

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

Searching for the Lord. 1 Kg 19:9,11-13;  
Heartfelt words from St Paul. Rom 9:1-5;  
Don't look at the waves. Look at Jesus. Mt 14:22-

## Next week:

Assumption of Mary.  
Apoc 11:19, 12:1-6,10;  
1 Cor 15:20-26; Lk 1:39-56.

## In a nutshell

Today's Gospel tells of Jesus walking on the water. Added to this is the account of Peter attempting to 'act like Jesus'. Peter succeeds until his fear gets the better of him. The story is full of rich symbols of faith and stands as a powerful call to step out beyond all doubt and hesitation with eyes fixed firmly on the Lord.



*Parental love can witness to the constant care God has for us for the entirety of our lives, through good times and bad.*

## For my boy

This is for my first baby boy, Luke:

I cried when a miracle happened before my eyes and you so peacefully and gracefully entered our lives; so peacefully in fact that you hid your heart condition. This condition would demonstrate your mother's love for you, as you both travelled in a light aircraft to Sydney and your diagnosis. We conquered your problems as a family.

I recall the hours spent watching you crawl around the lounge room, as you did your best to discover the world around you. I remember the day you weren't acting your usual bright self, and I jumped off the lounge, picked you up, turned you over and patted your back. A five cent piece popped out.

As you grew older you started to depend on me and would often cry if I left the house. At those times, your mother was your tower to lean on.

I feel sad that in your first few years of life I wasn't there to witness all your daily exploits that your mother told me about. Now you are a teenager and my love for you has not changed at all from the moment I cried when you were born, until now.

As you grow older son, you must understand that life is sure to get rocky; that there will be doubts, and decisions you must make. But you must always have a leaning post. Your mum and I will always be there for you.

This is written with love from your dad. (Ian Toombs)

First published in *The Big Issue* No.65 1999.

*Parents aren't perfect, but they are among the strongest of witnesses to God's fidelity and love.*

## A reflection from hospital

Through unexpected serious illness (colon cancer) I am learning how hard it is for sick people to be positive. While I know that all the assurances are right—'You'll be okay', 'You'll beat this', 'Look on the bright side'—I feel lousy, afraid, vulnerable, isolated and angry. Yet strangely, through all the good medical care, prayer and family support, I know I *will* be okay. Even if at the moment I don't feel very comforted, I know I am at peace with myself and at peace with God. Isn't God good! Isn't human weakness a strength! (DJA)



## Courage!

It was my first stint as a catechist. I had been given Class F, Year 9 in the local state high school. I was 25, inexperienced and scared! I was afraid of losing control of the class. I was afraid of failing in my task. I was afraid of a lot of things.

In my anxiety I turned to Jesus in prayer. Gradually my focus began to change. My thoughts became less preoccupied with myself and more focussed on the students. A phrase kept recurring within: the most important thing is to love them. In this realisation I experienced a quiet, reassuring strength and peace.

## Think...Talk

Describe a time you stepped out courageously in order to be true to your beliefs.

What hesitations and fears hold you back from being a more committed Christian?

How do your faith, and people of faith, help you when you are anxious?



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

A publication of  
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