

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 187

September 2018

Coming Events

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Trinity

- 6 to 7am daily;

- overnight from 9pm Friday through to 7am Saturdays

St Gregory the Great Mon 3

Ember Day Fri 7

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sat 8

St John Chrysostom Thu 13

Triumph of the Holy Cross Fri 14

Our Lady of Sorrows Sat 15

St Robert Bellarmine Mon 17

Sts Andrew Kim Taegön & Paul Chông Hasang Thu 20

St Matthew Fri 21

Sts Cosmas and Damian Wed 26

St Vincent de Paul Thu 27

St Wenceslaus Fri 28

Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael Sat 29

Monthly Cuppa, after 9am Mass on last Sunday of the month.

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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: Wednesday October 3rd.

Sacraments to the Home Bound

A regular feature and priestly occupation of the West Wagga Parish is the ministry to those people who are no longer able to attend Sunday or daily Mass. Usually after many faithful years of worshipping God, although they cannot come to God at Mass, God wants to come to them in their home, retirement village or hospital.

Of course, while all are obliged to attend Mass and so fulfil the Sunday obligation (CCC 2181), the aged, the infirm, and the disabled are excused and need not fear offending God. These people can call the parish and ask if they too may receive Holy Communion while convalescing. All can notify the priests when a family member or a fellow parishioner desires to receive the Sacrament of Penance, Holy Communion or the Anointing of the Sick whilst in hospital or at home.

Each Thursday morning Holy Communion is distributed to various homes. The reception of weekly Holy Communion is such a tremendous blessing that no one should miss out if due to age or illness they are no longer able to attend Mass.

Congratulations to Mrs Roma Antill who recently celebrated her 90th birthday with her 5 children, 15 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild! Roma has been a parishioner for over 40 years. Though she loved to get out and about when she could, now at home Roma never misses the opportunity for the reception of the Sacraments of Penance, the Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion.

Since 2003, the weekly distribution of Jesus in Holy Communion has not only continued among the many homes in the parish, but also at the Riverina Gums Retirement Village. Parishioner residents have always been keen for their regular weekly reception of the Lord, the Living Bread of Life (Jn 6: 51).



Riverina Gums Parishioners (L to R): Mary Turner, Ruth Parnell, Margaret Gaynor, Marie Molone, Von Post, Beryl Johnstone, Jean Bush, Maureen Norman, Michael Powell, Doris Hill, Sylvia Mahoney

pastor's page - Protecting our Children

This weekend is dedicated to a number of issues including the election, thinking about blood donations, but most of all, **praying and working to make the Church safe for children**. This issue is especially in our minds due to the recent Royal Commission recommendations and the accounts of abuse in America, including abuse against children, teenagers and seminarians.

Pope Francis wrote a letter to the People of God expressing sadness and determination to do whatever is necessary to care for victims and to stop abusers and cover ups. He called for prayer and penance as the first step in discerning what to do.

One of the Bishops of the US went further: he announced that as a Bishop who felt shame at what Bishops had done and failed to do, he himself would spend 24 hours straight in his Cathedral doing penance and prayer. He humbly invited the people to join him for an hour or a few minutes but recognized that it was first his duty to do the penance.

This is better than just asking laity to do penance, because the problem has not been firstly the culture of the whole church but the culture of the priests and bishops which allowed this to happen and for complaints to be so poorly acted on in the past. In the US since 2002 few new cases of abuse against children have happened, but there has been little done to punish bishops who were themselves abusers or enablers, and who tolerated known immorality. To hear such bishops say "It's everybody's fault" and "We all have to change", without saying firstly, "Through my fault", and saying "I

have to change" is not satisfactory. Yes, we all need to fight against our own sin, but the abusers and enablers have firstly to be held to account and to be removed.

A press release from the Vatican said that such news as has come out recently evokes feelings of sadness and shame. I feel something else, and I know that any parent would also feel something else very strongly, **anger!** It was Fr Michael Schmitz who expressed this so well.



