

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 175

September 2017

Coming Events

Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament, Holy Trinity

- 6 to 7am daily;

- overnight from 9pm Friday
through to 7am Saturdays

Birthday of Our Lady! Fri 8

Triumph of the Cross Thu 14

Our Lady of Sorrows Fri 15

St Matthew Thu 21

St Padre Pio Sat 23

St Wenceslaus Thu 28

Archangels Fri 29

St Jerome Sat 30



Our Lady of Fatima

Forth
Apparition

Sept
13th,
1917

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The date for submissions for the next
Wag is: Wednesday Sept 27th.

Pray & Fast for a miracle for Marriage

Calling for a National Day of Prayer and Fasting

Tuesday 12 September 2017

Yes, it's a time when we can gather together, with Christians from all parts of Australia, to pray and fast on Tuesday 12 September.

This is the very same day that the postal vote goes out on whether we should redefine marriage or not.

That's why it's so important and that's why it's so strategic to make sure we gather together on this day to pray.

You can pray as you're able, in the morning and through the day, gather in churches, join at work at lunch time, fast as you're able, and let's ask God for a miracle.

What is our Scripture? **2 Chronicles 7:14**

*'If My people who bear My name humble themselves,
and pray and seek My presence and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will listen from heaven and forgive their sins
and restore their country.'*

Leaders are asking us to pray for Church, family, our nation, and righteousness, because *righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach*, it brings a judgement it brings pain it brings hurt to us all.

That's why it's important to lift up God's purpose in marriage, this beautiful thing St Paul talks about. Indeed it is a wonderful thing, and we need to have strong, stable marriages, which produce strong, stable families which ultimately builds a strong, stable nation.

So join us as we pray, tell your friends, tell your prayer groups to get involved because we need to gather, as one, to pray and fast on Tuesday September the 12th.

Let's join together and let's ask God for a Miracle for Marriage.

Spread the word to friends and family.

**Pray for Church, family, our nation, righteousness,
and marriage.**

*'If my people, who are called by my name
will humble themselves and pray
and turn from their wicked ways,
then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin,
and heal their land.'*

2 Chronicles 7:14

pastor's page - the gay 'marriage' vote

Coming up this month we have the serious responsibility to defend the reality of marriage as the union of one man and one woman for life and open to children.

The following is from a fellow priest, who also comes from a country parish.

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS

Christians in a heavy sea: the gay marriage vote

The Sunday Gospel presents a perfect analogy to our situation – yours and mine — as Catholics in Australia today.

Our Lord has sent us ahead, on a boat, to cross the Sea of Galilee. He will meet us on the other side. But now we are battling in a heavy sea, and we're sailing into a headwind.

This is the destiny of Christians in every age. As Christians, we have to navigate against the current. There's no other way. Jesus himself had to go against the current. So did the Apostles, and every disciple since. Every single person, in every age, who wished to be a faithful disciple of Christ, had to go against the current.

It's good to remind ourselves of this. It is not the teaching of Christ which should adapt itself to our time. It is the times, that must open themselves to the light of Christ.

So here we are, clutching to the sides of a dubious-looking boat: decades of clergy abuse; diabolical cover-ups; hypocrisy and clericalism; immorality and worldliness. The boat is collecting water, fast. Here we are, battling a heavy sea, nearly overcome by the headwind: abortion on demand; state-sponsored euthanasia; religion banished from our schools, replaced with gender ideology. And now there's another wave closing in, as we prepare for a national vote on same-sex marriage.

The Apostles struggle against the wind, but their efforts seem useless. The boat lurches around, tossed by the waves. So what do we do? We can clutch to the sides of this sinking boat, or we can do something. Be responsive! Show

some initiative!

We could leap overboard, and hasten back to shore. To that place of happy memories and a secure future, where we left Jesus not so long ago. We can withdraw from modern society. Disengage, completely, from this pernicious culture. Back to shore: there we will find our feet, and bask in the warmth of the sun.

Or, alternatively, we could embrace the storm. Negotiate the wind, and conform to the current. We can integrate the 'medieval' teachings of Christ with a modern, more tolerant outlook. Abolish the old hierarchy – inaugurate a new priesthood. Embrace abortion rights; mercy killing; trans-theory; gay marriage. As long as we "judge not," and "tolerate all," as long as we follow the Lord's moral principles, only slightly tweaked and modernised, we can save the boat, save ourselves, ride out the storm and, eventually, get to the other side.

