop with the laughing staff. And as he walks out, he sees the group on the golf course are made up of every one of his old friends, people he’s admired for years but never met or worked with, and people whose work he’s admired but died long before his career started. And out of the middle of this group walks his wife, with a massive smile, who throws her arms around him and plants a delicate kiss on his cheek. Everyone cheers and applauds, and as they slap him on the back and trade jokes, his worst enemy arrives, as a 2 foot tall goblin-esque caddy. He spends the day in the bright sunshine on the course, having the time of his life laughing at jokes and carrying important discussions, putting the world to rights with his friends while holding his delighted wife as she gazes lovingly at him.

Later, they return to the hotel for

dinner and have an enormous meal, perfectly cooked. After returning to his penthouse suite, the man falls deep into the 100% Egyptian cotton pillows, and falls into a deep and happy sleep... and is woken up by St Peter.

“So, that was Hell. Wasn’t what you were expecting?” “No!” says the man. “So then,” says St Peter. “You can make your choice. It’s Hell, which you saw, or Heaven, which has choral singing, talking to God, white robes, and so on.”

“Well... I know this sounds strange, but on balance, I think I’d prefer Hell,” says the politician. “Not a problem, we totally understand! Enjoy!” says St Peter, and clicks his fingers again.

The man wakes up in total darkness, the stench of ammonia filling the air and distant screams the only noise. As he adjusts, he can see the only light is from belches of flame far away, illuminating the ragged remains of people being tortured or burning in a sulphurous ocean. A sudden bolt of lightning reveals Satan next to him, wearing the same suit as before and grinning, holding a soldering iron in one hand and a coil of razor-wire in the other.

“What’s this??” He cries. “Where’s the hotel?? Where’s my wife?? Where’s the minibar, the golf-courses, the pool, the restaurant and the sunshine???”

“Ah”, says Satan. “You see, yesterday, we were campaigning. But today, you voted.”

The enemy surrounds us, and we shall perish unless we fight. If we really fight, we are given assurance of victory.

- St. Francis de Sales



How St Francis was different from Martin Luther Catholic Reform vs Protestant Reform



Paul, Athanasius, John Chrysostom, Maximus, John Damascene, Pope Gregory VII, Francis, Dominic, Catherine of Sienna, Ignatius, Teresa of Avila,

rightly rebuked the abbots, bishops, and cardinals for lacking evangelical witness. Instead, Francis followed the path of Christ. He allowed himself to be misunderstood and maligned, knowing that God would bring about his vindication...and God always does.

Contrast Saint Francis to Martin Luther. Luther did not visit Rome for confirmation of his cause, nor did he respect the structures of the Church. In fact, Cardinal Cajetan met privately with Luther and explained how Luther might modify his message so that Cajetan could have it approved by the Roman Curia. If Luther had moved more slowly and charitably, he may have become "Saint" Martin Luther.

Unfortunately, Luther was adamant and stiff-necked. He would not attempt compromise. If the Pope would not agree with him, then he would reject the papacy. Period. Luther would not tolerate any authority that failed to support him immediately and without question. Consequently, when the papal bull arrived, Luther burned it publicly and began to curse the pope as Antichrist.

Note the difference between Francis and Luther. The former moved slowly and humbly. The latter acted independently and rashly. Consequently, the history of Protestantism is marked by rash and hasty division – there are now 36,000 Protestant denominations.

As the Apostle James wrote: "the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God" (Jas 1:20). History shows that God does not use "hot-heads" to guide His Church into righteousness. God chooses those who are little, meek, and humble – for such is the kingdom of Heaven. Herein lies the mystery of Catholic Reform.

By Dr. Taylor Marshall

How did Saint Francis' reformation of the Catholic Church ("Francis, rebuild my Church") differ from Martin Luther's "reformation"?

Essentially, Francis teaches us that **we cannot fight heresy by creating new heresies.**

Francis always submitted to the Church, the popes, and the bishops.

Whenever "reformation" begins to the buck against the institutional Church, more heresy arises. For example, in many regards the Monophysite heresy (i.e. "Christ has one nature") was an over-reaction to the Nestorian heresy (i.e. "Christ is two persons"). The Catholic Church has always sought to aim directly at the truth, and not merely at the destruction of error. Too often the refutation of error crosses over into further error.

Similarly, Luther and Calvin sought to displace misunderstandings about grace and merit (i.e. the faulty nominalism spawned by William of Ockham) by creating an alternate vision of grace and merit (which ironically embraced Ockham's nominalism and repackaged it). Luther's "solution" was in fact heretical.

A quick fix is often faulty. Duct tape can "fix" almost anything – but it eventually gives way to other problems.

The annals of Church history are filled with Catholic Reformers:

et al. Each of these Catholic Reformers retained the unity of Christ's Church, submitted to church leadership, and patiently brought about renewal. In many cases, each experienced active persecution from other Christians and even fell under the suspicion of heresy. However, their humility and silence eventually vindicated their cause as advocates for the evangelical truth of Christ's doctrine.

Saint Francis of Assisi is perhaps one of the best examples of patience in the cause of reform. When St Francis went to Rome to seek recognition from the Pope, the Pope dismissed him impatiently and told him to go "lie down with the pigs."

After a little while, Francis returned smeared with swine feces and stinking to high heaven. When the Pope objected, Francis answered, "I obeyed your words and merely did as you said. I lay down with the pigs." Suddenly the Pope realized that this was a holy man who was willing to obey even in the face of humiliation. The Pope listened to Francis' vision for renewal and the rest is history.

When rebuffed by the pope, Saint Francis could have appealed to Sacred Scripture, showing this his pattern of life was poor and lowly like that of Christ. He might even have contrasted his own "biblical life" against the extravagance of the Papal court. Francis may even have

"Christian marriage, like the other sacraments, "whose purpose is to sanctify people, to build up the body of Christ, and finally, to give worship to God," is in itself a liturgical action glorifying God in Jesus Christ and in the Church."

Familiaris Consortio #56

Letter from Archbishop Prowse



Archbishop's Office
GPO Box 89
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia

20th September 2016

TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you would be aware, on the 12th September 2016 His Holiness, Pope Francis, accepted the resignation of Bishop Gerard Hanna due to health reasons.

At the same time, Pope Francis appointed me as Apostolic Administrator *sede vacante* of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. This is in addition to my role as Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn.

I have appointed two delegates to assist me in my role as Apostolic Administrator. They are Fr Kevin O'Reilly and Mons. Douglas George (the former Chancellor and Vicar General respectfully).

The Diocese now enters into a time where we wait for the Holy Father to appoint a worthy successor to Bishop Hanna. It is a time for prayer and intercession to the Holy Spirit, and Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians, as we await the appointment of a new bishop to succeed Bishop Hanna.

We also pray in thanksgiving for the prudent and dedicated ministry of Bishop Hanna over 14 years as your bishop. We pray for his good health and peaceful movement into a new chapter of his life with the Lord.

I see my own role as to assure the good people of the Wagga Wagga Diocese of the Pope's pastoral care for them in this time of transition to a new bishop.

Let us serve the diocese together in the love and mercy of the Lord during this time of transition.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga

Please remember to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide Pope Francis, and those he consults, as Pope Francis chooses the next Bishop of Wagga Wagga.

The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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

**"I MUST STAY
AT YOUR HOUSE
TODAY!"**

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. Luke 19:5-6 (NIV)



ZACCHEUS MEETS JESUS SECRET MESSAGE

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