He made a video about how he felt (we have it on our *West Wagga Catholic Parish* Facebook page). Firstly he said that he had presumed his friends knew how he would feel, and that doing a video was nothing compared with the incredible bravery of victims who had spoken publicly of their suffering. He had tears in his eyes when he spoke about them. But he went on to say that what he heard of abuse was the absolute worst thing he had ever heard, and **"I can't tell you how furious I am!"**

At last! To hear that a priest has the anger which will result in real action, the same anger in the face of evil that all true fathers should feel. Not just more talk, not just more clichés which could have been prepared by a PR company, but real sorrow, anger and determination to act, to bring justice, including bringing the abusers and those who were guilty of enabling them to justice. I realized he was speaking my language, he is on my side, as I am on the side of those who have been abused and on the side of those whom we vow to protect to the best of our ability.

I too am angry. I am angry at those who wilfully deny the causes of abuse as revealed by reliable studies. I'm angry that there were not in place ways for Bishops in the US to be brought to justice, and that they downplayed the damage done when seminarians were abused. I'm shocked and angry that after priests had been sent to psychologists who said they had cured the abuser and then he abused again, the bishops were so foolish as to trust those same psychologists and send the same priest there again. I'm angry that bishops and priests and even Cardinals protected not the reputation of the Church but their own network of wicked men, and that they did indeed network and infiltrate and work against those who would try to remove them.

I am angry on behalf of victims and their families, and innocent priests who bear this shame and the whole Church wounded by these sins. This is about sin, which is a spiritual disease which must be cured, with prayer and penance but also with action.

Pastor's page continued ...

Anger, the kind that Jesus showed when He turned the tables in the Temple, and when He mentioned mill stones tied around the necks of those who would harm children, that kind of anger is the fruit of true love. Does not a mother bear become ferocious when her cubs are threatened? It is compatible also

with peace, the peace that comes from knowing we are fighting on the side of Christ and His Mother.

May Our Blessed Mother pray for us now, that light would continue to be shone everywhere to expose evil and bring justice, that priests would all be manly like St Joseph, sharing

the true spirit of fatherhood which protects and husbandhood which is faithful. An especially may she pray for the victims, that they will know they are God's children, valued, precious and that we are all here for them. Amen.

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS

September Sillies



What flowers grow on faces? Tulips (Two-lips)!

Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the Fall they "Let It Go" and in the Spring they "turn over a new leaf".

What did the tree say to spring? What a re-leaf.

What do you call a girl with a frog on her head? Lily!

Why did the boy start a gardening business? Because he wanted to rake in the cash!

Why did the farmer plant a seed in his pond? He was trying to grow a water-melon.

Can bees fly in the rain? Not without their little yellow jackets!

What did the big flower say to the little one? You're really growing, bud!



What did the mother worm say to the little worm who was late? "Where in earth have you been?"

Spring is here: Time to stock up on: Tissues? Check. Eye drops? Check. Nasal spray? Check. Surgical mask? Hmm, why not.

Sneezed 100 times today? Yep, it's definitely spring!

Spring: When you have to endure four months of people asking you, "Why are you crying?"

Spring: When your nose does more running than you do.



There's nothing like a warm spring day to remind you to take your antihistamines.

A guy goes into a restaurant and is greeted by the hostess, who asks: "Smoking or non-smoking?" "Non-smoking," he replies. He is seated and the waiter comes over to his table to take his drink order. "I'll have a Coke," he states. The waiter says: "Diet or regular?" "Regular." "Caffeine or caffeine-free?"

"With caffeine."

The drink is brought to his table and the guy orders his food. The waiter asks what kind of dressing he'd like on his salad: "Italian, French, Thousand Island or raspberry vinaigrette?"

"Italian."

"Regular or fat-free?"

"Regular."

The man orders a steak with vegetables and potato.

"How do you want that prepared: rare, medium rare, medium well or well done?"

"Medium well."

"How do you want your vegetables: raw, steamed, baked, boiled, blanched or fried?"

"Boiled."

"And how would you like your potato: Baked, French fried or mashed?"

"Baked."

Finally, the poor man has had enough and looks up to heaven and shouts: "I can't take all of these choices!"

The man calls up his patron saint saying: "St. Francis, help me — help me with all these decisions!" At that moment a voice calls from the sky: "Assisi, Xavier or DeSales?"