But Jesus Christ is not merely a moral teacher, confined by his times and culture. Jesus Christ is Lord of history, Son of God, God Himself. He is our Creator and our Redeemer. He is the Alpha and the Omega. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Heb 13:8) He went against the current, and anyone who follows him will go against the current. So we don't abandon ship and swim back to shore. We don't change course, and sail with the wind. We persevere, like the Apostles, faithful to our Lord's request. He placed us in this boat; he set our course.

To persevere, to be faithful, we must be able to love. As the public campaign heats up, many proponents of gay marriage — activists and politicians on TV, maybe even friends and family in

our own lives — will call us bigoted and homophobic. But we're not.

Many of us have close friends and relatives who are gay. Colleagues too. As a priest, I serve very many gays and lesbians. Some of them embrace the gay lifestyle; some of them embrace Catholic teaching and Christian chastity. Some of them support gay marriage; some of them oppose gay marriage. So let's be clear — at least in our own hearts and minds: gay marriage isn't about "accepting gays or opposing gays;" it isn't about "tolerance versus bigotry." Gay marriage is about marriage. At least in our own hearts and minds.

If the "no" vote wins, if marriage is not redefined, many hearts will be broken. The Church is not in the business of breaking hearts. You and I, as disciples of Christ, aren't in the business of breaking hearts. But nor is the Church in the business of being nice; promoting tolerance. The Church's business is saving souls. You and I, as disciples of Christ, are in the business of saving souls.

A "yes" vote, which redefines marriage, won't save a single soul. But voting "no" won't save souls either. We don't fulfil our Christian obligations by opposing gay marriage. That's simply dodging another wave, battling against the wind, navigating the heavy sea. Discipleship demands much more. Discipleship demands heroic love. It means seeking men and women — our brothers and sisters: friends, relatives, colleagues, acquaintances — who are out in the water, at the mercy of the storm. Praying for them; befriending them; loving them.

As a young man, Joseph Sciambra joined San Francisco's promiscuous gay sub-culture; he



became a porn actor and an escort. After a near-death experience in 1999, he found Christ. Or rather, Christ found him. Now he dedicates himself in full-time Catholic ministry to gay men. In his blog last week, he laid down the gauntlet to Christian husbands and fathers: "If you know a gay man, call him. Hang out with him. Offer him sincere friendship. Offer him authentic masculine camaraderie. Give him a reason to withdraw from toxic gay culture."

I'm nervous just repeating that. It sounds intolerant, doesn't it? Many will call it homophobic. But this is what love looks like. This is what Christian discipleship looks like. It demands we go against the current. It demands courage. Reaching out

to people in the sea, loosing our grasp of the boat, leaves us vulnerable. But we have to be vulnerable, if we want to love.

So we persevere. The Apostles struggled against the wind. Their efforts seemed futile. Jesus wanted them to grow strong through adversity, but he didn't leave them on their own. In the fourth watch of the night, he came to them. He will come for us too. And with him at the helm, we will get to the other side of the sea.

In the meantime, don't jump overboard and head back to shore. Don't change course, and conform with the world. Stay the course; persevere with the Apostles, against the current. And reach out to others, with sincere love and friendship.

Love is action, not sweet words.

Jesus Christ doesn't need any of us. And yet he needs all of us! And we need him. Let's be souls of prayer. Let's open our hearts to him, every day. When we open our hearts to him, he will open his heart to us. And then we will be filled with the courage of Peter, and we too will make headway.

From Fr John Corrigan



September Sillies



A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 80. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

A reporter was interviewing a 103 year-old great grandfather: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 103?" the reporter asked. He simply replied, "No peer pressure."

A Grandfather who had serious hearing problems for a number of years went to the doctor to be fitted for a hearing aid that would return his hearing to 100%. The grandpa went back for further tests a month later and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." To which the elderly man replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

"To a small child, the perfect granddad is unafraid of big dogs and fierce storms but absolutely terrified of the word "boo."

"An hour with your grandchildren can make you feel young again. Anything longer than that, and you start to age quickly."

"I wish I had the energy that my grandchildren have – if only for self-defense."

"Grandchildren don't stay young forever, which is good because Pop-pops have only so many horsey rides in them."

"I want to die in my sleep like my grandfather – not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car."

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these colours yourself!"

Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!



Dealing with Objections from Homosexual Marriage Advocates

Bill Muehlenburg, Aug 28, 2017



Those seeking to redefine the institution of marriage are willing to say anything and do anything to bring it about, and quite often they rely heavily on outright falsehoods, deception and misinformation as they seek to “argue” their case.

