

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

There is no god other than you. Isaiah 44:6-8
The Spirit helps us to pray. Romans 8:26-30
The mustard seed. Matthew 13:24-43

Next week:

What's the kingdom of God like?
1 Kings 3:5-14; Romans 8:28-31;
Matthew 13:44-52

In a nutshell

In the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven, Jesus explains to his listeners that from small and apparently insignificant beginnings, God can bring forth abundant fruits. The parable of the weeds and wheat also illuminates the nature of God's kingdom. Only the Lord of the harvest can judge between the weeds and wheat.



Frank and the Light Switch

Through parables Jesus used ordinary scenes from daily life to communicate his message. 'The kingdom of God is like a light switch' says the person who relates this contemporary parable.

Originally it was me and my mate Frank. We were out looking for a place to kick a footy one Monday night in winter. We found a beautiful field. But it was in total darkness, despite the presence of a small lighting tower. 'Maybe there's a switch,' said Frank optimistically.

'Don't be silly, mate. You'd need council approval and a key.' I waited impatiently, while Frank persisted in prowling around the tower. 'You'll never find it,' I was about to say. But my friend was already calling out, 'Found it!' Suddenly our beautiful field was bathed in light.

The next week we returned to the field with our flatmates and some friends from university. Within a month we had a regular five-a-side game every Monday

night. It continued for a year and got bigger and bigger. Patrick met Helen the very first night and they are married now. Jo met George and they are now successful business partners. Some local guys we'd never met came down and we have remained friends ever since.

Monday nights became a regular social event. Each week we would meet, exhaust ourselves and 'catch up' as we talked into the night, the steam coming off our bodies in the cool night air.

By the time I left to live somewhere else it was 13-a-side with only five originals left. Frank and I had started an institution! One that had spawned a marriage, a business, many friendships and some brilliant night football.

All because Frank found the light switch.

Share stories and images of God's kingdom drawing on the events of daily life.

Planting a seed

About five years ago, during a coffee break at work, everyone was giving their pet theory about the answer to society's problems. I was sitting there thinking, 'What the world really needs is Jesus Christ'. At the same time I was thinking: I can't say that! So I said, 'You know, what the world really needs is Jesus Christ.' The conversation moved on and the incident was forgotten. Or so I thought. Five years later, in an entirely different conversation, a colleague quoted my statement back to me. He still remembered. (RP)

Think...Talk

- What gospel 'seeds' are planted in the world? Name them and mention their significance to the mission of the Church.
- Describe a time in your life when great blessings came from small and apparently insignificant beginnings.

A seed of grace

Twenty years after 'leaving' the Church, Margy had an experience of conversion that shook her to her roots. Feeling a great need to talk to someone about what she was going through, she sifted her memory banks for a seed of hope. She recalled a priest who had been a chaplain to her school all those years ago.

'I remembered that he "listened" to me,' says Margy. 'Despite my precocious adolescence, he gave me time when I needed to talk. So now, twenty years later, I turned to him again. It took me several phone calls to track him down, but I did and he was absolutely wonderful. He made a special trip into town to meet with me. Once again, he was a vehicle of God's love. He listened.'



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

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