

# SOCIAL MEDIA RISKS

August 2013



St Mark's Church  
Yr 9-10 Sunday School



# Social Media

*According to Oxford dictionary*

*Websites & applications that enable users to create & share content or to participate in social networking*



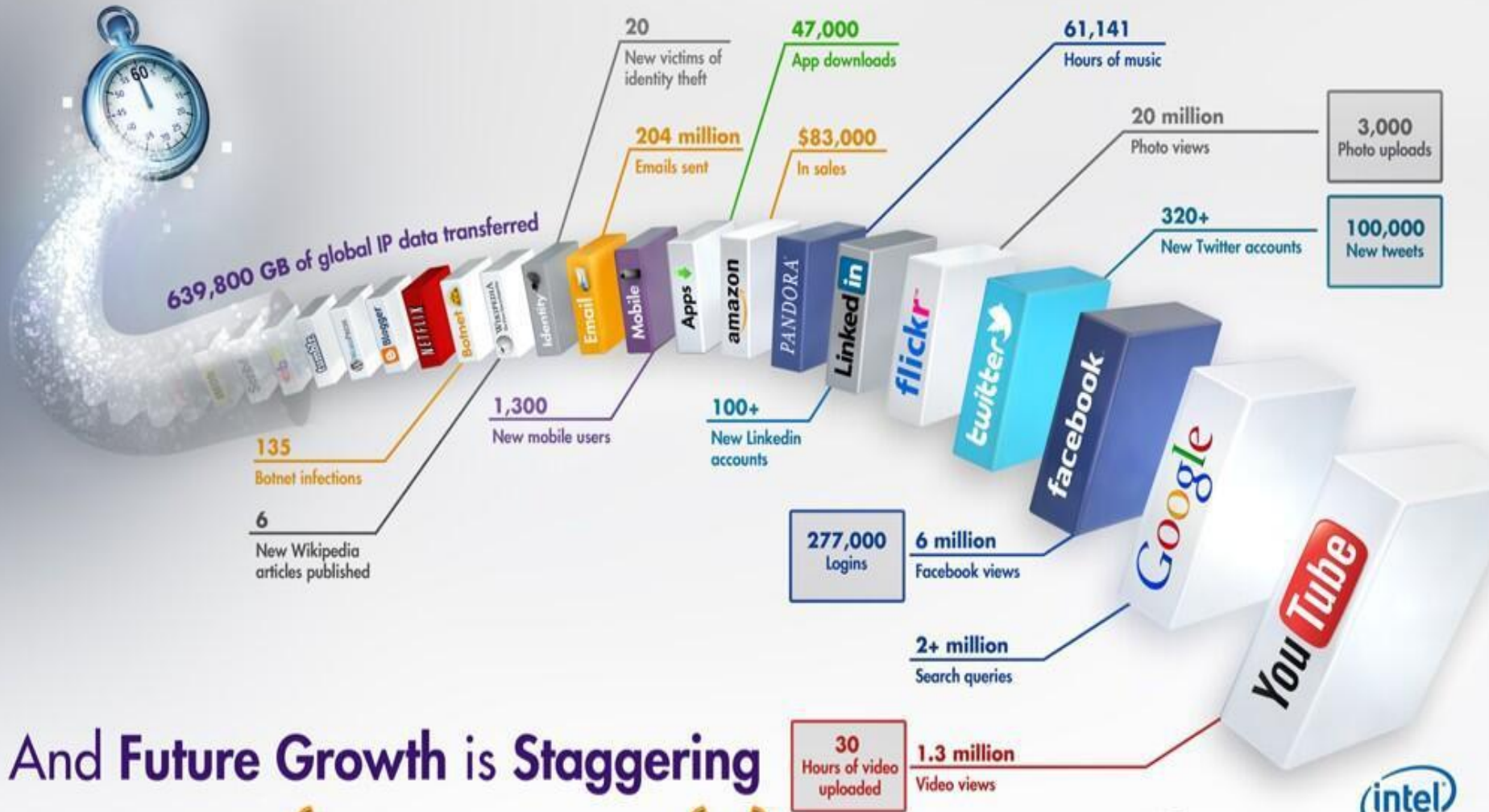
# Social Media benefits

- ▣ Spreads information faster than any other media
- ▣ Improves relationships & makes new friends
- ▣ Helps socially isolated or shy people to connect with others
- ▣ Helps employers find employees, job-seekers find work & universities use it to recruit students
- ▣ Most effective, low cost & efficient collaboration tool
- ▣ Facilitates political change
- ▣ Used by law enforcement to catch and prosecute criminals
- ▣ Is good for the economy





