

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 198

September 2019

Coming Events

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Trinity

- 6 to 7am daily;
- overnight from 9pm Friday through to 7am Saturdays

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

St Pope Gregory the Great	Tue 3
St John Chrysostom	Fri 13
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Sat 14
St Robert Bellarmine	Tue 17
Sts Andrew Kim Taegon, and Companions	Fri 20
St Matthew, Apostle	Sat 21
St Pius of Pietrelcina	Mon 23
St Vincent de Paul	Fri 27
St Jerome	Mon 30



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Wag Contacts

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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: **Wednesday October 2nd.**

New Baptism Font at Holy Trinity!



After a great fund raising effort, our new Baptism font was installed on the 16th of August by Paul Hallett, whose family have been stone masons working in churches for 5 generations.

The bowl in our new font is from our original font, so the bowl that caught the baptism water poured over the heads of those baptised decades ago will be the bowl that catches the holy water for years to come.



Our first baptisms using the new font on Saturday August 17 -



Aliyah Elizabeth Rose Wray
(left)

and
Mariusz Ethan Forro
(below)



The Blessing of the Parish Baptism Font

will take place during 9am Mass on September 8.

We invite everyone to come,
especially those who have made generous donations
to provide our Font.

Morning tea afterwards, cake, slice or biscuits
gratefully received.



PASTOR'S PAGE - BAPTISED "IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT"



7th Century

In every parish Church, one of the most significant furnishings is the Baptism Font. In many ancient churches across Europe the font is as old as the altar, and touching it today we can think of the thousands of people who have at that place entered into the life of Christ. There God's life was poured into their soul.

Most of these fonts, like the altars, are made of stone. This indicates that the seal of baptism is forever, and the grace baptism gives is the same grace which, if maintained or restored during this life, enables us to live forever in heaven. The Psalms tell us that God is "the Rock who saves us", and that we are to build our house on solid rock. We do that when we build on the Faith, Hope and Charity we receive in Baptism.

Our new baptism font will be blessed on September 8 (and maybe again when our diocese gets a new Bishop). This blessing is an occasion to thank God for our own baptism, and to recommit to live our share in the life of the Blessed Trinity.

One of the features of our font is the symbol of the Most Blessed Trinity in the form of the three leaf shamrock. It is told that St Patrick used a shamrock to explain the mystery of the Trinity to the leaders of Ireland. The other symbols carved into the sandstone of our

font when it was made at the Gosford Quarries include the Alfa and Omega (Jesus is the beginning and the end, the centre of our life); the Chi-Rho (first Greek letters in the name Christ); and of course the Cross, reminding us that it is through Our Blessed Lord's saving death that Baptism has the power to save us.

Baptism is the door to the Church; through this Sacrament we are first washed clean from Original Sin, and of personal sins of older converts. At the very same moment, new life is poured into our souls, a very share in the Life of God.



12th Century

Supernatural Virtues of Faith, Hope and Divine Love are ours, a created share in the uncreated holiness of God. We become children of God the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit.

Here are some quotes on Baptism by the Saints:

"The Lord was Baptized, not to be cleansed Himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism." - St. Ambrose of Milan

"If, therefore, there is any grace in the water, it is not from the nature of water but from the Spirit's presence there." - St. Basil the Great

"Every baptized person should consider that it is in the womb of the Church where he is transformed from a child of Adam to a child of God." - St. Vincent Ferrer

"Just as a man cannot live in the flesh unless he is born in the flesh, even so a man cannot have the spiritual life of grace unless he is born again spiritually. This regeneration is effected by Baptism: 'Unless a man is born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God' (Jn 3:5)'" - St. Thomas Aquinas

"Baptism is not the work of man but of Christ, and this sacrament is so holy that it would not be defiled, even if the minister were a murderer." - St. Isidore, Doctor of the Church

"Baptize first the children; and if they can speak for themselves, let them do so. Otherwise, let their parents or other relatives speak for them." - St. Hippolytus of Rome

Finally, to those who have been baptised, St Leo the Great said in a Christmas homily, *"Christians, remember your dignity!"*

Fr Thomas Casanova
CCS



15th Century

September Sillies



One day John got yet another one of those calls. "What happened this time?" he asked.

"My brakes went out," Jill said.

"Can you come to get me?"

"Where are you?" John asked.

"I'm in the chemist shop," Jill responded.