This is typical “debating” style of the activists: keep throwing up one charge, accusation and objection after another, over and over again, and simply seek to wear down the other side. There are even logical fallacies about such tactics, including the *argumentum ad nauseam*, *argumentum ad infinitum* (argument from repetition).

Here are five related objections ... I have answered all these claims countless times, but it seems I must continue doing so. Here then are more responses to objections raised by the pro-homosexual marriage camp, all centring on the issue of children.

Objection one

The first and most common objection they will throw our way is to try to claim that marriage has nothing to do with children. Wrong: the institution of marriage never would have come into existence if it were not for children. Societies take a great interest in marriage because they take a great

interest in children – the next generation.

This is so patently false that I already have dealt with it in a full-length article, so I direct your attention to it for much more detail: billmuehlenberg.com/2017/08/25/yes-marriage-really-children/

Objection two

Related to this is the claim that if a married couple has no children, we are saying they are not really married. Nope – no one is saying childless couples who are married (either through choice or because of infertility) are not in a real marriage.

This again misses the point. The institution of marriage came into being because children – generally speaking – are the product of the male-female union. ...

If a couple does not have children, that does not negate this basic purpose. Just as a book does not cease to be a book if it remains unread on a shelf, marriage does not cease to be marriage if a minority of couples cannot have children or do not want to have children.

When we raise the importance of the wellbeing of children, we are not saying no to homosexual marriage just because they cannot naturally have children. With the new Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) they now can. But – and this is a very important but – all children in homosexual households are obviously missing out on a biological mother or father.

That is what children need most. They are deliberately being denied that in homosexual households. That is a form of child neglect, if not child abuse. And this leads me to the next objection.

Objection three

It is frequently claimed that family structure does not matter, and that children do just fine in any type of household. These folks claim that children in homosexual households do just as well as those in married

heterosexual households. Wrong again: we now have well over a half century of social science research telling us this is demonstrably untrue.

What the research shows over and over again is quite clear: on the whole, and in most cases, children do best when raised in homes with their biological mother and father, preferably cemented by marriage. The research data on this is overwhelming.

Whether we look at educational outcomes, criminal involvement, drug usage, suicide rates, or other measurable social outcomes, children do best with a mum and a dad who are married. This family structure does far better than any other kind, be it a single-family household, a blended family, a step-family, cohabitation, a homosexual household, and so on.

While there may be exceptions to this, exceptions do not make the rule. Sure, we can all find some cases of lousy heterosexual parenting, but that does not diminish the results of the research. For the great majority of children, they have the best outcomes in the married, heterosexual two-parent home.

See this two-part article for just a small sampling of the tremendous amount of social science material we now have on this:

And then we have the growing collection of stories of those who were raised in homosexual households telling us how they feel about this – how they missed out and were hard done by. Plenty of these stories can be mentioned. See here for more on this: billmuehlenberg.com/2015/02/03/homosexual-marriage-listen-to-the-children/



billmuehlenberg.com



Next month Katy Faust from the US will be in Sydney. She is another one who was raised in such a household. She knows full well about all the negatives to this. She very much wishes she had had her own mother and father. I have shared her story here: billmuehlenberg.com/2015/08/13/speaking-truth-on-homosexual-marriage-and-parenting/

Objection four

Yet we still hear that homosexuals should have marriage. They say that marriage is good for people, and good for children, so we should have homosexual marriage. This is another case of twisting the data and telling porkies for an ideology.

Is marriage good for people and good for children? Absolutely, and again we have a wealth of social science data on this. People do better by all measures when married, and so do their children. See here for a brief overview of some of the research on this: billmuehlenberg.com/2000/12/19/a-review-of-the-case-for-marriage-by-linda-waite-and-maggie-gallagher/

But – and once again this but is crucial – it is NOT any old kind of “marriage” which is so good for people and children. It certainly is NOT the fake “marriage” of two

men or two women which provides the best outcomes for people and for children.

It is HETEROSEXUAL marriage which is so beneficial to adults and which gives children the very thing they need most to succeed and thrive: their very own biological mother and father. That is what real marriage does: it seals a husband and wife together, and it seals mother and father together with any children so conceived.

Objection five

Some will claim that even though homosexuals cannot naturally have children, they can use various forms of ART, just as some heterosexual couples do. I can offer two responses here. First, plenty of us have very real concerns indeed about ART.

