

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language

at a glance

In today's readings:

Come to the water; quench your thirst. Is 55:1-3;
Confidence in Christ's love for us. Rom 8:35,37-39;
They had food in abundance. Mt 14:13-21.

Next week:

Walking on water.
1 Kg 19:9,11-13; Rom 9:1-5;
Mt 14:22-33.

In a nutshell

Today's Gospel is about sharing ourselves generously, trusting that our meagre resources need not limit the power of God. Jesus knew of the hunger of the people. He blessed what food he was able to find and gave example to all. The miracle is profound and we can experience it today in the generosity and faith of believers.



Have you ever created something beautiful out of 'almost nothing'? Sometimes the simplest of gifts herald the most life.

Grazie, Dio!

Just two months earlier it had all seemed impossible. My sister and I had been scratching our heads trying to work out a feasible way of learning the Italian language. We came from Italian stock and the least we could do was learn to speak it. We had before us umpteen brochures of uni courses, TAFE courses, language institutes. The trouble was: we either couldn't meet their schedule, or we couldn't afford them! And besides, how on earth could we fit another commitment into our lives? What began as a good idea was turning out to be a bad one.

A bit of prayer and lateral thinking soon solved our dilemma. Why not set up our own Italian class? There were enough Italian-speaking relatives in the extended family to muster a couple of teachers. We could meet at each other's houses which were all close

by. We could borrow some tapes and books...

Two months later, our home-grown Italian classes have (so far!) been a great success, for many reasons. First, they have been easy to get to. No driving into the city in peak hour traffic. We just walk or drive the brief journey to each other's homes. Also, it is a family activity. Instead of taking us away from family life, the Italian lessons bring us together. And it is relaxing. As well as working through exercises, we watch Italian videos and enjoy home-cooked Italian meals. Without the pressure of tests, and with the flexibility of being able to negotiate schedules, it becomes a pleasure instead of a stress factor.

And, to top it off, we're actually learning Italian! It's no wonder I find myself saying at the end of each class, 'Grazie, Dio' (Thank you, God).

If we can create something out of nothing, how much more can God do?

Talk...Pray...Act

- With what little you have, how can you bring life to others?
- Living in the midst of abundance, how can our communities become signs of belonging and justice?
- 'Every person is entitled to have food on their table, including you that have no money.' (John Paul II, Lima, Peru)
- *Lord, keep our hearts set on what's important, trusting in you and offering ourselves to you each day.*



Simply sharing

The F3 freeway in January is not the place to be when a truck loses its load. All lanes travelling south were blocked and there was nothing to do but wait. As time passed and people accepted the reality, drivers and passengers began to get out of their cars, to talk, to speculate on the obvious questions: why so long? how much longer? A snack van on the road was a welcome sight and when it opened for business, hunger—and boredom—could be relieved. When the snack van lady decided to move on to be accessible to other trapped travellers, a passage was cleared. Two young men strummed their guitars, others just talked and shared the experience. For a time, in the midst of a minor disaster, community—brief but real—happened. (TE)



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

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