"And where's the car?" John asked. Jill replied, "It's in here with me."

Car-Pool

A man learned shortly before knock-off time that he had to attend a meeting. He tried unsuccessfully to locate his car-pool members to let them know that he would not be leaving with them.

Hastily he scribbled a message to one fellow and left it on his desk: "I have a last-minute meeting. Leave without me. Dave."

At 7:00 p.m., the man stopped at his desk and found this note: "Meet us at the bar and grill across the street. You drove today, you dodo."

After spending 3-1/2 hours enduring the long lines, surly clerks, and insane regulations at the department of motor vehicles, I stopped at a toy store to pick up a gift for my son. I brought my selection - a baseball bat - to the cash register.

"Cash or charge?" the clerk asked.

"Cash," I snapped. Then,

apologizing for my rudeness, I explained, "I've spent the afternoon at the motor-vehicle bureau."

"Shall I giftwrap the bat?" the clerk asked sweetly, "or are you going back there?"

My wife is so negative. I remembered the car seat, the stroller, AND the nappy bag. Yet all she can talk about is how I forgot the baby.

Apparently I snore so loudly that it scares everyone in the car I'm driving.

A man decided that he was going to ride a 10-speed bike from Wagga to Cabramurra. He got as far as Adelong before the mountains became too much and he could go no farther.

So he stuck his thumb out and after 3 hours hadn't gotten a single person to stop. Finally, a guy in a Corvette pulled over and offered him a ride. Of course, the bike wouldn't fit in the car. The owner of the Corvette found a piece of rope lying by the road and tied it to his bumper. He tied the other end to the bike and told the man that if he was going too fast, to honk the horn on his bike and that he would slow down. Everything went fine for the first 20 kms.



Suddenly, another Corvette flew past them. Not to be outdone, the Corvette pulling the bike took off after the other. A short distance down the road, the Corvettes, both going well over 170 km/h, flew past a parked police car.

The police officer noted the speeds from his radar gun and radioed ahead to the other officer that he had two Corvettes headed his way at over 170 km/h.

He then relayed, "...and you're not going to believe this, but there's a guy on a 10-speed bike honking to pass."

Accident Reports

The following are reported to be taken from actual insurance claims:

Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.

I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.

In my attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole.

I had been shopping for plants all day and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection, a hedge sprang up, obscuring my vision and I did not see the other car.

I had been driving for forty years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident.

My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle.

As I approached the intersection a sign suddenly appeared in a place where no sign had ever appeared before, making me unable to avoid the accident.

I was thrown from my car as it left the road, and was later found in a ditch by some stray cows.

The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.

An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished.

An auto mechanic received a repair order that read: "Check for clunking sound when going around corners." Taking the car out for a test drive, he made a right turn, and a moment later he heard a 'clunk'.

He then made a left turn and again heard a 'clunk'.

Back at the shop he opened the car's trunk, and soon discovered the problem.

Promptly he returned the repair order to the service manager with the notation, "Removed bowling ball from trunk".



Once imprisoned, Chinese woman now guides others to the Catholic faith

Catherine Sheehan



A woman who spent 20 years imprisoned in China for being a faithful Catholic has helped hundreds of Chinese migrants convert to the faith in Australia.

Teresa Liu, now 86 and living in Sydney, was imprisoned in Guangzhou from 1957 to 1977 by the Chinese communist government.

She was never given a trial and spent some of her sentence in solitary confinement — at one point for a period of seven months.

Denied access to the sacraments and the Bible throughout her incarceration, Liu kept her faith alive by praying secretly in her cell.

“I could say the rosary only after I lie down in bed, secretly,” she told Catholic News Service. “I felt very close to God at that time because in my heart I said, ‘Jesus, now I have nothing but you. Don’t let me leave you.’”

Liu’s crime was being a member of a Catholic lay organization, the Legion of Mary, which was considered an “anti-revolutionary” group by the Chinese leaders.

Her other crime was remaining faithful to the pope by refusing to join the state-run Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association.

Following her release, Liu immigrated to Australia in 1980 with her husband, John Bosco Liu, who had been in prison for 22 years.

Now a devout and active parishioner at St. Michael Parish in Hurstville, in southern Sydney, Liu has spent decades catechizing Chinese migrants.

Providing them one-on-one faith formation in their own language — Cantonese or Mandarin — she has guided hundreds into entering the Catholic Church, said Father Janusz Bieniek, pastor and a member of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel.

