

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 176

October 2017

## Coming Events

Guardian Angels	Mon 2
Saint Francis of Assisi	Wed 4
Our Lady of the Rosary	Sat 7
Saint John XXIII	Wed 11
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque	Mon 16
Saint Ignatius of Antioch	Tue 17
Saint Luke	Wed 18
Saints Simon and Jude	Sat 28
All Saints	Nov Wed 1
All Souls	Nov Thu 2



Our  
Lady  
of  
Fatima  
Fifth  
Apparition  
Oct  
13th,  
1917



A graphic for the "Month of Prayer & Fasting for Marriage & Families". It features a blue circle with white text and a background image of a smiling family (a man, a woman, and two children) lying in bed. The text reads: "Month of Prayer & Fasting for Marriage & Families" and "#PrayForMarriage".

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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: Wednesday Nov 1st.

## How would Pope Francis vote?

In a Catholic Weekly article called, “Does Pope Francis support same-sex marriage?” Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP points out that, “Those claiming [Pope Francis’] support in their campaign for a Yes vote in the forthcoming plebiscite have either not read him or are deliberately misrepresenting him.”

Archbishop Fisher finishes his article with: **“To vote with Pope Francis is to VOTE NO.”**



MARRIAGE PLEBISCITE INFORMATION  
[catholic.org.au/plebiscite](http://catholic.org.au/plebiscite)

A photograph of Pope Francis smiling. To his right, there is text about the marriage plebiscite.

## **pastor's page - Mother Teresa's faith and prayer**

Last month we celebrated the Feast Day of St Mother Teresa of Calcutta in our parish and we were honoured to have the Missionary of Charity sisters with us. It brings back wonderful memories of being at the canonization of our dear Mother last year in Rome with a number of our parishioners (We should do another pilgrimage together some time! On a budget but full of exciting things to see!) I was able to catch up with my sister, Sr Bridgid MC who was looking after another Sister in a wheelchair. It was so moving to grasp that this lady, this nun, was now numbered among all the great saints throughout history, able to be invoked along with all of them, St Teresa, pray for us!

She continues to have many things to teach us. One of the greatest was to pray.

I remember another time, when I visited Calcutta and the Mother House where St Teresa's body is entombed. I was praying with my hand on her tomb when a holy hour began, so I stayed there, kneeling like that, for the whole hour. I asked her in prayer, "Mother, please pray for me to have the gift of prayer?" Her answer came back strong and

clear, "What do you mean? You have the gift already; go to visit our Lord, pray!" All of us have that gift if only we unwrap it by making the effort to pray.

Someone criticized Mother Teresa for the amount of time she and her Sisters dedicated to prayer. She answered that, rather than resulting in less time for the poor, it very much helped them. "More things are wrought by prayer alone than this world ever dreamed" wrote the poet Alexander Pope. Not only did St Teresa's prayer help the poor by commanding them to the mercy of God, but, she pointed out, it also enabled her and her Sisters to see Christ in the poor and be filled with charity for them. This is true especially of prayer in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Mother Teresa was a shining example of charity. She often said, "Charity begins at home", and spoke of the simple acts of charity, such as a smile, little acts of service, which bring joy both to the one who gives them and the one who receives.

Charity was the source of strength which helped St Teresa to do many unpleasant works of love, and to

persevere in them. St Paul wrote, "The love of Christ urges us", and it urged Mother Teresa.

One day, a cameraman was filming Mother Teresa for a documentary, while she was caring for some of the most wretched of the poor of Calcutta. As she cleaned the sores of one man, wiping up the pus and bandaging his wounds, the cameraman blurted out, "I wouldn't do that if you gave me a million dollars." To which Mother Teresa replied, "Neither would I."

That spirit of Christian charity suffused this following prayer, which Mother Teresa prayed daily. And this prayer reminds us that the reason we care for the bodily needs of others is that our love for them makes us long to bring their souls to Christ.

We act as Christ did so that others may not only hear the words of Christ through the preaching of His Gospel but may see Him in everything we do. "Faith without works is dead": but faith that results in works can plant the seeds of faith in others.