My next bioethics book will be all about IVF and surrogacy and the many shortcomings and problems thereof. So just because some heterosexuals make use of the various means of ART does not mean we all think it is acceptable. These things are incredibly problematic. See here for starters: billmuehlenberg.com/2007/08/30/concerns-about-ivf/

But much more importantly, the fundamental and crucial difference is this. Heterosexuals do NOT normally need ART, given that they (or at least the great majority) can naturally have children just by virtue of being heterosexual. They need no assistance along the way, because a man and woman together are clearly designed to be able to have children.

In a minority of cases (perhaps 10-15 per cent max) some couples are infertile for various reasons, and so some will resort to ART. We call this biological or physical infertility. They ordinarily are able to have

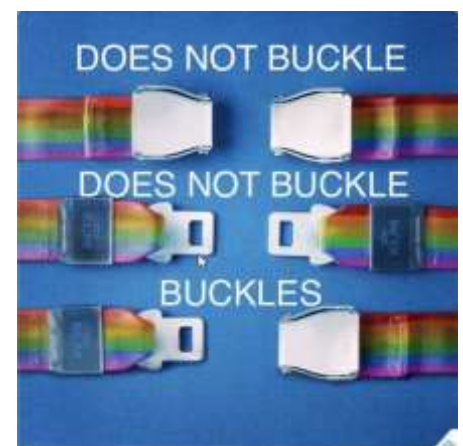
children, but something is amiss, so extraordinary means are sought.

Not so with homosexual couples however. By definition and by reality, they CANNOT naturally have children. They can NEVER have children, except by things like ART. So theirs is a “social infertility”. It is brought about by seeking to do what nature never intended. Human beings are not amoebas and do not reproduce asexually. We are made male and female, and only male and female together can naturally produce children...

Men and women in a complementary union are designed to have children, while two men or two women are not and cannot.

There are plenty more such objections raised by the activists, or by those with legitimate questions on all this. ... I have hundreds of articles on this site which have already dealt with these sorts of objections and criticisms.

And of course my two books on the matter, *Strained Relations*, and *Dangerous Relations* deal with all this in great amounts of detail. They contain some 1,200 footnotes for those who want everything carefully referenced and documented.



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.”**

Check out Archbishop Fisher’s August 31st Catholic Weekly article!

'*Because of Grácia*': A pro-life film that will appeal to teens

Dorothy Cummings McLean

HAWAII, August 29, 2017 (LifeSiteNews) — Last night, I watched the new pro-life teen movie *Because of Grácia*, and I loved it. It's a movie with serious themes and a small budget, so I wasn't expecting charismatic stars, or sparkling dialogue, or a great soundtrack. However, there they were in abundance.

There is real chemistry between the eponymous Grácia Davis (played by singer Moriah Peters) and the quirky Chase Morgan (Chris Massoglia). Brett Simes, as Chase's best buddy OB, was adorable. The two teachers, atheist Mr. Livingston (Owen Presland-White) and quietly Christian Mr. Brady (Ben Davies), also stood out as people I'd like to know in real life.

In fact, I liked the classroom scenes best. This is perhaps not surprising as the writer-director is a veteran schoolteacher. Massive respect to Tom Simes for writing the potentially villainous Mr. L as a heroic defender of free speech — a value Grácia tests to its limits.

That the characters are fully drawn is a major strength. An overly amorous character seems less a vile seducer than a victim of his own hormone-addled teenage brain. The impossibly confident Grácia, whose crinkle-eyed smile lights up the screen, trembles at the thought of exposing her un-PC beliefs to her classmates. The almost-too-cool-for-school Mr. L loses his temper ... Goofy, daydreaming Chase has a transformative hidden talent. Even one of the local Mean Girls has a change of heart.

From *Bella* to *Grácia* with Love

Today, I spoke to a big fan of *Because of Grácia*: pro-life activist and film producer Jason Jones. Jones was an executive producer

for the prize-winning, pro-life favorite *Bella*. As October marks *Bella*'s 10th anniversary, Jones wants to celebrate by promoting Grácia.

"It's such a cool, soulful film," said Jones. "What I admired a lot about it was [how much was done with] a super-small budget. And I liked the dialogue. I thought the dialogue is going to be really appealing to young people, and it had a realism to it."

The realism of the dialogue spills into the action and the teenagers' feelings for each other.

"I liked the way [the film] captured ... the life of young people ... but they did it in a way that's not scandalous," Jones added. "And it was beautiful — in [contrast to] a culture in which there's not even dating anymore ...



