

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings (Mass during the day):

See the saving power of God! Isaiah 52:7-10
God speaks to us. Hebrews 1:1-6
The Word was made flesh. John 1:1-18

In a nutshell

God 'speaks' to the world. That Word is Love. Jesus is the Word made flesh. In Jesus, God speaks to the depths of our humanity, telling us that we are never alone. In every event of our lives—happy or tragic, surprising or mundane—God is with us. There is nothing in our human experience that cannot be touched, healed and transformed by God's love.



One Christmas...

A reader shares this parish

Christmas story:

A little angel in the nativity play who suffered a bout of stage fright almost didn't go on, and another lost her halo.

Two small sisters made it to the stage just in time for the 'curtain up' and the tiniest angel of all refused to be separated from her dummy. Halfway through an enthusiastically sung carol, a shepherd boy left his flock, crossed the stage and joined the girls. Nobody minded!

Following the nativity play, priests and talented parishioners entertained with instrumental pieces, songs, dances, a sketch and a few jokes. When the concert finished, the children took turns riding around the hall on Mary's donkey which, with long woolly tail, bore a striking resemblance to a hobby horse attached to a go-cart.

Everyone was milling around talking and making new friends, the children laughed and played together and for a few hours the problems of the world were

forgotten, or left outside. The evening rounded off with a scrumptious supper including a large candle-lit cake for a priest celebrating his birthday. It was an evening of joyful cooperation, participation, sharing and love. The spirit of Jesus was there in our midst, enjoying the festivities. With God's help, we can take this true spirit of love which we experience at Christmas and share it with the world. (Audrey)

Share stories: How does your community / family celebrate Christmas?

God is with us

A missionary in India writes:

As we gathered in the village school for Mass, perhaps the whole thing had a touch of the crib about it: Straw from the recent harvest lay scattered around to protect us from the cold floor. The kerosene lanterns drew into a circle of light the faces of young and old, the women with head covering saris were Mary-like figures, the men wrapped in their blankets could well have been Joseph or the shepherds. A dog wandered in and out and insisted on barking at the surrounding darkness, and the three recently born babies bawled protest with all the strength of their small lungs whenever I tried to say something. Very much Christmas! And so we gathered and prayed, sang and rejoiced in the Lord's promise to be always present among us.

Source: News From India: Australian Jesuits in India (Jan/Feb 2001)



One family shares...

'We are a migrant family therefore we have some family members who are overseas which is painful at times, especially during family celebrations when we cannot all be together. However we were fortunate enough last year to be able to visit them and we all have some very special memories.'

Source: In Their Own Words (Bishops' Committee for Family and for Life, 2000)

The Word became flesh ...and lived among us

All over the world, in different cultures and languages, in times of peace and prosperity, in situations of conflict and struggle, Christians are celebrating the birth of their Saviour.

Today, as you go about your festivities, spare a thought and offer a prayer for all our brothers and sisters near and far, especially those who are struggling to find peace this Christmas.



RealPeople offers faith reflections from the saints and prophets of everyday life.

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