*Fr Thomas Casanova CCS*

### **THE DAILY PRAYER OF MOTHER TERESA**

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Your spirit and life.

Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly, That my life may only be a radiance of Yours.

Shine through me, and be so in me That every soul I come in contact with May feel Your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!

Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine, So to shine as to be a light to others; The light, O Jesus will be all from You; none of it will be mine; It will be you, shining on others through me.

Let me thus praise You the way You love best, by shining on those around me.

Let me preach You without preaching, not by words but by my example, By the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do, The evident fullness of the love my heart bears to You.

Amen.



# October Jokes



A police officer jumps into his squad car and calls the station. "I have an interesting case here," he says. "A woman shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped." "Have you arrested her?" asks the sergeant. "No, not yet. The floor's still wet."

After finishing our Chinese food, my husband and I cracked open our fortune cookies. Mine read, "Be quiet for a little while." His read, "Talk while you have a chance."

My young son declared, "When I grow up, I'm going to marry you, Mommy." "You can't marry your own mother," said his older sister. "Then I'll marry you." "You can't marry me either." He looked confused, so I explained, "You can't marry someone in your own family." "You mean I have to marry a total stranger!?" he cried.

When my wife gets a little upset, sometimes a simple "Calm down" in a soothing voice is all it takes to get her a lot upset.

Overheard at my garden-club meeting: "I never knew what compost was until I met my husband."

Even though there was a blizzard raging outside, I made it the half-kilometre to the bakery, where I asked the owner for six rolls. "Your wife must like rolls," he said. "How do you know these are for my wife?" I asked. "Because your mother wouldn't send you out in weather like this."

A man tells his doctor that he's incapable of doing all the things around the house that he used to do. When the examination is over, he says, "Okay, Doctor. In plain English—what's wrong with me?" "Well, in plain English," says the doctor, "you're just lazy." The man nods. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

After we had lunch with another couple, the women went shopping, and the men opted to go sailing. Bad decision—a storm blew in while we men were out on the water. Making matters worse, the tide had gone out, grounding the boat. We had to climb overboard and shove it back into deep water.

As my friend stood there—ankles deep in muck, muscles straining against the weight of the boat, and rain pelting his face—he grinned broadly and with unmistakable sincerity said, "Sure beats shopping!"



When I was a kid, my English teacher looked my way and said, 'Name two pronouns.' I replied, 'Who, me?'

A hyperbole is, without a doubt, the single most magnificent thing that has ever happened in the world, ever.

"Which word is shorter when you add two letters to it?" "Short."

'Is there a word that uses all of the vowels including y?'

'Unquestionably.'

A word in this sentence is misspelled.

'What do you get when you combine a joke with a rhetorical question?'

Just bought a thesaurus at the store and brought it home to find the pages are all blank. I have no words to describe how angry I am.

John was excited because his local newspaper was hosting a pun contest. He stayed up all night carefully creating ten puns. He submitted them the next morning. When the results came back, John checked to see if he won but, alas, no pun in ten did!

What's the difference between a cat and a comma? One has claws at the end of its paws, and the other is a pause at the end of a clause.

## A Pretty Woman Sneezes At A Restaurant

At a hotel restaurant, a man sees an attractive woman sitting alone at the next table.

Suddenly, she sneezes, and a glass eye comes flying out of her eye socket. It hurls by the man, and he snatches it from the air and hands it back to her.

"This is so embarrassing," the woman says, and she pops her eye back in place. "I'm sorry to have disturbed you. Let me buy dinner to make it up to you. May I join you?" He nods.

The woman is a stimulating conversationalist, stunningly pretty, and the man finds they have a lot in common. He gets her phone number and asks, "You are the most charming woman I've ever encountered. Are you this nice to every guy you meet?"

"No," she replies. "You just happened to catch my eye."

What do you get if you cross a pig with a dinosaur? Jurassic Pork.

A pig invited me around to see his new home. I was surprised - it was actually quite sty-lish.



# The miracle that saved a priest from a jihadist's knife

The terrifying experience of Franciscan Father Abuna Nirwan in Iraq

Abuna Nirwan is a Franciscan priest, originally from Iraq, who studied medicine before being ordained.

