

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Death could not hold him. Acts 2:14,22-33
Our freedom was paid in blood. 1 Peter 1:17-21
Recognition on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:13-35

Next week:

The voice of the good shepherd.
Acts 2:14,36-41; 1 Pt 2:20-25;
Jn 10:1-10

In a nutshell

By offering hospitality to an apparent stranger, the eyes of the grief-stricken disciples are opened. In the breaking of the bread they recognise Christ in their midst. Remembering how their hearts 'burned within' as he explained the scriptures, they are drawn to a new level of faith and understanding.



Jesus revealed!

The group leader had asked 16 year old Brad to present a talk on the Eucharist. This was not unusual. Everyone in the Christian leadership program was asked to give a talk at some time. The trouble was, for Brad the Eucharist was one point in his faith where he felt unsure. Had it been a talk on 'the meaning of Easter' or 'prayer', he wouldn't have worried. But the Eucharist...well...he had his doubts.

The group leader reassured him, 'Voice your doubts as you prepare this talk. There is still time to withdraw if you find that you cannot sincerely deliver it. But the discussion may help you and it will certainly benefit all of us...'

So Brad began working on his presentation, asking questions of different people, arguing with his learned sister, raising thorny questions at the family dinner table. (Brad's family loved debate!)

It all helped...to a point. But then a strange thing happened. While sitting at the family dinner table one evening, while the whole family

energetically discussed 'Brad's doubts', Brad realised that he no longer had doubts! Here at the family dinner table the meaning of the Eucharist was suddenly making sense. It wasn't just to do with the food. And it was more than the company, the chatter and the grace-before-meals. It was related to all these things, and yet he sensed something deeper was at work. And that 'something deeper' was at work too when his Catholic family gathered for communion each Sunday.

Some ten years later, Brad describes this moment as a revelation: 'Into my heart entered a profound realisation that the Eucharist is the body and blood of Jesus Christ. It was as if all those family meals over my 16 years of life had been pointing to this moment of conversion.'

Prayer in action

Make a 'prayer pilgrimage' to a chosen destination (a church, a sacred site), reflecting on today's Gospel as you walk.

Holy heartburn!

A time when my heart 'burned within' was at a youth rally in 1994 where I was listening to an inspiring speaker: Fr Jack. His amazing words and presence filled my heart with a sense of the Holy Spirit. At the rally I felt the presence of God touch me in a significant way. God really worked through Fr Jack and reached out to a great majority of the people there. I truly believe Fr Jack is an amazing priest who has touched many hearts and changed many lives. (Paige, 17)



Think...Talk

Describe two people who have travelled the journey from disappointment to newfound hope. What can you learn from their journey? What 'resurrection signs' can you see in their stories?

Strangers no more

I really wasn't in a hospitable mood when my friend asked me to help entertain his overseas visitors. The last thing I felt like was dealing with strangers, grappling with their foreign language and having my energies drained in the name of 'politeness'.

What a delightful surprise God had in store! Kit and Eric came into my life like a breath of fresh air. For five days we revelled in each other's company. They were full of adventure, laughter and an inspiring faith. We met as strangers yet parted as family. How thankful I was to have responded to this request for hospitality. How the Lord blessed me in my reluctant 'yes!' (Cathy)



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

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