

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

Choices in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7  
Adam blew it, but Jesus fixed it! Romans 5:12-19  
Tempting, isn't it? Matthew 4:1-11

## Next week:

The Transfiguration.  
Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy  
1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

## In a nutshell

In the face of repeated temptations, Jesus refuses to be seduced by Satan's self-seeking proposals. He seeks the will of God alone. This Gospel calls us to stand firm when beckoned by attitudes that distract us from our Christian calling (e.g. consumerism, individualism and negativity). Choose life... choose God!



## Revelation at the Roundabout

*Lent is a call to change; to renew our vision and make courageous life-giving decisions.*

I was in a rut. A monster rut. One of those bottomless pits that you can't ever imagine emerging from. For two years, I had been wrestling with difficult life issues, yet answers eluded me. God seemed far away. The feeling of going 'round and 'round in circles was making me dizzy!

Then one day came a moment of clear insight. It happened while I was driving up a steep road near the beach. As I approached the crest of the hill where the road converged into a roundabout, a superb view of the beach below presented itself. So too did a clear inner view. I was struck by an amazing thought: There is part of me I hate. I really don't like that part of me. I had never realised this before. Revelation!

Now for years my father had told me about the importance of our choices. If he heard me

complaining about the way things were, he would say, 'You can choose to change.' For a long time I had treated his words lightly, as if he was referring to biscuit brands or breakfast cereals. But now, as I entered the roundabout, I was ready to absorb his wisdom.

I realised that I could break the vicious circle. I had immense power to control my life. God had given me freedom to make choices. There and then, I chose to change. At last! I had begun to emerge from the rut I had dug for myself over years of destructive habit.

I still remember that insight every time I drive through the roundabout above the beach, where I claimed my power to change... and did!

Now, when the bad habit starts to creep back in, I ask myself, 'What's the first step I can take towards breaking the cycle? Choose it!' (Louise)

*Today: Make a Lenten resolution.*

## Choices

I was impressed by Leonard. He was a fine, capable and conscientious young man. A bright career path ahead, no doubt. But what impressed me most was that a 22 year old with plenty of social options would give up a week of his holidays to do a retreat; a retreat that he had to seek out and arrange through his own initiative, and pay for from his own funds. (LV)



## Easter Plans

'What are you doing for Easter?' I asked my flat mate. 'Something I've always wanted to do,' she replied. 'What's that?' I asked, thinking of a booking at a holiday resort or a fancy lunch with friends. 'I'm going to serve lunch for the guests at the hostel down the road,' she replied. 'The one which caters for homeless men. It will be a really different way of sharing in the spirit of Easter... Different indeed, I thought. Have you ever noticed how some of the most challenging people are quiet decision-makers in close-to-home places. (Jenny)

## Think...Talk

"What are you doing for Easter?" In what way will you grow this Lent? What change would you like to see in yourself by Easter Sunday? What choice is God asking of you?

## Act

Make a Lenten commitment which will deepen a) your prayer life; b) your sensitivity to others.



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

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