In 2004, while he was living in the Holy Land, the Dominican Sisters of the Rosary, founded by Maria Alphonsine Danil Ghattas (a Palestinian woman beatified in 2009 and canonized in 2015), gave him a relic of their founder and a rosary she had used. Fr. Nirwan always carries them with him.

In 2013, when Benedict XVI requested the investigation of a miracle for Maria Alphonsine's canonization, the Holy See ordered as customary that the nun's cadaver be exhumed. As usual, it fell to the local bishop to designate a doctor to preside over the procedure. Fr. Abuna Nirwan was asked to carry out the exhumation and to draw up the corresponding medical report.

Two years before her beatification, something truly extraordinary had happened through her intercession—besides the approved miracle—as recounted by Fr. Santiago Quemada on his blog, A priest in the Holy Land:

"The story we are going to tell took place on July 14, 2007. Abuna Nirwan went to visit his family in Iraq. He went in a taxi that he hired on the Syrian border. He told the story himself during the homily of a Mass he celebrated in Bet Yalla": At that time it wasn't possible to travel by airplane to see my family. It was forbidden. The only means of transportation was a car. My plan was to arrive at Baghdad, and go from there to Mosul, where my parents lived.

The driver was afraid, because of the situation in Iraq during that period. A family—a father, a mother, and a 2-year-old girl—

asked us if they could travel with us. The taxi driver told me that they had asked, and I had no objections. They were Muslims. The driver was a Christian. He told them that there was room in the car, and that they could come with us. We stopped at a gas station, and another young Muslim man asked if he could go to Mosul. There was still room, so we accepted him.

The border between Jordan and Iraq doesn't open until sunrise. When the sun came up, the barrier was opened, and about 50 or 60 cars started to form a line, all driving together slowly.



We continued our trip with determination. After more than an hour in the car, we arrived at a place where there was a checkpoint. We prepared our passports. We stopped. The driver said, "I'm afraid of this group." Before, it had been a military checkpoint, but members of an Islamist terrorist organization had killed the soldiers and taken control of the place.

When we arrived, they asked for our passports, and they made us get out of the car. They took the passports to their office. The man came back, turned to me, and said, "Father, we are going to continue with the investigation. You can go to the office further on. Beyond that is the desert." "Very well," I answered, "if we have to go, we will." We walked for about a quarter of an hour until we arrived at the shack they indicated to us.

When we arrived at the cabin, two men came out with their faces

covered. One was carrying a camera in one hand and a knife in the other. The other was bearded, and was carrying the Koran. They came up to where we were, and one of them asked me, "Father, where are you coming from?" I told him I was coming from Jordan. Then, he asked the driver.

... Then, he said, "Father, we are recording this for Al Jazeera. Do you want to say a few words? Please, no more than a minute." I said, "No, I just want to pray." They gave me a minute to pray.

Afterwards, he pushed down on my shoulder until I was forced to kneel, and he said, "You are a priest, and it is forbidden for your blood to fall on the ground, because it would be a sacrilege." So he went to grab a bucket, and came back with it, to slit my throat.

I don't know what I prayed at that moment. I was very afraid, and I told Marie Alphonsine, "It can't be by chance that I'm carrying you with me. If it is

necessary that the Lord take me while I'm young, I'm ready, but if not, I ask you that no one else die."

He grabbed my head with his hand, held my shoulder tightly, and lifted the blade. There were a few moments of silence, and then suddenly he said, "Who are you?" I answered, "A friar." He answered, "And why can't I bring the knife down? Who are you?" And then, without letting me answer, he said, "Father, you and the others—go back to the car." We went back to where the car was.

From that moment on, I have stopped being afraid of death. I know that I'll die someday, but now I understand better that it will happen only when God wants it to. Since then, I'm not afraid of anything or anyone. Whatever happens to me will be because it's God's will, and He will give me the strength to carry His Cross. What matters is to have faith. God takes care of those who believe in Him.

