

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## Readings of Easter Sunday:

We were there! Peter testifies to the risen Christ.  
Acts 10:34,37-43  
Embrace new life. Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6-8  
The resurrection of Christ. John 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10

## Next week:

The Easter story continues.  
Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9;  
John 20:19-31

## In a nutshell

Easter is the great Christian feast of light and life when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. This ultimate victory over sin and death means that all who put their faith in Jesus Christ enter into a new life with God, now and eternally. No matter how difficult things can seem, in the risen Christ we find irrepressible hope.



## Easter Images

*Christ is risen from the dead! How does this great proclamation of the resurrection reveal itself in your life? What are the signs of life and hope that emerge from difficult and painful experiences? Here is a sample of what others have said.*

'On a television news program I saw an Irish woman, who had survived a terrorist bomb blast in Northern Ireland, being interviewed as she emerged from hospital weeks later. She had lost two children in the bombing and she herself was maimed for life, yet her words were completely free of hate and despair. She spoke simply of her hope and prayer that her country would find a way to peace.' (MP)

'As a priest I celebrate a lot of funerals. There was one elderly woman I buried who had been racked by terrible arthritis. Her son made a comment at the graveside: "Finally mum is free from the cage of her arthritic body." His comment touched me and led me to think afresh about the prayers we had

said by her grave. One of these is a powerful prayer of hope in the promise that our bodies will be raised up on the last day.' (VC)

'When I was approaching my first experience of childbirth I felt quite nervous about the pain I expected to undergo during labour. I took steps to deal with my fear, like talking to women who had been through it all and practising meditation. One of my most helpful insights came through my faith. The later stages of my pregnancy spanned the weeks of Lent and Easter and I found myself thinking about the passion and resurrection: how Christ suffered so as to bring an incredible gift of new life to the world, which, in a very real sense, is what I was about to do. (LH)

## I saw and I believed

I recall the first anointing I did as a newly ordained priest. Sue, a woman in our parish, had been taken to hospital with terrible headaches. It was a recurrence of meningitis.

I remember sitting by her bed, going through the Anointing of the Sick ceremony in a sincere but fumbling sort of way, my inexperience showing as I had to look up every prayer and instruction in the book.

The next day, to the doctor's amazement, Sue was found to be completely free of her illness. She said, 'When Father put that cool ointment on my head, my headache went away.' I, too, was amazed. I had always believed in the power of the sacrament to heal spiritually and psychologically but I wasn't

expecting a physical healing!

Fourteen years on, Sue's meningitis has never recurred, and I am a much stronger believer in the power of the risen Christ. (VRC)



## church below the rooftops

## Think...Talk

Describe a time when you felt most 'alive!' What factors contributed to this experience? Do you believe that this kind of undiluted joy, and more, is what Jesus wants for you?

## Pray...Act

Pray for the courage to believe.  
*Lord bring us to Easter faith.*

Today, thank God for all the signs of life around you. Look for small, practical ways you can be a lifegiving presence to others.



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

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