“She is very supportive of all initiatives in the parish, especially the work of evangelization with people from China who are thinking of becoming Christian,” Father Bieniek told CNS. “She gathers them, talks to them, personally keeps contact with them and encourages them.”

Liu has sponsored numerous people who have been baptized into the faith and she is often asked to be godmother to their children.

Recently she was invested as a dame in the Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great in recognition of her “outstanding commitment to faith” demonstrated “through her Christian outreach to and conversion of many people in the Archdiocese of Sydney.”

Investiture in the order is the highest honor the church bestows on laypeople and is given in recognition of extraordinary service to the church.

Father Bieniek described Liu, a daily Mass attendee, as a “person of prayer.”

“She is a very credible witness to the faith and at the same time very quiet and unassuming. People know about her past, her experiences and sufferings, but she doesn’t boast about this,” he said.

“She is very positive and never has any kind of talk about revenge or hatred. She has no anger so that makes a very big impression on people.”

Liu said she has forgiven her captors.

“Those people were just doing their duty, their job. They also are victims of the communist system,” she said.

She was only 25 when she was arrested. She was newly engaged to her future husband at the time.

Prior to their engagement, she had wanted to become a Carmelite nun but changed her mind when John Bosco Liu told her that he loved her.

Liu spent some of her sentence in the same prison as her husband, but the couple had only fleeting glimpses of each other during that time. Speaking or showing any signs of affection would have meant severe punishment for both.

As soon as she was free, she wrote to him expressing her love. They were married in 1979 after John Bosco Liu’s release.

Their marriage lasted just 10 years, however. John Bosco Liu died of a heart attack immediately after receiving holy Communion during Mass. Liu was by his side at the time.

“I’m very grateful to God that he died peacefully and after receiving holy Communion,” she said.

Liu also lost her eldest brother Paul to the communist regime. He died in prison after serving a 15-year sentence, leaving behind a wife and eight children.

Priests and nuns from Guangzhou also were imprisoned, including Archbishop Dominic Tang Yee-ming, who spent 22 years behind bars without a trial.

Liu said all people have the right to freely practice their faith, which she called “the natural law.”

She expressed gratitude that God had granted her a long life so she could tell her story as well as “the story of many, many people in China.”

“Pray for China. The situation in China now in some ways is worse than it was for us. ... They want to destroy every religion,” she said.

“Thank God I still have the chance to speak about my experience today. In the beginning, at first, I said, ‘Thank God.’ And my last word also is, ‘Thank God very much.’”

Farewell Tim Fischer



the most northern settlement in Western Australia.

Tim Fischer served our country as a farmer from Boree Creek. As a military conscript, he was wounded in battle serving in Vietnam. He was a politician for both state and national governments, the leader of the National Party and a Deputy

country and family with integrity. After serving the nation as a parliamentarian, he was invited to be the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, Rome.

At the end of the civil ceremony, Fr Tony Percy led a most fitting prayer for Tim. He also informed those gathered for the occasion that Pope Francis paid tribute to Tim by honouring him with the Medal of the Order of St Gregory the Great (Pope St Gregory's feast day is Tuesday, September 3). May Tim's soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

As the nation mourns the death of the Honourable Tim Fischer, we too as a parish express our prayerful condolences and sympathy to Vicky and Yves Baudry. Vicki was Tim's sister.

In her own way, Vicky has made a significant contribution to the parish over many decades by her family's presence and her generosity of time to the music ministry, playing the organ during the 9 am Sunday Masses. For several years more recently, Vicky and Yves have served as volunteers at the Kalumburu Mission in the Diocese of Broome. Kalumburu is

Prime Minister. He was also a dedicated rail enthusiast and made his last run on Thursday from Junees Yards to Albury in a vintage train.

On Thursday, August 29 at the Albury Entertainment Centre, Tim was honoured with a State Service of Celebration and Farewell. During this celebration, which was attended by over 800 people, the Prime Minister the Honourable Scott Morrison spoke highly of Tim, as did other politicians, friends and family, all of whom paid fitting tribute to Tim as a man of deep faith who served his



PURITY PREPARES THE SOUL FOR LOVE, AND LOVE CONFIRMS THE SOUL IN PURITY.
 By John Henry Newman

LIFE, MARRIAGE + FAMILY OFFICE
 sustaining human ecology

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

FOLKS ASK ME IF I'M A PRACTICING CATHOLIC. I TELL THEM, 'YES, I AM. GONNA KEEP PRACTICING UNTIL I GET IT RIGHT.'
 HARRY CONNICK JR.