*Abuna Nirwan, Aug 15, 2017*

# St Clare of Assisi and the Muslim threat

St. Clare of Assisi was a contemporary of St. Francis. Her life changed after hearing Francis preach. She asked Francis to establish a convent where she and other like-minded women could live in seclusion and live a life of prayer and worship. These women became known as the Poor Clares.

In 1244 Saracen (Muslim) mercenaries attacked Assisi. They were fighting for Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II who was at war with Pope Innocent IV. The Saracens reached the convent and put up ladders to scale the wall. As the Saracens attacked, the other sisters were overcome with fear and begged Clare to do something. Although she was sick she told the others to come with her as she took the vessel holding the body and blood of Jesus and placed it on the wall.

Then she prayed:

*"Behold, my Lord, is it possible You want to deliver into the hands of pagans Your defenceless handmaids, whom I have taught out of love for You? I pray You, Lord, protect these Your handmaids whom I cannot now save by myself."*

Clare heard a voice saying,  
*"I will always protect you."*

Clare continued,

*"My Lord, if it is Your wish, protect also this city which is sustained by Your love."*

The voice, identified as Jesus answered,

*"It will have to undergo trials, but it will be defended by My protection."*

Clare told the nuns that they would be protected. The Saracens were overcome with fear and fled over the wall they had scaled.

Clare told the sisters not to tell anyone of this as long as she remained alive.



## Confession - Do I need to go now that I am older and have fewer temptations?

Someone asked:

*I go to Confession twice a year, at Easter and Christmas because I feel I should. My I find it difficult to know what to say as I no longer seem to be assailed by the temptations of earlier years. One priest told me rather irritably not to come to Confession if I had nothing to say.*

Fr TF: I am sorry to hear that a priest was irritated with you. Say a prayer for him asking the Lord to give him the virtue of patience. I don't agree with his advice.

In your letter, you spoke of another priest who encouraged you to go to confession more frequently. He is on the right lines, I think.

People who go to confession frequently usually remember more to confess. This is not because they are greater sinners but because their conscience becomes more sensitive to venial sins. This is not some kind of morbid "guilt" but a desire for

holiness in small things. When you say that you do not have the temptations you used to have, perhaps you are thinking that the sacrament is only for mortal sins.

In fact it is also a powerful remedy for venial sins.

It is the teaching of the scripture that the just man falls seven times a day (that is to say, often.) Christ calls us to "be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." None of us would say that we have achieved that already. The frequent use of the sacrament of penance helps us to take steps toward this goal and gives us many graces for our daily spiritual life.

Blessed John Paul went to confession weekly and this was the practice of many saints. They would think of

failures in generosity in daily life - whether in prayer or in charity to others, small faults of pride,



irritation,  
impatience,  
self-indulgence,  
insensitivity,  
or a lack of courage in witnessing to the faith when opportunities arose.

It was precisely by living the gospel daily in these small things that they exercised the virtues in that heroic manner which the Church recognises as the mark of a saint.

# The Meme-Sharing Bishop: Why You Should Follow Bishop Umbers of Sydney



ChurchPOP  
Editor -  
September 4,  
2017

It's a new world.  
Bishops are sharing memes on Facebook.

Richard Umbers was consecrated a bishop just about a year ago and is serving as an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Sydney. We previously shared a hilarious video he posted on his Facebook page of his mom giving him advice prior to his consecration.

And now he apparently loves sharing memes!

While many bishops share short messages or information about their diocese on their Facebook pages (great to do!), Bishop Umbers is fairly unique for sharing funny memes. They often make a point about the Catholic faith, but not always.

Many of his posts make a point about the faith:

Bishop Richard Umbers  
August 23 at 8:13am · 8h  
Fedora atheists



- Does your dog growls at people?
- No, it's even worse.
- What he does?
- He judges people



Lawyer: my client is trapped inside a penny  
Judge: what?

Lawyer: he's in a cent  
Judge: you're going to jail with him



But some are just for fun!

Memes, done right, can be a highly effective way of sharing ideas in our social media world.

But Bishop Umbers only has about 2800 Likes on Facebook so far – do you think we could get him some more and help spread his messages?

