

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

Stop sky-gazing! Acts 1:1-11  
He is the ruler of everything. Eph 1:17-23  
'Go!' The great commissioning. Mt 28:16-20

## Next week: Pentecost.

Genesis 11:1-9;  
Romans 8:22-27;  
John 7:37-39

## In a nutshell

As we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus we reflect on the great commissioning in Matthew's Gospel. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus remains present to his disciples always, 'yes, to the end of time' and the Church's mission is established: 'to make disciples of all the nations'—witnessing, baptising and instructing in faith.



## GO! Tell the Good News

*A group of active Catholics were asked: 'When did you first become aware of your mission to spread the gospel?'*

**Mark:** 'For me it was a gradual awareness over about five years. I became involved in a faith-sharing group...which led to being asked to head up a parish ministry...'

**Vicki:** 'When I was ten, my CCD teacher gave me a bookmark with a scripture quote which said, "Go you also into the vineyard." I asked my father what this meant. He said it meant to tell others about Jesus and to spread God's Word. I took these words to heart. It was my first awakening that God had given me a mission.'

**Ken:** 'As a parishioner I was helping out at a youth retreat, and in the first talk I heard the teenage presenter say, "God's calling you and me." It just hit me like a ton of bricks: That's right! That's what I'm doing here! I became a much more

active contributor to my parish after that.'

**Janet:** 'At my daughter's Confirmation the parents were asked to be involved in a preparation camp. It was then that I realised I had better start thinking seriously about what God meant to me. Otherwise how could I respond to my daughter's questions?'

**Richard:** 'My wife and I were invited to a marriage enrichment weekend. We had expected that the weekend would open us up to each other. What we didn't expect was that the weekend would also open us up to God. After that we became involved in preparing young couples for marriage.'

**Sue:** 'Growing up, I always had a sense that life was about giving to others. I guess my parents showed me that. Then as a teenager I became involved in a street ministry program and I became more deeply aware of what I was capable of offering the world. I had a sense that God was pleased by this.'

## Think...Talk

Think back over your own life:

- When did you first become aware that you have a mission to spread the Good News?
- How would you describe this 'Good News'?
- How has this Good News led you to act, talk, live...?
- Talk about the many different ways people share in the mission of the Church.

## Act

Respond to an invitation to become a more 'active' member of your faith community.



## church below the rooftops

## Go out to all the world...

Meet Syd and Josie. They are part of the 'glue' in a national Catholic youth movement. A couple in their seventies, married for fifty years, Syd and Josie have voluntarily devoted many of their senior years to a behind-the-scenes apostolate that helps to keep the movement's engine running and wheels turning: packing books, ordering supplies, serving tea and coffee at public functions, labelling and posting newsletters... They are deeply faithful people, faithful to their role of service to youth, to each other, and to God. Over the years, their behind-the-scenes apostolate has played no small part in a number of international youth outreaches. In their own quiet way, they are truly a missionary couple. (TP)



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

A publication of  
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