

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

Peter speaks of the crucified and risen Christ. Acts 2:14,36-41  
Christ: shepherd and guardian of your soul. 1 Peter 2:20-25  
I have come that they may have life. John 10:1-10

## Next week:

Jesus, the way to the  
Father. Acts 6:1-7;  
1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

## In a nutshell

'I know my sheep and mine know me.' The starting point for every leader and follower is to recognise the voice of truth. In today's Gospel we are taught that to have life to the fullest we must be keenly attuned to the voice of Jesus, the true shepherd. Through baptism we enter a community committed to listening and responding in faith.



## Camping with compassion

It was the week before school broke up. The delegation of Year 5 students sat quietly in my office. Jenny was the first to speak.

'We want to ask permission to do something.'

As a principal I was grateful since I spent so much time sorting out students who gave no prior thought to their actions.

'In the Christmas holidays,' continued Jenny, 'we want to plan how we can help other people.' 'I think this sounds like a wonderful idea,' I said. 'How do you plan to help people?'

Wayne spoke next. 'We are going to camp in our backyard. The boys at my place and the girls at Jenny's.' 'Good,' I said slowly. 'And exactly how are you going to help people while you are camping in the backyard?'

'We are not going to have very much to live on,' added Rhonda. 'We will only have water and a small amount of food—and no games and things—so we can get a better

understanding of what it is like to be poor.'

I was speechless. The young people must have sensed there was something wrong in what they were suggesting because I am not usually lost for words! I regained my composure. 'That is a highly commendable idea. Who thought it up?'

'We all did,' said Paul. 'We will be in Year 6, the senior class, next year so we wanted to set an example by doing something for people who are poor.'

'What can I do to help?' I asked.

'Can we tell the other kids what it was like when we come back to school next year?' asked Marie. 'It will be a joy and an honour,' I said.

As I watched these young people leave my office, excited at their new adventure, I felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude. My students were again teaching me about the power of the Holy Spirit. (Liz)

## Alleluia!

In what ways have you seen Christian leadership in young people?

## Strong and constant

I was sitting in church one Sunday and couldn't help noticing the relational gestures of the father and daughter sitting directly in front of me. He was about 40, she was a fidgety four year old. Throughout the entire Mass the father held his daughter in a gentle embrace. Through about a hundred changes in the child's physical and emotional state, he patiently held her. She cuddled in to him, he held

her. She abseiled down his right shoulder, he held her. She became engrossed in his hymn book, he held her. She stared boredly at the ceiling fans, he held her.

I smiled as I looked towards the altar through the frame of these two figures. Here was a beautiful image of the Good Shepherd, reminding me once again that God holds us always in a strong, patient, loving embrace. (TP)



## Think...Pray

Jesus the good shepherd is experienced through people exercising loving and truthful leadership; e.g., parents, older siblings, teachers, company heads, sporting coaches.

- Who has been a shepherd to you?
- In what ways have you been a shepherd to others?

*We pray that in a world where many voices compete for our allegiance, we will recognise the voice of truth, love, justice, faith.*



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