

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 188

October 2018

Coming Events

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

- 6 to 7am daily;

**- overnight from 9pm Friday
through to 7am Saturdays**

Saint John XXIII Thu 11

Saint Teresa of Jesus Mon 15

**Saint Margaret Mary
Alacoque** Tue 16

Saint Ignatius of Antioch Wed 17

Saint Luke Thu 18

**Saints John de Brébeuf
and Isaac Jogues** Fri 19

Saint John Paul II Mon 22

All Saints Day Thu 1

All Souls Day Fri 2

Time does not heal all wounds



Inside this issue:

Bill Hayden converts! 4

Sr Mary Flinn 5

Best birthday ever! 6

Kids Page 8

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The date for submissions for the next
Wag is: Wednesday October 31st.

First Holy Communion

*Anyone who does eat My flesh and drink My blood has eternal life,
and I shall raise that person up on the last day. John chapter 6*



Congratulations to the children from Holy Trinity School who made their
First Holy Communion at the Saturday evening Mass in San Isidore on
September 8th!

More pictures on pages 4 and 5!



Oz Rosary Holy Hour

Join Catholics throughout the world in praying on the Feast
of the Rosary, October 7th

Holy Trinity Church,

3pm - 4pm,

Rosary for God's blessings on Australia.

For more details about Australia's participation in this Global Rosary, go to
facebook.com/OZROSARY53



PASTOR'S PAGE

Of Synods and Plenary Councils

A long time ago, way back in 1998, the Church around the world was preparing to celebrate the Year 2000. We had a wonderful theme:

Jesus Christ:
Yesterday, Today and Forever!

Those words are from the Letter to the Hebrews which come in the Bible at the end of the Letters of St Paul. Just after are the words,

"Do not let yourselves be led astray by all sorts of strange doctrines."

St John Paul, during the excitement of those days, said something very deep and simple: the program for the new millennium should not be about all sorts of complicated approaches and techniques and meetings, but about HOLINESS. That is the best way to reach out to the world, to bear witness. When everybody, young or old, sees that we *really do believe in Jesus* and that we practice what we preach, authentically, and that we know we are sinners but are doing our best with God's grace to leave sin and be more and more like Jesus, then we won't have to worry about evangelizing techniques so much because people will be drawn to Jesus through us.

In Rome this month Cardinals and Bishops and some young people from around the world are gathered for the Bishops' *Synod on Youth and Vocations*. We pray that this will bring about many blessings.

The answers about how to reach out to the young may end up being simple once again.

Some youth from America wrote that they want to see priests and bishops observing the moral law, and real action taken against abusers. They pledged to help by reporting crimes, and if there is no response they pledged to publish names on the internet. Youth from Scotland sent a message to the Synod thanking the Church for young priests who teach the whole Catholic Faith without watering it down to fit in with secular culture.

Wonderful groups of young people all around the world have taken leading roles in promoting the dignity of the unborn and the truth about Marriage. They are sharing their Catholic Faith, and organizing adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. These people are a sign that the young are just as capable of heroic faith and charity as ever before. They look to the Church to be what it was always meant to be, a light shining in the darkness, a voice crying in the wilderness, sanity in a world going mad. They do not want a tasteless Church, because they know that *"if salt loses its flavour, it is good for nothing"*. They want to be accompanied in fighting against evil, in themselves and in the world; they do not want to be accompanied in surrendering to sin.

The Plenary Council of the Dioceses of Australia in 2020 will hear many opinions from parishes across our country, as we seek to *"listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches"*.

In the Book of Revelation there are seven messages of Christ to seven dioceses, and by these the Holy Spirit teaches the whole Church lessons no less valid today. I hope everyone leading discussions about the 2020 Plenary Council will read the Book of Revelation. The Faithful are encouraged in a time of persecution to hold fast to the Faith, and not to give in to worldliness. In the message to the Church in Ephesus, the people are told,

"This is what I have against you, that you no longer love Me as you once did".

Loving Jesus more faithfully does not mean rejecting His plan for the Sacraments, or giving up believing in the permanence of marriage. Jesus is *the same yesterday, today and forever*. We must not let go of our first love and faith but rediscover how amazing it is. The best way to enliven our faith besides deeper participation in the Mass and going frequently to the renewing freshness of Confession, is to share our Faith with others.

