

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings:

The true shepherd. Ezek 34:11-12,15-17
Christ goes before us. 1 Cor 15:20-26,28
You did it for me. Mt 25:31-46

Next Week:

A new church year begins
Is 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8;
1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

In a nutshell

Today's Gospel story of the judgement of the 'sheep' and the 'goats' is a sobering comment on the credibility of Christ's followers. Christians are identifiable by their solidarity with the poor and their loving care for those who are most vulnerable. Without such virtue, faith rings hollow and we find ourselves estranged from Christ.



For the least of these...

Blessed routine

The gospel demands that we respect, cherish and protect our 'little ones' - and that includes our children.

The radio program was about fostering children, and the experiences of children who had been fostered.

One young woman who had been fostered during her early teenage years, was interviewed because she had excellent HSC results. She spoke of how much was happening in her life at a difficult time, and of how the routine of 'school was a bit of a relief from everyday life.'

As a teacher, I pricked up my ears! At a time when schools are often, and easily, criticised for the regimentation and uniformity they demand, this comment provided a different dimension to the debate. (Tracey)

Simple kindness

The simplest gesture of care can make a world of difference to a child.

A formative incident stands out in my memory banks. I am eight years old and starting a new school. I start later in the term than the other children because I have been recovering from illness. At the sound of a bell, all the kids rush over to their designated work areas. I stand back, unsure as to what to do. I am feeling confused, lost, lonely and stupid. Then, like an angel from heaven, an adult gently takes my hand and leads me to my desk with a reassuring word. Forty years later I still remember that simple gesture of kindness to a small child. (Adrian)

The picture-diary

At the age of four, Jodie was about to have a hectic weekend which included a dramatic change of routine, interstate air travel and separation from one parent. Sensitive to the anxiety levels in one so young, her mother drew her a picture-diary which explained the events of her weekend, step by step. There was a picture of Jodie and Daddy taking off on a plane. Then there were pictures of various people she would meet over the weekend. Finally, there was a picture of Mummy greeting her at the airport on her return.

As Jodie proudly explained the diary to me I marveled at the wisdom of her mother in finding this practical expression of sensitivity to her daughter's wellbeing. (TP)



For the least of these...

'The size of a pinhead.' That's how one politician described the human embryo as he argued for experimentation to be carried out on the smallest of human beings. His inference—despite all scientific evidence to the contrary—was that something that size couldn't possibly be human, therefore what does it matter if it's destroyed.

Contrast this with the plea of a mother who was experiencing complications in the earliest stages of her pregnancy. 'Please pray for our unborn baby,' she said.

Pray

Loving God, we are made in your image. Grant us

the eyes to see,
the hearts to cherish, and
the will to protect
the dignity of every human life.
Amen.



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

A publication of
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