The No. 1 Thing I've Learned From Talking With Fallen-Away Catholics

by Katie Warner

I've worked for Catholics Come Home, the international media apostolate working to invite fallen-away Catholics and others home to the Church, since its founding in 1997. This has afforded me, personally, the opportunity to dialogue with hundreds of fallen-away Catholics who contact the organization after seeing a Catholics Come Home TV commercial or stumbling upon the CatholicsComeHome.org website. Those who reach out to the apostolate via email, phone or mail make up a small but strong sample of the millions of people that Catholics Come Home has reached out to in less than a decade, and they have taught me a lot about those who leave the Church.

The messages I receive from these inactive Catholics range from cordial to scathing, and it didn't take me long in this ministry to see that there are common threads in their conversations. Many of these people are hurting; many are angry; many are lost. All have stories; all have reasons for leaving — reasons ranging from "I just drifted away" to "I don't believe in these teachings" to "Someone in the Church wronged me" (with the first and the last reasons being most common).

But perhaps the most-shared feeling or expression in the many correspondences I have fielded over the years is this: Almost all of these fallen-away Catholics want to know that someone cares.

They want to know that someone cares that they left. They want to know that someone not only notices their absence, but also is actually saddened, or at least affected by it. Sadly, many, if not most, of these inactive Catholics have never found anyone to express this concern to them.

So I make an effort to tell fallen-away Catholics who reach out to Catholics Come Home that they are missed, and their brothers and sisters in Christ — including me — want them home and that their Heavenly Father in particular wants them to again be a part of the Catholic Church that Jesus Christ founded.

As a unity in the Body of Christ, a living organism, we aren't the same without them, and we care that they are away.

It never ceases to amaze me how even the seemingly hardest of hearts in an initial correspondence can be turned around after hearing that someone, anyone, cares about them and about their leaving the barque of St. Peter. I've been moved to tears more times than I can count by people who seemed bent on spewing their rage toward the Church and have then responded to my reply with words like, "Thank you for answering. You are the first person to respond to me ... and to care." Some of these people have admitted attempting to reach out to other people or organizations, seeking a listening ear or an extended hand of welcome, only to be further disappointed by the fact that not only did they exit the Church without a single person knowing that they had gone, but they also couldn't find anyone to help them explore the possibility of returning.

So many of our fallen-away family, friends, co-workers, relatives, neighbors and even strangers whom God puts in our path are desperately wanting to know that they are missed. Many just need to hear it from one person — and that one person can be you.

When you come in contact with people away from the Church, I encourage you to do two rather



simple, yet important, things.

First, tell them they are missed and that you care that they are away. I used to think it sounded cheesy to say that out loud or in writing, but I discovered that it really was what so many of these people wanted to hear. I add the caveat that you must mean it. Your words, tone and demeanor must be genuine. They need real empathy.

Second, invite them home. Often, when we ask people who return to the Church, after coming across a Catholics Come Home commercial or the website, why it is that they came back, they respond, "Because you invited me." Don't miss the opportunity to extend the invitation that may be the catalyst in that fallen-away Catholic's journey back to Christ and his Church.

Pope Francis has warned of the danger of Catholics being "backseat Christians." Don't take a backseat when it comes to welcoming fallen-away Catholics home. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to people whom you can encourage on their faith journeys. That is certainly a prayer that God loves to answer. And when God puts that beloved, wandering child of his in your path, remember the words of the King in Matthew's Gospel: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

"A nation always gets the kind of politicians it deserves. If a time ever comes when the religious Jews, Protestants and Catholics ever have to suffer under a totalitarian state, which would deny to them the right to worship God according to the light of their conscience, it will be because for years they thought it made no difference what kind of people represented them in Congress, and because they abandoned the spiritual in the realm of the temporal."

Ven. Fulton J. Sheen, The Catholic Hour, 1947

The Price of a Miracle

An eight-year-old child heard her parents talking about her little brother. All she knew was that he was very sick and they had no money left. They were moving to a smaller house because they could not afford to stay in the present house after paying the doctor's bills. Only a very costly surgery could save him now and there was no one to loan them the money.

When she heard her daddy say to her tearful mother with whispered desperation, 'Only a miracle can save him now', the little girl went to her bedroom and pulled her piggy bank from its hiding place in the closet. She poured all the change out on the floor and counted it carefully.