When we do that, we experience again and again the wonder of those who have gone from unbelief to belief, who have had, like Bill Hayden, a gnawing emptiness inside, and then have realized, *"Our hearts were made for You and they are restless till they rest in You."* In those who have converted we have living signs of grace, the Holy Spirit in action.

Fr Thomas Casanova
CCS

A princess swaps and earthly title for heavenly one.

Princess Alexandra of Hanover, Granddaughter of Grace Kelly, has reportedly been removed from her distant place in the British line of succession after having become a Catholic. Because the British monarch is head of the Church of England, which is the established church, British law bars Catholics from succeeding to the throne.

Princess Alexandra, 19, was born in Austria and was baptized as a Lutheran two months after her birth. She is the daughter of Caroline, Princess of Hanover and Prince Ernst August of Hanover. Through her father she is descended from Victoria, Princess Royal, the eldest child of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Alexandra is the granddaughter of

Grace Kelly, who in 1956 became Princess of Monaco when she married Rainier III. So in addition to having been in the British line of succession, Alexandra is 12th in line to the Monegasque throne. She is a figure skater, and has represented Monaco at international skating competitions.



October Larks



**Me, after watching
12 minutes of Masterchef**

Six year old Lisa and her four year old brother Tim were sitting together with their parents in the church when Tim started giggling and talking out loud. "You're not supposed to talk loud in church!" "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Tim asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

Jamie was attending his first wedding. Afterwards, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," was Jamie's quick answer. "How do you know that?" his cousin asked. "Easy", Jamie answered. "All you have to do is add it up, like the priest said, four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer."

Bobby's parents tried their best to keep him from acting up during the morning Mass, but they were losing the battle. Finally the father picked up the little fellow and walked sternly up the aisle to apply a little discipline. Just before reaching the

foyer, little Bobby called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

At Twenty-third Avenue Christian Church, Charles Smith finished his Sunday school lesson. It was time for questions and answers. Up shot little Tony's hand.

"According to the Bible, Mr Smith, the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea. Right?" "Right." "An' the children of Israel clobbered the Philistines, right?" "That's right, Tony." "An' the children of Israel built the Temple, right?" "Right, again." "An' the children of Israel fought the 'gyptians, and' the children of Israel fought the Romans, an' the children of Israel was always doin' somethin' important, right?" "All that's right, too," agreed Smith. "So what's your question?"

"What I wanna know is this," demanded Tony. "What wuz all the grown-ups doin'?"

The pastor of the church stood before his congregation and announced, "I have bad news, I have good news, and I have bad news." "The bad news is, the church needs a new roof!" "The good news is, we have enough money for the new roof." A cheer went up from the congregation. "The bad news is, it's still in your pockets."

In Miss Lilie's kindergarten catechism class, she was teaching how everything in the world was created by God, including human

beings. Little Manny was particularly interested in how Eve was created out of Adam's rib. Later in the week the five year old's mother found him lying down as though he were ill. She asked him, "Manny, what's the matter?" To which Manny replied, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Ted: "Is it true that shepherds have dirty socks?"

Carla: "What do you mean?"

Ted: "I heard the shepherds washed their socks by night."

Margaret and Fred Ziggler wanted a "truly Christian" dog. So they went to a kennel that specialised in that particular breed. There they found a dog they liked. When they asked him to fetch a Bible, he did it in a flash.

When they instructed him to look up John 3:16, he turned right to it. "Oh, we'll take this pup, he's wonderful," said Margaret and Fred.

That night the Zigglers invited friends from their church over to meet the remarkable dog. The guests were impressed with Fido's ability to do Christian tricks. "Can he do regular dog tricks, too?" they asked. That stopped the Zigglers cold; they'd never even thought of that. "Well," they said, "let's try this out." So they clearly pronounced the command, "Heel!"

Quick as a wink, the dog jumped up, put his paw on Ziggler's forehead, closed his eyes in concentration and bowed his head.

Celebrated Australian atheist, political leader converts to Christianity at 85

BRISBANE, Australia, September 19, 2018 (LifeSiteNews) – A famous Australian politician who made no secret of his atheism has converted to Christianity.

