

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Arise and shine! The Lord has come. Isaiah 60:1-6
The Gospel has no limits. Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6
The wise search and find. Matthew 2:1-12

Next week:

Baptism of the Lord.
Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38;
Matthew 3:13-17

In a nutshell

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the dawn of salvation in a world darkened by sin and death. In today's Gospel story three wise men, rich in knowledge and earthly goods, search for and find treasure beyond all measure. The light of the Christ-child is truth and love and shines for all people.



And the world looked different...

The word 'epiphany' refers to a revelation or manifestation of God's presence. Today we celebrate the light of Christ dispelling the darkness.

It was ten to nine in the morning and our small town was coming to life. I happened to be sitting in my car, parked outside the post office, waiting for it to open. I had been idly listening to the radio, but suddenly I found myself riveted to the commentator's voice. He was speaking about a reconciliation ceremony conducted in the city cathedral. Japanese and Australian servicemen had come together in a special liturgy of reconciliation. Over the radio came the voices of former soldiers speaking of the primacy of peace and the need to strive for unity between nations. These were men who had seen the ugliest side of human behaviour and yet who still believed in the power of love and grace to make the world right. One of the images used in the liturgy was a water bottle, a

sign of sustaining life.

All this struck a chord within me. As I sat listening, a transformation took place. Looking out on that ordinary morning I saw the mundane become beautiful, the ordinary sparkle, the predictable take on a surprising new life. I began to pray a deep-down 'yes' to the Holy Spirit, yes to my own capacity to be a catalyst for change. In that moment I was tasting the peace for which I and the whole world longs. (Vic)

Think...Talk

Describe a time when the world suddenly looked 'different', brighter, clearer.

Pray

Tonight, pray in silence before the light of candle.

Release...healing

My wife Laura came out of hospital after having successful cancer surgery. I noticed she was not as elated as I was. I'd thought she would be over the moon. When I asked her what was wrong she burst into tears. She said she had been concerned for so long about having a terminal disease that her relief was overwhelming. 'For the first time in a long while I feel as if I am able to relax and breathe deeply.' It was only then that I fully realised the tremendous weight Laura had been carrying for so long. (Jeff)



church below the rooftops

Healing light

Faith & Light is a Christian movement that supports people living with disabilities. At its international conference, one participant said:

On the last day of the conference three parents spoke about what it meant to have a child with a disability and how important Faith & Light is to them and their child. As each one told their story I was deeply touched as I relived some of my own experiences as a child with a disability. I found it very healing to be able to let go of some of the emotional pain which I have lived with for over forty years. The sharing by these parents was a powerful witness to everyone listening. Many people, especially other parents, were moved by their testimony. (Phil)

Pray. Act.

Think of a decision that you must make in the near future? Pray for enlightenment as you ponder your options. Talk things over with wise people. Go forward with courage.



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

A publication of
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