You can like him right here:  
[facebook.com/  
BishopRichardUmbers](https://facebook.com/BishopRichardUmbers)

## Catholic apologist: Inclusivity means ‘everyone is welcome to receive Jesus as King’



July 18, 2017  
(LifeSiteNews) – Catholic apologist Chris Stefanick released a short video dispelling common confusion about what "everyone is welcome" means in the context of Christianity.

A castle was behind Stefanick in the video, so he decided to "reflect on the reality of kingdoms."

"Kingdoms have boundaries, rules, regulations, and kings. Jesus called himself king," said Stefanick. "Something really striking about

His ministry – He made it clear that He established a new kingdom. Now, unlike any other kingdom, everyone's invited to be part of the kingdom, which is amazing."

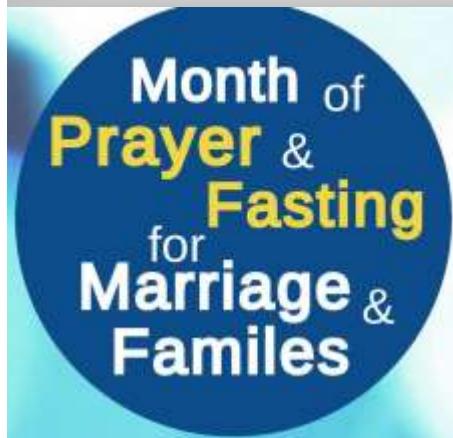
"But that also means everyone is invited to accept His reign in their lives," he continued. "I think sometimes we get confused when we talk about the 'welcome' the Church offers the world. We talk about inclusivity and we forget the fact that yes, everyone is welcome to receive Jesus as King."

"When you're part of the Kingdom, that means bowing to His authority and living a certain way," Stefanick explained. "We don't get to say we're part of the kingdom but we

don't accept His reign in our lives, we don't obey His word. That's just not how it works."



# Give up something, and pray the Rosary, for the next 31 days to support marriage



Christopher and Rosina Gordon are the Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council member couple.

They are inviting us to take part in the Month of Prayer and Fasting for Marriage and Families.

"This prayer campaign is particularly timely this year given the announcement of the postal plebiscite on marriage beginning on September 12. Again, Christians are called upon to pray for the strengthening of marriage in Australia. We also pray for our

families and in particular for those of our loved ones who experience same-sex attraction or are questioning their gender."

Last year Sydney mum Rosina Gordon, her husband Christopher and the couple's six children fasted from their favourite family restaurant chain for the whole of October as part of a national month of **prayer and fasting** for marriage and family.

The loving mother told The Catholic Leader she proposed the national initiative as a solution to help other Catholics become better at defending traditional marriage.

"We're watching the definition of marriage unfold in Australia, and as Catholics, many of us might not be very good at talking about it in the public sphere," Mrs Gordon said.

"But we have four things that no one else in the world does and that is the Rosary, Eucharist, Mass and fasting."

Mrs Gordon said that fasting is a

big thing for her kids.

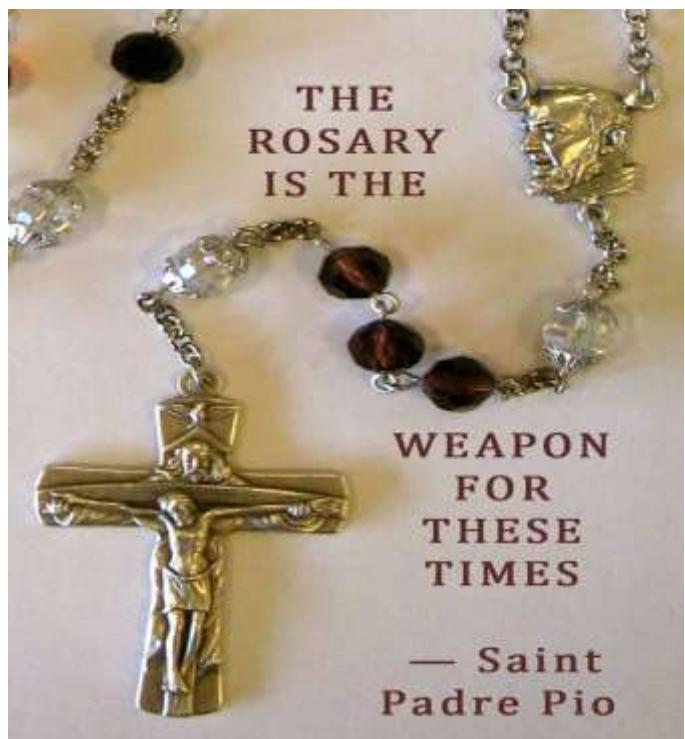
"You've got to hurt a bit or there's no point."