Clutching the precious piggy bank tightly, she slipped out the back door and made her way six blocks to the local drugstore. She took a quarter from her bank and placed it on the glass counter.

"And what do you want?" asked the pharmacist.

"It's for my little brother," the girl answered back. "He's really very sick and I want to buy a miracle."

"I beg your pardon?" said the

pharmacist.

"His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my daddy says only a miracle can save him. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, child. I'm sorry," the pharmacist said, smiling sadly at the little girl.

"Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I can try and get some more. Just tell me how much it costs."

In the shop was a well-dressed customer. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," she replied with her eyes welling up. "He's really sick and mommy says he needs an operation. But my daddy can't pay for it, so I have brought my savings".

"How much do you have?" asked the man.

"One dollar and eleven cents; but I can try and get some more", she answered barely audibly.

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man, "A dollar and eleven cents - the exact price of a Miracle for

little brother."

He took her money in one hand and held her hand with the other. He said, "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the kind of Miracle you need."

That well-dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a neurosurgeon. The operation was completed without charge and it wasn't long before Andrew was home again and doing well.

"That surgery," her mom whispered, "was a Real Miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost."

The little girl smiled. She knew exactly how much the Miracle cost ... one dollar and eleven cents ... plus the Faith of a little child.



Introducing **The Adventures of Saint John Paul the Great** video game created by Xt3.com in collaboration with game developer, Regine Caramancion.

The 2D platform video game follows the incredible life of Saint John Paul the Great.

Adventure through five stages of his life, from being a young Polish man named Karol Wojtyla, to becoming a priest during Nazi occupation of his homeland, and eventually becoming the Pope.

The game was launched at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2017 in Sydney, and is now available to play on PC and Mac computers for home or educational use.

WINNER OF 'BEST USE OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA' 2018 ACPA AWARD

WHO IS SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT?

St John Paul the Great, widely known as Pope John Paul II, served as Pope from 1978 to 2005, and was the second longest serving pope in modern history. A Polish native, John Paul II is recognised as helping to end Communist rule in Poland and eventually all of Europe.

Born Karol Jozef Wotjyla in the small town of Wadowice, as a young boy and even as a priest, Karol was athletic and enjoyed hiking in the mountains. Once called to be a priest, he had to enter an underground seminary established to avoid Nazi surveillance in Poland. He went onto become Archbishop of Krakow, then Cardinal and eventually Pope. During his papacy, he survived two assassination attempts, one of which resulted in serious injury. He is also known as one of the most travelled world leaders in history, visiting 129 countries during his pontificate.



VIDEO GAME!

www.sydneycatholic.org/youth/jp2game/

St. Thomas Aquinas and the Art of Making a Public Argument

by Bishop Robert Barron



There is, in many quarters, increasing concern about the hyper-charged political correctness that has gripped our campuses and other forums of public conversation. Even great works of literature and philosophy—from Huckleberry Finn and Heart of Darkness to, believe it or not, Kant's Critique of Pure Reason—are now regularly accompanied by "trigger warnings" that alert prospective readers to the racism, sexism, homophobia, or classism contained therein.

And popping up more and more at our colleges and universities are "safe spaces" where exquisitely sensitive students can retreat in the wake of jarring confrontations with points of view with which they don't sympathize. My favorite example of this was at Brown University where school administrators provided retreat centers with play-doh, crayons, and videos of frolicking puppies to calm the nerves of their students even before a controversial debate commenced! Apparently even the prospect of public argument sent these students to an updated version of day-care.

Of course a paradoxical concomitant of this exaggerated sensitivity to giving offense is a proclivity to aggressiveness and verbal violence; for once authentic debate has been ruled out of court, the only recourse contesting parties have is to some form of censorship or bullying.

There is obviously much that can and should be mocked in all of this, but I won't go down that road.

Instead, I would like to revisit a time when people knew how to have a public argument about the most hotly-contested matters. Though it might come as a surprise to many, I'm talking about the High Middle Ages, when the university system was born. And to illustrate the medieval method of disciplined conversation there is no better candidate than St. Thomas Aquinas. The principal means of teaching in the medieval university was not the classroom lecture, which became prominent only in the 19th century German system of education; rather, it was the *quaestio disputata* (disputed question), which was a lively, sometimes raucous, and very public intellectual exchange. Though the written texts of Aquinas can strike us today as a tad turgid, we have to recall that they are grounded in these disciplined but decidedly energetic conversations.