Former Governor General Bill Hayden was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church on September 9th at St. Mary's Church, Ipswich, near Brisbane.

He told the Catholic Leader that he hoped his faith would inspire those saddened by the current crisis in the Church.

This took too long, and now I am going to be devoted," Hayden said. "From this day forward I'm going to vouch for God,"

Hayden, 85, was the leader of the Australian Labor Party from 1977 to 1983 and served as a cabinet minister in subsequent Labor governments.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade from 1983 to 1988, he left parliament to become the Queen's representative in Australia, the Governor General. He served in this post for seven years.

The politician's atheism was not of a private nature. In 1996 he was declared "the Australian Humanist of the Year" by the Council of Australian Humanist Societies.

But twenty years later, Hayden felt a tug on his heart.



Bill Hayden (left) in 1987, signing an agreement with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

"There's been a gnawing pain in my heart and soul about what is the meaning of life. What's my role in it?" he told the Catholic Leader.

"I can no longer accept that human existence is self-sufficient and isolated."

Although inspired by memories of his devout Catholic mother and the Ursuline order of sisters that taught him as a child, Hayden said that the catalyst to his conversion was a Sister of Mercy. Ninety-three-year-old Sister Angela Mary Doyle also attended his baptism.

"I have always felt embraced and loved by her Christian example," Hayden said.

In a letter to friends, Hayden wrote of a visit he and his family had paid to the retired hospital administrator.

"Dallas [my wife], our daughter Ingrid and I recently visited Sister Angela Mary in the Mater Hospital

where she was a patient," he stated.

"The next morning I woke with the strong sense that I had been in the presence of a holy woman," he continued.

"So after dwelling on these things I found my way back to the core of those beliefs – the Church."

It may seem like a very strange time to want to become a Catholic, but Hayden stated that the abuse scandals in the Church are caused by "human agents."

"The problems are caused by human agents of the Church, but we shouldn't let our faith be undermined by the action of agents who aren't quite as good as they should be," he said.

The Australian reported that Hayden said it was "witnessing so many selfless acts of compassion by Christians over his lifetime, and deep contemplation while recovering from a stroke, that prompted his decision.

He told the Catholic Leader that his new faith is ... "is about love for your fellow humans, forgiveness, compassion and helpful support."

"These characteristics are founded on the teachings of Christ and driven by faith in an external power – the Christian God whose [lack of] limitations are beyond what humans could attain," he added.



Sr Mary Flinn - 90 years telling God she loves Him

Sister Mary Flinn was born on 9th April 1923, professed on 15th January 1944 and went to meet the Lord on 17th August 2018. The following words of remembrance were delivered at Sister's funeral Mass, Holy Trinity, 27th August this year.

As Mary lay at peace on the bed which had been hers for eight years, those who knew her best, the wonderful staff of the Loreto Home, said "she was so beautiful; such a gentle lady; always with a smile and a 'hello darling'; no complaints even though she often suffered from the pain of a long time broken leg, or other problems." And we, her Presentation Sisters, smiled and agreed – this was our Mary as we had always known her.

Sister Mary Flinn, who was also known for many years as Sister Concepta, was the second eldest of a family of five – Colleen (who was with us today), Jack, Pat and Peg – who grew up at "Fairview" French Park. The Rock was their parish and it was there they attended Sunday Mass, receive the sacraments and were a strong part of the parish community.

All the Flinn children began their education at French Park Public School – a one teacher school. In 1937, Mary came into the boarding school at Mount Erin where she stayed for 4 and a half years when illness caused her to return home.

Sister Mary Flinn (Concepta)



Mary's introduction to the Presentation Sisters was obviously a happy one as she entered at Mount Erin in 1941.

After her profession Mary began her teaching career which carried her around the country schools – Hay three times, Wagga, Tarcutta, Ganmain, Young and Lockhart, teaching both primary and secondary as required, as well as being Principal many times. In the city there was St Patrick's Sutherland, Principal as well as teacher; as also at St Joan of Arc Haberfield. Where there was a need and Mary was asked, she filled it. When Sr Benedicta broke her arm and was unable to continue running the Mount Erin boarding school, it was Mary who said yes to the request made to her.

