

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

A great light shines. Is 8:23-9:3

Look beyond your differences. 1 Cor 1:10-13,17

A prophetic voice. Mt 4:12-23

## Next week:

The secret of inner beauty.

Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13;

1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12

## In a nutshell

Today's Gospel tells the story of Jesus beginning his public ministry. As he proclaims the nearness of God, he calls people to change their lives in a spirit of repentance. His message is not only for the Jews but for all people. On the shores of the Sea of Galilee, in the midst of everyday events, Jesus calls his first disciples to follow him.



## One man's journey

*A well-travelled man traces his journey to the Catholic Church.*

I left school after Year 10 and worked for the next six years at the local abattoir. During those years I had the chance to travel. I went around the world by myself when I was just 18 years old. It was one heck of an experience for a young bloke who'd hardly been out of Newcastle before. In fact, the trip turned out to be a watershed moment in my life as it triggered an inner revolution. I began to ask questions about the ultimate purpose and meaning of life.

Two years later I again went tripping around Europe. I saw a lot of things in a short time, but the memory that will stay with me always is sitting in Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, being overwhelmed by a sense of peace. This experience led me searching within the church of my youth, the Presbyterian Church. It was a nice homecoming and in time I saw myself as a believer in the Christian way.

The search did not end there. My quest for knowledge and truth slowly drew me to the Catholic Church. Yet I struggled to make that leap of faith. Once again it was through my overseas travels that I experienced the hand of God at work.

At Taize in France I found a whole new experience of God. God was becoming more personal, touching my life in ways I had not thought possible. My prayer life grew more fervent; scripture became living words of faith.

In India I spent most of my time in Calcutta working alongside the brothers and sisters in Mother Teresa's 'Homes of the Poor and the Sick'. This period was one of the most fulfilling of my life. I returned home a changed person. Not only had I lost a stone in weight, but I knew the time had come to become a Catholic. I was ready and I knew this in my heart of hearts. (Warren)

*Continued below*

## Never ending journey

I became a Catholic in 1983. Today I am still happy with that decision. I know that my Catholic Christian faith has given my life immeasurable meaning. It is a precious pearl, a never-ending gift, and without doubt the single most important possession in my life. This gift has enabled me to walk through life trusting, hoping, believing. I have always had a sense that God has been walking with me through every disappointment and trial, and has continued to surprise me again and again. (WJ)

## Fully human, fully alive

When asked why I became a Catholic I say that I found in this wonderful faith community a spiritual home where I could be 'me' in the best sense of the word. Catholicism, I discovered, had a genuine sense of Christian humanism; it emphasised the development of the whole person. This appealed to me because it meant that my varied life experiences had a value, that God was forming me into a more mature and integrated human being, Christ being the model of that human transformation.

I was also attracted to the Catholic community because of its rich tradition. Within this tradition the Truth is expressed like a diamond with innumerable facets, some of which we have discovered and others which we are yet to discover as the Spirit leads.

I hope my reflections offer some insight into why I am a Catholic Christian. How about you? (WJ)

## Pray

Lord, help us to listen with our hearts. May we see each moment as an opportunity to know and love you.



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

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