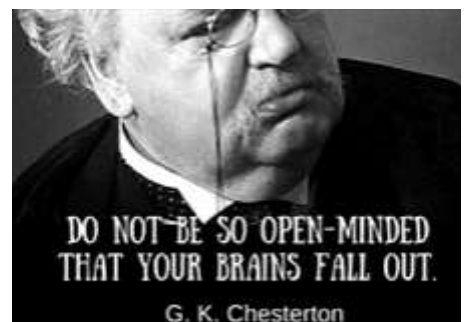


If we consult Aquinas's masterpiece, the *Summa theologiae*, we find that he poses literally thousands of questions and that not even the most sacred issues are off the table, the best evidence of which is article three of question two of the first part of the *Summa*: "utrum Deus sit?" (whether there is a God). If a Dominican priest is permitted to ask even that question, everything is fair game; nothing is too dangerous to talk about. After stating the issue, Thomas then entertains a series of objections to the position that he will eventually take. In many cases, these represent a distillation of real counter-claims and queries that Aquinas would have heard during *quaestiones disputatae*. But for our purposes, the point to emphasize is

that Thomas presents these objections in their most convincing form, often stating them better and more pithily than their advocates could. In proof of this, we note that during the Enlightenment, rationalist philosophes would sometimes take Thomistic objections and use them to bolster their own anti-religious positions. To give just one example, consider Aquinas's devastatingly convincing formulation of the argument from evil against the existence of God: "if one of two contraries were infinite, the other would be destroyed...but God is called the infinite good. Therefore, if God exists, there would be no evil."

Thomas indeed provides a telling response, but, as stated, that is a darn good argument. Might I suggest that it would help our public discourse immensely if all parties would be willing to formulate their opponents positions as respectfully and convincingly as possible.

Having articulated the objections, Thomas then offers his own magisterial resolution of the matter: "Respondeo dicendum quod... (I respond that it must be said...). One of the more regrettable marks of the postmodern mind is a tendency endlessly to postpone the answer to a question. Take a look at Jacques Derrida's work for a master class in this technique. And sadly, many today, who want so desperately to avoid offending anyone, find refuge in just this sort of permanent irresolution. But Thomas knew what Chesterton knew, namely that an open mind is like an open mouth, that is, designed to close finally on something solid and nourishing.



St. Thomas Aquinas and the Art of Making a Public Argument continued...

Finally, having offered his Respondeo, Aquinas returns to the objections and, in light of his resolution, answers them. It is notable that a typical Thomas technique is to find something right in the objector's position and to use that to correct what he deems to be errant in it.

Throughout this process, in the objections, Respondeos, and answers to objections, Thomas draws on a wide range of sources: the Bible and the Church Fathers of course, but also the classical philosophers Aristotle, Plato, and Cicero, the Jewish scholar Moses

Maimonides, and the Islamic masters Averroes, Avicenna, and Aviceberon. And he consistently invokes these figures with supreme respect, characterizing Aristotle, for example, as simply "the Philosopher" and referring to Maimonides as "Rabbi Moyses." It is fair to say that, in substantial ways, Thomas Aquinas disagrees with all of these figures, and yet he is more than willing to listen to them, to engage them, to take their arguments seriously.

What this Thomistic method produces is, in its own way, a "safe space" for conversation, but it is a



safe space for adults and not timorous children. Might I modestly suggest that it wouldn't be a bad model for our present discussion of serious things.

5-Year-Old Proves Beyond a Doubt ALL Catholic Women Are Princesses In Precious Story!



by ChurchPOP Editor - August 23, 2018

This is so precious!

Fr. Goyo Hildalgo, an associate pastor at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Los

Angeles, tweeted a story about a mother and her 5-year-old daughter who approached him after Mass.

The text says, "After Mass, a mom came to the sacristy with her five-year-old daughter. / Mom: 'Ask Father.' / 5 year-old: 'is it true Mary is the Queen of the world?' / Me: 'Yes' / 5: 'And (looking at her mom with a smile) she is my mom too?' / Me: 'OH YES' / 5: *jumping* 'then it is true. I am a princess.' /

The tweet has received an overwhelming response—rightfully so!