S+ PAUL STREET
 EVANGELIZATION

StreetEvangelization.com | #ShareTheFaith



<https://magiscenter.com/>

Get clear and credible responses to the vexing questions raised by science and modern life.

The Magis Center provides comprehensive and systematic responses to restore, reconstruct, and revitalize belief in God, the transcendent dignity of every person, the significance of virtue, the higher levels of happiness, love, and freedom, and the real presence of Jesus Christ.

The movie UNPLANNED is coming to Wagga! Powerful pro-life movie that can change hearts!

Unplanned is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation.

All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was help women.

As one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation, she was involved in upwards of 22,000 abortions and counselled countless women about their reproductive choices.

Her passion surrounding a woman's right to choose even led her to become a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, fighting to enact legislation for the cause she so deeply believed in.

Until the day she saw something that changed everything.

Please note this film is for mature audiences.



WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER, 6:30 PM

FORUM 6 CINEMA 77 Trail St, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Purchase tickets online only, at

fan-force.com/screenings/unplanned-forum-6-cinema-wagga-wagga/

Possible second screening depending on demand.

More info phone presbytery, 6931 3601



"I am thrilled that Unplanned is coming to Australia and in many other places around the world.

The impact of this film has been astounding – so many people have told me they changed their minds on abortion, that they chose life for their babies, and that they have been motivated to pray outside abortion clinics or volunteer for their local pregnancy resource center.

God has worked miracles through Unplanned and I can't wait for the people of Australia to see it."

Abby Johnson

Important message from pro-life politician

Thank you for your continued support in advocating for the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill **to be rejected**. Thank you to those who lodged submissions to the Social Issues committee and signed the petition calling on the Legislative Council to reject the Abortion bill.

As a result of your support we were able to lodge the petition to the Parliament with close to 100,000 signatures, and over 13,000 submissions were made to the Social Issues committee. As a result of this advocacy the Bill has been delayed for three weeks.

It will now be debated and voted on in the Legislative Council from the 17-19 September.

Over the last week I have been calling on the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, and the Deputy Premier, John Barilaro, to intervene by stopping this bill and reinstating the proper consultation process.

To provide an idea of a proper community consultation in the NSW Parliament, the Animal Cruelty Laws were given 5 months for public consultation. The Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill has only been given 5 days.

I urge you to call on the Premier and Deputy Premier to express your opposition to this bill and call for a proper community consultation before this bill passes the Legislative Council.

Gladys Berejiklian (Premier)
(02) 8574 5000

[or <https://www.nsw.gov.au/contact-us/contact-the-premier/>]

John Barilaro (Deputy Premier)
(02) 8574 5150

[or <https://www.nsw.gov.au/your-government/ministers/deputy-premier-minister-for-regional-new-south-wales-industry-and-trade/>]

Throughout the next few weeks I also urge you to contact as many members of the Legislative Council as possible and ask them to reject this bill.

Warm Regards,
Tanya Davies MP
State Member for Mulgoa

[An easy way to email all members of the Legislative Council can be found here: www.acl.org.au/take_action_on_abortion_today]



The Conventual Sisters of St Dominic are happy to announce that *Sister Mary Catherine Reeves OP* and *Sister Mary Dominica Ramsey OP* will make their Vows of Perpetual Profession on 7th October 2019 (the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary).

The Solemn Mass of Religious Profession, always a public ecclesial event, will be celebrated by Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE (Bishop of Wilcannia Forbes) in St Brendan's Church, Ganmain at 11-00 am.

We understand that many of our dear relatives and friends live at great distances and for this and other reasons may not be able to be present for this occasion, but we ask all to pray for these young sisters that they may be worthy and true, life-long, to their vocation as spouses of Christ.

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.

THOUSAND	TOWER
TRAVELING	FINISH
COMPLETE	LARGE
ESTIMATE	CROSS
DISCIPLE	PEACE
CROWDS	BUILD
ENOUGH	JESUS
FOLLOW	KING
MONEY	COST
CARRY	WAR

The Cost of Discipleship

And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27 (NIV)



K	W	M	V	S	T	W	E	S	T	I	M	A	T	E
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Z	X	S	W	G	D	V	O	A	L	S	N	N	K	X
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