

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

Rejoice, daughter of Zion! Zechariah 9:9-10  
The Spirit of God is at home in you. Romans 8:9,11-13  
Come to me, all who labour... Matthew 11:25-30

## Next week:

Parable of the sower.  
Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23;  
Mt 13:1-23

## In a nutshell

Belonging to Christ brings a wisdom that surpasses 'clever' human mastery of the intricacies of the law. It is a wisdom that can be grasped by 'mere children' and finds a home in those seeking true peace. This Sunday, let us pray for the grace of child-like openness to God.



## A different side to Dorothy.

*If you are a parent of a toe-tapping, hip-swinging toddler, the name "Dorothy the Dinosaur" needs no further explanation. But for the less enlightened, this loveable six foot character is part of the floor show of the well-known children's band: "The Wiggles". Our storyteller this week is one of Dorothy's 'inside' characters - yes, one of the people taking his turn inside that green dinosaur suit!*

The Wiggles had a gig at a children's hospital and, after the show, Dorothy is supposed to come down and greet all the kids. This is normally a real 'Santa Claus' experience. All the children come rushing forward and climb all over you and you feel like Christmas. Well everything went as planned. I opened my big dinosaur arms, and there was this swarm of little kids cuddling into me, wide-eyed with wonder, squealing with delight.

But something was different. These little children wore caps to cover the scars of their radiation treatment. Some had drips attached

to their arms. Others had to be carried, so weak were their cancer-ravaged little bodies. Inside that crazy dinosaur suit, my heart was melting at the incongruity of the scene; that out of such a 'silly' theatrical moment, God's love could suddenly become so tangible; that in the midst of this wave of human suffering and brokenness, I could be engulfed by such wonder and joy. This wasn't a Santa Claus feeling, it was a Christ-experience; a rare and privileged moment of being touched by pure, child-like love. I tell you, these little ones in hospital really 'have something' - it's like they know something about life which we 'well and able' adults so easily miss. (JF)

*Think: What barriers do I create between myself and God?*

## Wisdom of children

My four-year-old niece had been watching a video about the life of Jesus. At our next family gathering she was running around declaring at the top of her lungs that 'Jesus died on the cross to save us...poor Jesus...and Mary was very sad. But then he came alive again...!!!' Little actress that she is, her voice and facial expressions reeked with pathos. With about a dozen adults standing around, all at varying levels of faith commitment, I saw people genuinely being touched by the innocence of a little child unabashedly telling the gospel story. (TP)



## Come to me, all you who labour...

Last summer I went to a retreat. It was a prayerful, healing experience that touched my life. Before the retreat I was feeling run down and burdened by life's cares. To help myself I had been drawing up time management charts, studying 'self-esteem' books and trying to construct a healthier lifestyle. But the retreat helped me to rediscover the greatest priority of all: God's gift of love in Jesus. I came away refreshed at the core of my being, strengthened by the sacraments and re-committed to my prayer life.

I don't mean to dismiss the self-help books. They have their place. It's just that there's something even more important: the love of Christ. (Jenny)

## Think...Talk

- Describe a moment when you turned to God with a worry, a burden, a cry for help.
- What prevents us from turning to God more often?
- What has a child taught you about God?



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

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