

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings:

Sisters and brothers in Christ. Acts 2:42-47
Reborn in Christ Jesus. 1 Pt 1:3-9
Receive the Holy Spirit. Jn 20:19-31

Next Week:

Road to Emmaus
Acts 2:14,22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21;
Lk 24:13-35

In a nutshell

At Easter we boldly reaffirm our faith in Christ and our love for the Church. Although we have not 'seen' Jesus in the same way as those first disciples, Christians today personally experience his presence in their lives, touch his body in the community of faith, hear him through God's Word and receive him in the gift of the Eucharist.



Easter people

Easter is a special time for welcoming new Catholics into our parishes: those baptised at the Easter Vigil or received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Listening to their stories of faith and conversion is a vital part of hearing the Good News proclaimed at Easter.

I knew I was ready

Said one person upon entering the final stages of the journey towards baptism in the Catholic Church: 'I knew that I was ready when I realised that the ordinary mundane chores around the house like cleaning and doing the dishes seemed different. I was now doing these in the context of love, God's love.'

RCIA sponsors, catechists and supporters also have great stories to share. For example:

Those looks of love!

'There's nothing quite like the "looks of love" we get from those we have sponsored, especially at the sign of peace. Recently we

celebrated the Silver Jubilee of our parish. It was a joy to look around at all the people who have joined our community through the RCIA. There was a strong sense that they had finally found what they were looking for.'

This Easter, let's offer practical support to the ongoing faith journey of our newest community members:

A community that cares

'One of our neophytes (newly baptised Catholics) became quite ill. He was practically bedridden. It was so important to him that some of his "new" community cared enough to visit him.'

Quotes from Network News: Newsletter of the Australian Catechumenate Network, Oct 2001.

Easter people

I am a retiree of some years (retired at age 55 after 40 years in the workforce!) Since retirement both my wife and I have travelled considerably. We both work at the St Vincent de Paul shop one day a week and thoroughly enjoy it. We spend quite some time assisting our sons and daughters in caring for the grandchildren, with a specific emphasis on caring for our grandson who has a disability. My wife and I attend our local church every Sunday and I am involved in the readings and commentaries. We also bring communion on a regular basis to a very sick lady in her home. Our faith is very important to us! We rarely start our day without prayer.

Source: *In Their Own Words* (BCFL, 2000)



church below the rooftops

Easter people

It has been hard raising my two children as a single parent, but I have also gained an inner strength that I previously wasn't aware I had. This strength has been derived from my own determination to keep my family going on the right path but it also came with my faith and communication with God. I find I look to Jesus for that strength more and more.

Source: *In Their Own Words* (BCFL, 2000)

Tips to strengthen faith

- Pray for the gift of deeper faith.
- Read a scripture passage daily.
- Mix with strong believers.
- Ponder the writings of a great saint.
- Pray daily with your spouse/ family.
- Forge stronger links with your parish.
- Sign up for a retreat.
- Simplify your lifestyle.
- Celebrate Sunday well.



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

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