Last year the Gordons also said a daily family Rosary and took up a Holy Hour once a week during October.

**"If priests could encourage the Rosary at Mass we will see amazing things happen,"** she said.

This year, the Gordons say that, "more than ever we need divine assistance from our loving [Heavenly Father] and the intercession of Our Blessed Mother Mary... We encourage you to participate as best you can."

The National Day of Prayer and Fasting begins on October 1.



# 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.**

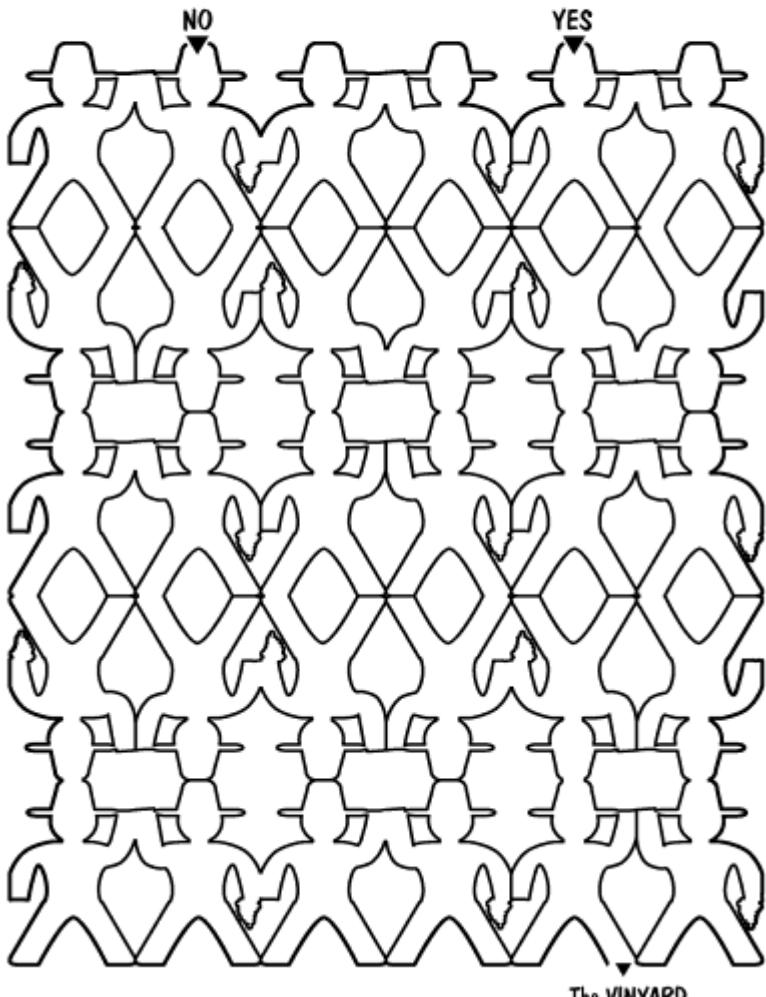
VINEYARD	WORK
BELIEVE	JOHN
KINGDOM	SHOW
FATHER	GOD
TODAY	MAN
TRUTH	WAY
THINK	TWO
SONS	

## Maze

## The Two Sons

©Praise  
kids

Two sons were asked by their Dad to go and work in the vineyard. One son told his Dad "No". The other son told his Dad "Yes". Only one of these sons did what their Dad wanted. Which son went to the vineyard? Make your way through the maze to find out which son helped his Dad.



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