

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Seven chosen. Acts 6:1-7

Our lofty calling as the people of God. 1 Peter 2:4-9

Jesus: the Way, the Truth, the Life. John 14:1-12

Next week:

Jesus speaks of the Spirit to

come. Acts 8:5-8,14-17;

1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

In a nutshell

How does one find meaning in life and death? Today's Gospel gives a very clear answer: Faith in Jesus Christ is the path to discovering who we are as children of God. Christ is the way to the Father. There is nothing more true and there is no greater life than to follow Christ and live in his Spirit, now and forever.



Sunshine all the way

I went to visit my 75 year old Uncle Jerry in the country. I have always known him as a man of good health. I don't think he had ever had a prescription written out with his name on it—until the day he was told by his doctor that he had a virulent form of cancer. Inoperable. In just a few weeks he lost one quarter of his body weight.

As I entered his family home, I was ready for a sombre and resigned atmosphere, but almost the reverse was operating. People were gathered around telling life stories and sharing jokes. In the midst of all the lively sharing was Uncle Jerry. He looked so different. I always thought of him as a man of quiet service; a guy who worked with his hands, always there in the background ready to help. Now he lay, weak and frail, in a large layback lounge chair, surrounded by family and friends. 'I'd get the part of playing Ghandi,' he jibed. Everyone laughed.

'I never knew I had so many friends,' he added cheekily. 'I'm

having my wake before I go!'

I spoke with Jerry by phone a few days before he died. He was a little quieter. 'I only want you to place a sunflower on my coffin,' he said. 'Things are bright here but I reckon it's gonna be all sunshine when I get there.'

I had given Jerry a tape to listen to during his last days. Its title was *Don't Look at the Waves, Look at Jesus*.

'He loved to listen to that tape,' said my Aunt Marie. 'My treasured memory is the smile he had on his face as he lay in the chair with the headphones on, listening.'

I have been touched all my life by my extended family. I am grateful to have been the hands of the Lord in offering some peace and comfort in return. (Vic)

Alleluia!

During this season of Easter enjoy the Sunshine.

People along the Way

Jane remembers the day she took her baby, Keith, to visit a friend who had a son about the same age. The two babies lay on a bunny rug together. Her friend's baby squirmed and kicked and was very active. Keith just lay there with an unnatural passivity. He had been born with a mental disability. Jane remembers her sadness as she watched the two babies.

Today, twenty-plus years later, Jane is all smiles as she speaks of her son. 'Keith is such a delight,' she says to me. 'He brings me so much joy! He is so beautiful the way he cares for people.' Meanwhile, her friend is going through the

agonising grief of seeing her own son struggle with a drug addiction.

I come away from our conversation with new insight and hope. Jane is a woman of great faith. The way of Christ for her has not always been smooth and predictable, but it is a life with its own special rewards. (VC)



church below the rooftops

Think . Pray . Act

- Think back over your Christian life with all its 'ups and downs'. What has the path been like for you?
- How does the Spirit want to use such life experiences to bring you to a special kind of joy and peace?
- Lord, show me how to be the Way, the Truth and the Life for others.
- Choose as a mentor someone whom you admire for his/her commitment to the way of Jesus.



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

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