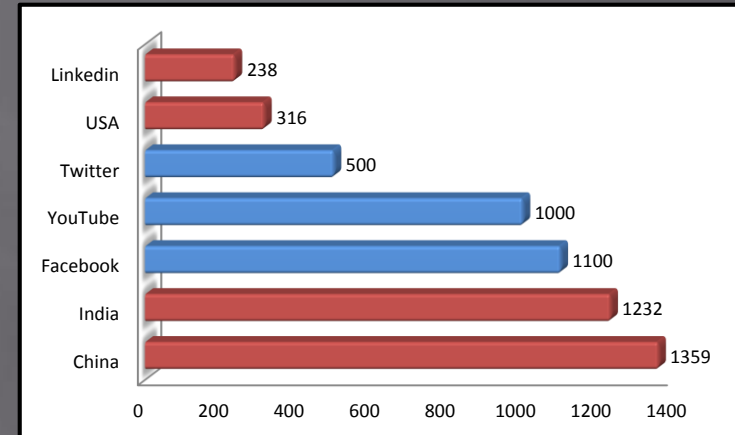
# What Happens in an Internet Minute?



And Future Growth is Staggering

# Amazing Statistics

- Facebook has **1.11 billion** users, and **12.2 million** in Australia (*53% of population*)
- If Wikipedia were made into a book, it would be **2.25 million** pages long
- **250 billion** photos are uploaded daily.  
Instagram gets over **8,500 “likes”** per second



**15.6 billion** hours are spent on YouTube videos every month



# Not so glamorous



- ▣ 1 in 10 got rejected for a job because of their profile
- ▣ Crimes involving Facebook have increased by 350%
- ▣ Facilitates cyber bullying. 49.5% of students reported being the victims of bullying online
- ▣ To over 50% of its users, family does not come first but Facebook does
- ▣ Psychologists have introduced a new diagnosis called **FAD** (Facebook Addiction Disorder)

DANGER  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
AHEAD

# Social Media RISKS

- ❑ Enables the spread of unreliable & false information
- ❑ Encourages amateur advice & self-diagnosis for health problems which can lead to harmful results
- ❑ Heavy social media students tend to have lower grades
- ❑ Can lead to stress, offline relationship problems and aids the spread of hate groups
- ❑ Enables "sexting," which can lead to criminal charges & the unexpected proliferation of personal images
- ❑ Users are vulnerable to invasion of privacy, hacking, identity theft, and viruses



