

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings:

Relief for a thirsting people. Ex 17:3-7
Love and grace. Rom 5:1-2,5-8
One day at the village well... Jn 4:5-42

Next Week:

A blind man sees
1 Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13;
Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

In a nutshell

Over a drink of water drawn at the village well, Jesus touches the heart of a Samaritan woman and calls her to have faith in him.

The Gospel writer is presenting Jesus as the 'water of life', slaking the thirst of human hearts with the gift of life, now and eternally. In what way does your heart 'thirst' for fullness of life?



A precious moment

A man whose life's work had been in banking (in the days when the service offered was more personalised) had become very ill. His wife asked the priest to visit him. After celebrating the sacraments the priest invited the couple to join him in reciting an ancient Gaelic blessing which goes like this:

*Deep peace of the running wave
to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to
you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to
you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to
you,
Deep peace of the watching
shepherds to you,
Deep peace of Christ, the light of
the world, to you.*

The three joined hands as they recited the prayer of blessing together, line by line. The experience was so moving that they had difficulty completing the prayer. The blessing over, the wife said, with feeling: 'Father, tell us how to

pray!'

Not long after, the husband went to God. His widow requested that the Gaelic blessing be recited at his Requiem.

It was prayed together by the hundreds of mourners - mainly men - who packed the church. (PK)

Think . Pray

Recall a special prayer experience that was lifegiving and opened you up to the mystery of Christ. Treasure this memory. Share it with a friend.

Thirsting for life

Since the death of our son it has been hard to get up every day, let alone get through a week. One thing that gives us strength and hope is our weekly Sunday trip to church. As bad as it can get, just to go to church and listen to a sermon and chat afterwards with fellow parishioners can be an uplifting experience, which is enough to give us strength and hope to go on for another week. The loss of our son is a burden we have to carry forever, but we feel it doesn't have to be totally alone.

Source: *In Their Own Words* (Bishops' Committee for Family and for Life, 2000).

Think . Pray

Jesus offers to quench our thirst with living water.

- In what way does your heart 'thirst' for fullness of life?
- Open your heart to Jesus Christ who is Life.



church below the rooftops

Think . Act

What needs and longings are you aware of in the people around you?

Offer a gesture of kindness to ease the burden of a neighbour.

Encounter with Christ

Give thanks for lifegiving moments; for example:

- Being 'one' with your spouse
- A sacramental celebration
- The birth of a child
- Fresh starts
- Special times with family, friends
- A moment of clarity in prayer



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

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