

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings:

I put my spirit in you. Ezek 37:12-14
The Spirit of Christ is life. Rom 8:8-11
I am the resurrection. Jn 11:1-45

Next Week: Passion (Palm) Sunday

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

In a nutshell

When Jesus raises Lazarus, onlookers are confronted with a tangible sign of God's lifegiving presence. Yet even this miracle cannot compare with what is to come: the resurrection of Jesus himself. As followers of Christ we know that death is never the last word. Our God of love and life is ultimately victorious.



Our lifegiving God!

Blessed are those who rejoice in the wonders of God, even amidst life's heartaches and challenges. Like this Australian family:

We met and married in the Catholic Church in 1983 and wanted to bring up our children the Catholic way. We had a stillborn baby girl and then two misses before we finally had our daughter, and then another. Two gorgeous girls. We gave thanks to the Lord.

With a two year old and a five month old we got posted to Melbourne. (Husband is in the RAAF). Within nine months we were posted to the USA. We packed up again, now nine months pregnant. It was hard being away from family, but now we are a family of our own.

Our son, Ashley, was born overseas. We feel so lucky and blessed. Meanwhile David's Dad died of cancer and we came home to Australia for the funeral. Then our eldest girl was diagnosed with Leukaemia. Two years of heartache and chemo followed. Once again

the Lord answered our prayers and seven years later she is a lovely young lady, thirteen next week. We finally settled in, then two years later David changed his job. David spent most of the last year in Texas, but again God keeps us together and strong enough to get through.

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

Life goes on

Amidst the pain of coming to terms with the death of his brother in tragic circumstances, a man had this to say:

Despite how hard it has been, I can truly say that Andrew's death has brought blessing to me and my family. Personally I have learned much from his death. One thing is that we should never take each other for granted. Therefore I have resolved to remember my remaining brother and sisters by maybe phoning a bit more often. Or, in the case of my brother, visiting him whenever I'm in town rather than saying I'll catch up with him next time.

I think in a small way Andrew dying has brought my family a little closer together. For me, it has helped me to open up more to my family in a way I couldn't have done so before. So I, we, have a lot to give thanks for. (PV)



A lifegiving Sunday

One Sunday, a well-known QC was celebrating the First Communion of one of his grandchildren. At the morning tea after the ceremony he was thoroughly enjoying himself, gregariously mixing with family and friends. At the height of this fraternising suddenly he had to leave for an important appointment on the other side of town. A complex legal matter? A rich client? I was full of assumptions and his next comment surprised me: 'I'm on the roster to serve lunch at a hostel for homeless men today,' he said enthusiastically. (PK)

Fill your life with Life!

- Reaffirm your belief in Jesus Christ, the One who is Life.
- Mix with positive, life-giving people.
- Get in touch with nature.
- Be generous and outreaching.
- Welcome a new baby.
- Receive the Bread of Life.



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

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