

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings:

Repent and be baptised. Acts 2:14,36-41
Stray sheep return. 1 Pt 2:20-25
Jesus: gate of the sheepfold. Jn 10:1-10

Next Week:

The Way, the Truth, the Life
Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

In a nutshell

Today's Gospel presents Jesus as shepherd to his people. His leadership is characterised by compassion, care, strength and protection. The message is one of belonging. As Christians we are called to an intimate relationship with Christ. Our lives are about listening and responding to the voice of the true shepherd.



A tender heart

A son pays tribute to his mother in these words which were spoken at her funeral.

The first sound we heard in our lives was the sound of her beating heart. We children of Joan Wilson had the most wonderful beginning any human being could ask for, because our mother and our father were such wonderful people. Mum had a tough life. As a girl she was given the responsibility of caring for her own grandmother who by that time had become ill and was bedridden. So everything about Mum's life as a teenager and young adult had to be worked around caring every day for her grandmother.

With all this, what is amazing about her life is she was so open to caring for other people. Mum had great reservoirs of love that flowed out on our family and into the lives of all the people she had contact with.

I remember once when I was home from boarding school there was a man sitting out on the road

outside our place and she went out and talked to him and the next thing he was inside our house having a cup of tea and a sandwich before going on his way.

A tremendous expression of Mum's love for others was her gift of a life of prayer. Before she went to bed she would produce this small book. In here are incredible lists of names of people and special prayers to say for them. It really became a universal prayer because as the years went on and as she came to know more and more people with difficulties their names were added to the list and they were all mentioned in prayer before she went to sleep.

We who are her children give thanks for having had such a mother and having had the opportunity of living with her all these years. (Philip)

Vocations Sunday

Today is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for the young people in your life. What influence are you having on their vocational path?

'I have a strong childhood memory of helping my parents bring food and blankets to a family whose house had burnt down. All their belongings were ashes and rubble. A powerful lesson was being communicated to me: the value of reaching out to others in their suffering.' (Vic)

At the heart of every vocational choice is a capacity and willingness to love and be loved. The basic training ground for learning love is family life.

It is in families that the seeds of a vocation are sown and nurtured.



church below the rooftops

Table topic

Talk about some of the ways you have experienced the love of the Good Shepherd in your own family life, past and present.

Who do you 'shepherd' in your role as a parent, teacher, coach, older sibling, godparent, pastor...?

Six tips for being a 'good shepherd'

1. Pray every day for those entrusted to your care.
2. Be a strong witness in faith.
3. Learn to listen ever more deeply.
4. Choose your role models wisely; they will influence the kind of role model you are to others.
5. Exude hope, joy, enthusiasm. It's contagious and the simplest way to empower others.
6. When in doubt as to what to do next, take the most loving step you can think of.



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

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