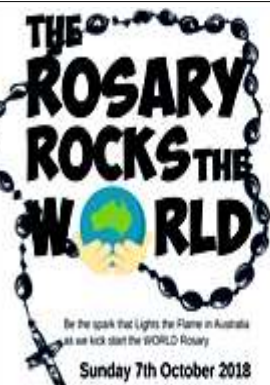
YouTube star Lizzie Reezay said it was "THE BEST TWEET I've ever seen ♥♥♥".

Another user responded, "Well I keep telling my husband I'm a princess, so now I have proof."

Since we are all daughters and sons of the Mary, the Queen of Heaven,

every person is a prince or princess! If everyone thought of themselves in this way, or if we each treated one another as royalty, what a different world it would be!

As St. Francis de Sales said, "Let us run to her, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence."



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

The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



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

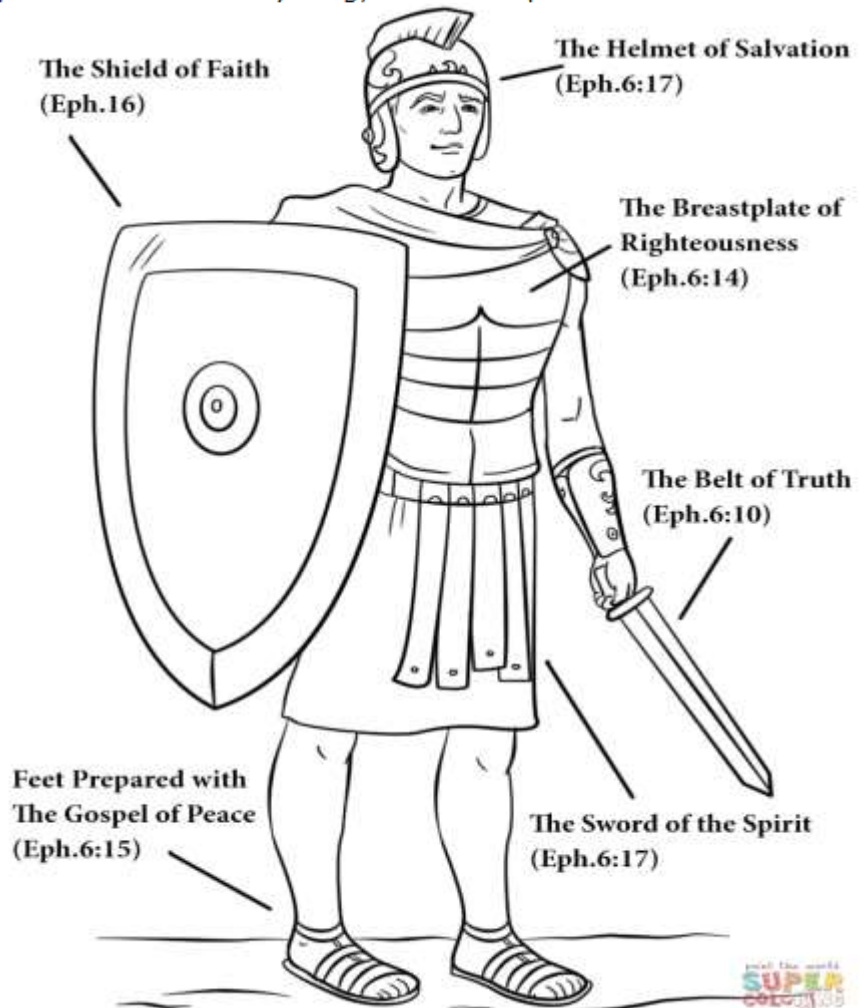


Find the words below hidden in the 225 letters to the right.

- | | |
|-------------|--------|
| BREASTPLATE | SPIRIT |
| SALVATION | STAND |
| BUCKLED | PEACE |
| FLAMING | WAIST |
| ARROWS | FAITH |
| HELMET | BELT |
| ARMOR | FEET |
| GOSPEL | EVIL |
| SHIELD | FULL |
| SWORD | GOD |

The Armor of God

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13



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