After some 40 years of classroom teaching Mary, in her unassuming way, recorded her next ministry as

"Distant Education, - Location of Mission, 'various'." The distance education was in western Queensland and New South Wales and in the Centre, staying on properties in any accommodation which was available, often sharing it with spiders, snakes and other borders. Mary loved her time with these isolated people, tutoring their children, helping Mum where necessary – once Mary and grandma ran the household when Mum had to go back to civilisation for the birth of the next baby. Mary loved these friends she made out in the bush from 1994 - 1998.

When her last ministry brought her to recognise her age and poor health, she embraced it with the same calm acceptance that was her custom. The big bed chairs became her mode of transport and rest, although occasionally she thought she would walk somewhere with painful consequences.

Mary was a centre of peace, love and prayer (her rosary beads her constant companion, except when she lost them in the bed). Her last words were in response to Mary Silk's remark to our sisters who were present in Mary's room about an hour before she died.

"Look at her. She has spent 90 years or more just telling God she loved Him".

"That's right" said the voice from the bed.

That's our Mary.

First Reconciliation 2018



“Best Birthday Ever”: How Lisa Cotter Found Herself Evangelizing in the Confession Line



Praise the Lord!

If you don't already know, Lisa Cotter has been a prolific Catholic leader for many years. She's the author of *Dating Detox*, co-hosts a Catholic podcast, and has worked with her husband Kevin Cotter for FOCUS for many years.

And she just shared an amazing story on Twitter of how God can work in unexpected ways.

The two tweets together read:

“At confession today a visibly nervous woman came in & asked

where the confessional was. After pointing it out she shared that she hadn't been in 55 years. I gave her a hug & told her welcome back. @KevinRCotter ran to the book kiosks...

“And bought her a copy of *Rediscovering Catholicism* by @MatthewFKelly. We then found her a <http://formed.org> card with the parish code (@Augustine_Inst), pointed out the adoration chapel, & prayed with her. Please pray for Norah to be brave. Best birthday ever. #35”



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Best birthday ever. #35

8:31 PM - 4 Aug 2018

11 Retweets 302 Likes

Praise the Lord! The hosts of heaven rejoice when someone returns to the faith. And the Sacrament of Confession is so powerful!

It also goes to show that you never know when God might have work for you to do – even if you're simply waiting in line for Confession.

So be prepared!

Science finds 1,500 genetic differences between boys and girls



ISRAEL, May 8, 2017 (LifeSiteNews) -- Scientists have uncovered 1,559 genetic differences between males and females that relate surprisingly to many organs such as the brain, skin, and heart.

“Overall, male or female]-specific genes are mainly expressed in the reproductive system, emphasizing the notable physiological distinction between men and women,” the scientists found. “However, scores of genes that are not known to directly associate with reproduction

were also found to have [male or female]-specific expression (e.g., the men-specific skin genes),” they added.

“Our results can facilitate the understanding of diverse biological characteristics in the context of [male and female],” the researchers stated in their conclusion.

The study, titled *The landscape of sex-differential transcriptome and its consequent selection in human adults*, was published in BMC Biology earlier this year.

In the study, researchers Moran Gershoni and Shmuel Pietrokovski of the Weizmann Institute's Molecular Genetics Department mapped out thousands of genes — the biological databases of all the information that makes every person unique — from 53 tissues that are similar to males and females, such as the skin, muscle, and brain.

The study was conducted to examine the extent to which genes determine how certain diseases target males and females differently.

“Men and women differ in obvious and less obvious ways – for example, in the prevalence of certain diseases or reactions to drugs. Weizmann Institute of Science researchers recently uncovered thousands of human genes that are expressed – copied out to make proteins – differently in [males and females],” a report from the Weizmann Institute about the findings stated.



Don't Use the Abuse Scandal to Attack Confession

by ChurchPOP Editor - August 23, 2018

The new Australian law is not so much a way of protecting children from abuse as an assault upon the Church

K.V. Turley

Earlier this summer, the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in Canberra passed new laws forcing Catholic priests to break the seal of Confession.