I'm 45, so when I was that age, you know, there was a beauty in the awakening of noticing girls. I think that this film captured that, and it really promoted chastity. And I loved it."

Jones was effusive in his praise of writer-director-schoolteacher Tom Simes:

"It's obvious from the film that he's very thoughtful, very empathetic. He's a real keen observer of his students. I liked that about the film. I liked that it was fun. It deals with the most serious topic in the world, but in the end it's ... a fun film. And I like the

music. The soundtrack is great."

Jones thinks the popular quality of *Because of Grácia* makes it perfect for teens.

"It's not *Bella* in that *Bella* had this high art quality to it," he said. "But in many ways *Bella* might have gone over the head of the average teenager, whereas *Because of Grácia* goes right to the heart of the average young person."

Actors committed to life

A similarity between *Bella* and *Because of Grácia* is the commitment of the stars to promoting a culture of life.

"In Eduardo, we had this brilliant, handsome, articulate spokesperson for our cause," said Jones. "A lot of other pro-life films have had stars who were bashful about speaking beyond their roles. But Chris Massoglia, who plays Chase, he is just so courageously pro-life. And this is a Hollywood actor, you know? So Chris is this brave, fearless spokesperson. I love following him on social media because he's always hammering Planned Parenthood."

"And then you have Moriah Peters. She's just this charming ... beautiful personality. She stood up to the producers of *American Idol* when she was trying to get her career going. They mocked her for never having kissed a boy. They told her to go back and kiss a boy and then come back to Hollywood. So she went back, she got married to a young man from the very popular band King and Country, kissed him, and now she's back in Hollywood with a big movie."

"Moriah Peters and Chris Massoglia remind me of Eduardo in that they're actors, yes, but they're not afraid of the material

‘Because of Grácia’ continued ...

and they’re not afraid to express their convictions. And I’m really hoping that the pro-life movement raises them up.”

“We’re not going to end abortion with one movie. Just like we’re not going to end abortion with one politician or one poem or one song or one pregnancy center. Working

with the free institutions of civil society we need to be creative, we need to promote the truth of the human person with beauty. That’s a calling. There’s not one movie or song or politician that’s going to save our culture.

Thankful for the success of *Bella* and his other films, Jones wants to

promote *Because of Grácia* as a way of “paying it forward.”

“I can never repay all those countless people who made *Bella* a success,” he said. “But what I ask of all those people who made *Bella* a success 10 years ago is ‘Let’s make *Because of Grácia* a success as well — to change the culture.’”

The Catholic and Liturgical Origin of Pizza



By Dr. Taylor Marshall

I am in Rome teaching a course to Seminarians: “The History and Theology of Rome” for the Rome Experience.

While enjoying some pizza near Piazza Navona, my son asked:

“Dad, where does pizza come from?”

So I looked it up. The earliest reference to “pizza” is from AD 997 in a Latin text from the Italian town of Gaeta:

The text states that there were to be delivered to the bishop of Gaeta should receive duodecim pizze (twelve pizzas) every Christmas day and another duodecim pizze (twelve pizzas) every Easter Sunday. Here we have the earliest reference to “pizza” and it includes pizza delivery.

Since the town of Gaeta at that time

belonged to the Byzantine Empire, the Latinized word “pizze” is likely a corruption of the Greek “pitta” or “πίττα” – a reference to “flatbread.” So the first recorded pizza parties (12 pizzas!) goes back to the Bishop of Gaeta.

I came to Christ in a round about way from a Major League Baseball signature referencing Romans 10:9 on a Dominos Pizza gift from Thomas Monahan to my father (a long story), so I rather like this origin of pizza.

Godspeed,
Taylor

Australians are tough! We’re not afraid of anyth...



Parish event - ASCEND

“ASCEND” is an amazing and fruitful mini course on prayer. Rick Parmenter is hosting this mini course at Holy Trinity Parish Meeting Room.

Join in for 4 Tuesday nights from 7.30-8.30, Sep 5, then Sep 12, 19, 26.

For more details and where to register, look for the poster in foyer and the ASCEND business cards.

The course is free - don’t miss out!



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.

EXCHANGE	GIVE
FOLLOW	FIND
FORFEIT	SELF
WORLD	SAVE
WHOLE	SOUL
CROSS	GAIN
GOOD	LOSE
DENY	LIFE

Take Up Your Cross

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24 (NIV)"



I will follow Jesus, our leader.

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