

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

(Entrance: Matthew 21:1-11)  
A just man suffers. Isaiah 50:4-7  
Jesus humbled himself... Philippians 2:6-11  
The way of the cross. Matthew 26:14-27:66

## Next week: Easter Sunday.

Acts 10:34,37-43;  
Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6-8;  
Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10

## In a nutshell

Jesus' way of self-sacrificing love knows no limits in his desire and determination to do the will of the Father. As we reflect on the Passion in today's Gospel, may we open ourselves in love to the painful trials life presents to us. May we have the courage of faith to walk the way of the cross.



Where is God when we are crippled by our pain? According to this storyteller, 'God's probably carrying us!'

## The time he carried me

When I was eight years old, I had an infection in my hip that caused me great pain. I couldn't walk—in fact I could barely move—without crying out in agony. Dad took me to the hospital himself and I can remember how distressed he was as he carried me to the car, knowing that by helping me he was also causing me physical suffering.

By the time we arrived at casualty, my pain had increased to excruciating levels. As Dad helped me out of the car, I remember him saying to me with tears in his eyes: 'Son, you're going to have to work with me in this...'. Together we devised a way for him to transport me. I had my arms around his neck and was straddling him at a certain angle as he gently carried me into the hospital. So well did we 'work together' that when a trolley was finally offered, I declined. It was easier on both of us for Dad

to continue carrying me to the observation room.

As I write this story today, I am 40 years old. But I will always remember this incident which to me is like a little parable about how God helps us through our hurts. Like a loving parent, God feels every stab of our pain, and will do anything to help us. But sometimes we have to 'work with God' and trust that together we will make it through the difficult journey. (Dan)

*This week: 'Work with God' by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

## Think...Talk

Describe a painful journey you have made through life.

- How did you hurt?
- How was God present?
- Were there times when God appeared absent?
- What words of wisdom would you share from your own experience with someone who is suffering?

## I will survive!

In a two week period, my whole life had been uprooted. In just fourteen days, my impending marriage was off, I had changed jobs and moved to a new suburb. While 'life went on' externally, my insides were doing somersaults. I found myself crying on the bus on the way to work, acting happy and enthusiastic at work, then crying on the bus all the way home. Each evening I would go to sleep despairing of ever feeling normal again. During this difficult time, I cherished the support of two friends who had been through similar trying

times. They were empathetic and reassuring: 'You will get through this. You can survive. God won't let you down.' They were right. Today, from a much happier and stable standpoint in life, I am grateful to be able to offer similar reassurance to others who feel their world is falling apart: Yes, it is OK. You will survive. Trust that God will bring you through. (CP)



## Close to my heart

A dear friend of ours, a priest who worked as a missionary in Japan, celebrated the funeral rite for his brother. Incorporating elements of an Asian tradition into the rite, he wrapped the little urn containing his brother's ashes in a white garment and then strapped it to his chest, clasping it tightly with both hands as if emphasizing the nearness of his brother to his heart. It was a deeply moving gesture and one which deepened our conviction that love is stronger than death. (J & J)



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

A publication of  
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