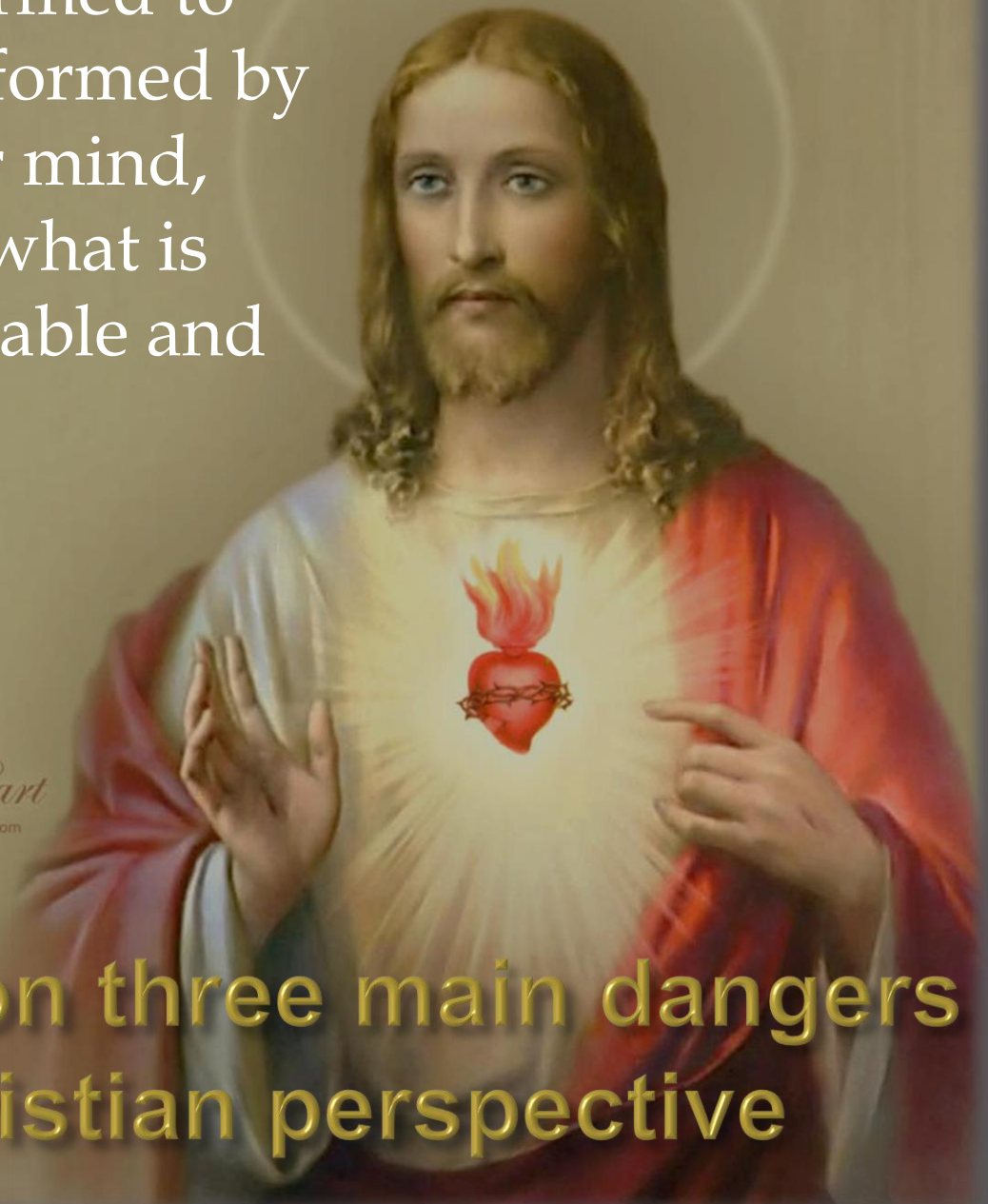


And do not be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:2

*Sacred Heart*  
eternalpath.com

Let us reflect on three main dangers from a Christian perspective





Words can be deadly, please think before you type



# Cyber aggression

Harassment is aggressive behaviour, insults, exclusion.  
Cyber bullying is repeated harassment

- ▣ 32% of online teens have experienced harassment like
  - ▣ Spreading a rumour about you
  - ▣ Threatening & hurting you
  - ▣ Posting an embarrassing picture of you without your permission

Victims have higher levels of:

- ▣ Depression or other psychological problems
- ▣ Substance abuse
- ▣ Poor relationships & suicidal



*“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.  
And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren”.*

700,000,000,000

# Time Wasting

- ▣ Seven hundred billion minutes we spend on Facebook every month (or **1.3 million** years).
- ▣ The average teen spends **110 hours** a month online (or **3.8** hours a day).
- ▣ Examine your own life, how many hours do you spend focusing on your eternity?

*“Redeeming the time,  
because the days are evil”*

Ephesians 5:16





# Inappropriate Behaviours

- ▣ One example is Sexting ..  
*“sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit messages, photographs, or images via digital devices.”*
- ▣ Images get distributed rapidly via smartphones ;  
20% of teens have sent or posted nude or semi-nude photographs or videos of themselves.
- ▣ Can lead to school suspension for perpetrators
- ▣ Be threatened or charged with child pornography.
- ▣ Posts cannot be completely deleted & will influence university selection, job search & potential future partners.
- ▣ Emotional distress with accompanying mental health conditions for victims.

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”*

Romans 12:1



# So what can I do?

- ▣ Check and update your privacy settings  
*(Including camera location services)*
- ▣ Speak to your father in confession about any issues you are facing & seek advice



- ▣ Install appropriate internet filtering.  
*(K9 recommended on both PCs & smartphones)*
- ▣ Put a sign or an alarm next to your PC to alert you on time spent
- ▣ Use Social Media in open space  
*(Not in a locked room or in bed)*
- ▣ Avoid interacting with people you do not know & caring for the ones you do

