

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

I will raise you from your graves. Ezekiel 37:12-14
Jesus gives you life. Romans 8:8-11
'Lazarus! Come out!' John 11:1-45

Next week: Passion Sunday.

(Entrance: Mt 21:1-11)
Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11;
Mt 26:14-27:66

In a nutshell

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Our faith in the risen Lord frees us from the destructive attitudes and practices that pervade society and allows us to 'come alive' as the people God created us to be. One day we will experience the fullness of this life through our union with God in eternity.



Dad's house

How a family home came back to life...

Selling Dad's house was one of the saddest things I've ever had to do. It really brought home to me the reality of his death. Dad had always been to me a figure of life and energy, a sprightly and humorous man even in his later years. Our family had spent many happy hours together in his big family home - enjoying good food, good company, good music (Dad loved music and revelled in entertaining us with his musical prowess.) But now he was gone. And, sadly, this house of treasured memories had to go as well.

At first I was disappointed with the way the auction went. We didn't sell at anywhere near the price we'd hoped for. 'Oh well,' I thought. 'That's the way things go.' It was some weeks later that I had the opportunity to meet the new owners. What a delightful surprise! Dad would have loved these new occupants. Not only were they lovely people, but they

had a good number of children and grandchildren and a wonderful sense of 'family'. We had assumed that a new owner would pull down the little cottage at the back of the house. But in fact these people planned to keep it just as it was so that their extended family could come to stay...just as we had when Dad was alive!

And do you know what else? The new owners are a family full of musicians! The mother teaches at the conservatorium and all the children play at least one instrument. Looking back at the auction, I think: Who cares about the money? If it means that Dad's home is once again filled with love, life and music, then it was the perfect sale. (Julie)

This week: I prayer, tell Jesus about a part of you that feels 'dead'.



Cherish life

An elderly man told me that two years ago he had bowel cancer and underwent a life-saving operation. While his medication was being adjusted during his recovery period, apparently his pain was so great that he begged the medical staff to 'Kill me'. Speaking to me two years later, he feels somewhat embarrassed about what he asked for, and very relieved that no one killed him! (Margaret)

*Has someone given you life?
Physically? Spiritually? Tell them!*



Celebrate life!

About 20 years ago Joe was asked to deliver some materials to a building site for a new house. Upon arrival, Joe was greeted by an older man wearing dirty old shorts and singlet leaning on a rusty shovel. 'Hello,' the man introduced himself. 'I'm Max Roberts, the owner.' Joe's face lit up with instant recognition. 'Don't tell me you're Max Roberts!' he said. 'You're the surgeon who saved my life!' Max looked at him curiously for a moment and said, 'You know, I've saved a lot of people's lives over the years. But you're the first person who's ever said that to me.'

Think...Talk...Act

Describe one of the most life-giving people you know. How is Christ visible in this person's life?

Identify one 'deathly' attitude in society (e.g. pro-euthanasia campaigns) and plan a lifegiving response. Make your action practical and achievable. (e.g., Write to your local member of parliament expressing a prolife view.)



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

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