

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Christ could not be held by death. Acts 2:14,22-33
The blood of the lamb has freed you. 1 Peter 1:17-21
Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:13-35

Next week:

Jesus offers life to the full.
Acts 2:14,36-41;
1 Pt 2:20-25; Jn 10:1-10

In a nutshell

On the road to Emmaus two disciples share a physical journey with the risen Jesus which quickly becomes a profoundly spiritually journey. Confusion and sadness are transformed into clarity and joy as Jesus reveals himself to them, gradually through the scriptures, then finally and unmistakably in the breaking of the bread.



Easter: a season for stories

The disciples on the road to Emmaus raced back to tell their friends of their joy in meeting the risen Christ. For us, too, telling stories of the 'wow' experiences of God's grace are all part of the Easter proclamation.

At an RCIA conference, Joyce gave a creative presentation on the importance of hearing the stories of God's revelation in our lives. Instead of just giving the theory, she demonstrated her message by reflecting on one of the great, joyous mysteries of her own life: the birth of her first child.

She began by telling us about herself as a young teacher who met and married another young teacher. (At this point Joyce displayed a photo of herself.) She described the highs and lows of being pregnant, especially in that final month. 'Sitting is difficult, standing is difficult, lying down is difficult.' Finally Joyce shared with us the experience of giving birth: the waiting, the pain, the contractions ... and the joy of a new life.

Back then, at this momentous point in her life, no one asked: 'Joyce, what was the experience of giving birth like for you? How has it changed you as person?' Prior to marriage, Joyce had not given motherhood much thought. But this baby completely transformed her. Her commitment to loving and nurturing him grew stronger and stronger. (Overhead transparency of her son today, aged 28.) Joyce described the beautiful baby he was and the fine young man he has become. Her pride in him was clearly evident.

By the time Joyce concluded her presentation (much more detailed than I can capture here), there wasn't a dry eye in the room. We were all thoroughly convinced of the power of the Spirit to move us in mysterious ways... through the telling of a story. (CF)

A season for stories

(Joyce's story continued)

By her presentation Joyce was showing us the fundamental need to 'tell the story' after the Good News event. The significance of God's revelation is more fully grasped in the telling and re-telling.

Joyce was also awakening us to the importance of the stories of people who have been welcomed into the Church at Easter. The newly baptised have journeyed along a path of frustration and insight, pain and joy, in the process of becoming part of the community of faith. We who have accompanied them, loved them and offered ongoing support have also been transformed. Together we are full of stories that must be told. This is

a vital dimension to the Good News proclamation of the Easter season. (CF)



church below the rooftops

Listen to the story

Congratulate somebody who was welcomed into the Church at Easter time. Ask this person what the experience was like. Listen! He/she is a living witness to the Gospel. Ask a similar question of somebody who was baptised in a previous year.

And what about you? What does this Easter season mean to you? What have been the momentous Good News events in your family? Tell stories and 'remember whens' around the dinner table for the rest of the Easter season.



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

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