All three political parties in the ACT Legislative Assembly supported the bill to extend a mandatory reporting scheme that would cover churches and include the confessional. The new laws require religious organizations to report to the ACT Ombudsman allegations, offenses, or convictions related to children that have been divulged in Confession, within 30 days so that an investigation can be launched. Needless to say, there are fears that these new laws will be studied by the other States and Territory that make up the Commonwealth of Australia, bringing with it the alarming possibility of their extension nationwide.

Critics of the laws have been quick to claim that the new law is not so much a way of protecting children from abuse as an assault upon the Church. As Archbishop Christopher Prowse of Canberra and Goulburn pointed out: "The government threatens religious freedom by appointing itself an expert on religious practices and by attempting to change the sacrament of Confession while delivering no improvement in the safety of children."

So this law will be of no use to those whom it is seeking to protect and, yet, manages to criminalize those who are doing nothing illegal – in Australia a priest hearing Confession is not yet a crime.

Reading the various press reports, therefore, it is unclear as to what this legislative move will achieve. For a start, no priest will break the seal of Confession. First it would mean mortal sin on his part; secondly, he would be excommunicated as a result; and thirdly, there would never again be a queue at his confessional.

This is a pointless law aimed not at the perpetrators of crimes but at priests who have been deemed to have no rights now in this matter, even if they have done nothing wrong.

Before enacting this piece of legislation the ACT lawmakers should have watched Alfred Hitchcock's *I Confess* (1953). It would have made all too clear the likely scenario ahead. At the drama's centre there is a priest — played by Montgomery Cliff — suspected of having committed a murder. He is willing to die rather than break the seal of Confession and, thereby, reveal the true murderer. It is a great tale, told with the usual aplomb by the Master of Suspense, himself a Catholic. There is more to it though.

Throughout the film there is something noble in the priest's stubborn refusal to break the seal of Confessional even if the personal cost to him is immense. But there is more still. This is only a Hollywood film, but it captures something of the essence of the priesthood on screen. As Catholics know, when in the confessional the priest is acting in persona Christi. Catholics do not confess to a man but to God, and beg His Divine Mercy. The priest is a witness, a guarantor if you like, to what is taking place and that forgiveness for our sins is real, not a figment of our imaginations. *I Confess* catches something of the gravity of this. So grave in fact that nothing on earth could move the priest character to break that seal



and what it represents. Hollywood films such as *I Confess* may have romanticized aspects of the priesthood but, oddly, other parts, the essentials, they communicated effectively and memorably.

It is a shame a copy of *I Confess* is not to be had in Canberra or any other part of the Australian Capital Territory. Believing oneself to be right at all times, as is the case with some politicians, dampens the needs to check the impact of one's actions on others, as well as, seemingly, absolving some, such as ACT politicians, from ever thinking themselves accountable – to anyone. This mindset is in contrast to the Catholic electors in Canberra, and elsewhere, who queue up at confessionals to confirm what the rest of us already know that we are all sinners full of self-delusion, ever in need of absolution.

This new ACT law is a salvo aimed at religious freedom; it is, one, in particular, directed at Catholics.

It is quite clear to any Catholic who has ever been to Confession that that sacrament does what it says on the tin: it removes sin, and its hangers-on, shame and guilt. Furthermore, it gives the graces needed to continue the fight anew, to enter the fray afresh, more often than not, just allows us to keep going. Without it, the lukewarm way beckons, followed by the slow undulating ever-widening path to a warmer place than even the Australian Capital Territory.

Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.



The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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



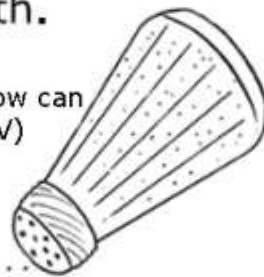
**Find the words below
hidden in the 225 letters
to the right.**

CHEMICAL	TASTE
FLAVOUR	SHIRT
LEATHER	GOOD
PLASTIC	FOOD
SHAKER	TOYS
BETTER	SALT
WORLD	DYE
PEACE	

You are the salt of the earth.

Matthew 5:13

Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again?" Mark 9: 50a (NIV)



F	E	K	R	J	I	S	H	A	K	E	R	B	G	C
Y	F	D	T	T	I	B	B	R	A	D	C	P	O	Y
V	G	A	O	F	D	H	E	L	P	K	K	O	G	L
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