

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings:

A magnificent mountain. Is 25:6-10
Ready for anything, with Christ. Phil 4:12-14,19-20
The wedding feast is ready! Mt 22:1-14

Next Week:

A tense moment for Jesus.
Is 45:1,4-6; 1 Thes 1:1-5;
Mt 22:15-21

In a nutshell

Today's Gospel describes God as a rich host who showers us (his guests) with gifts, and invites us to a lavish feast in his honour. Our response is expected! By the orientation of our hearts and the evidence of our actions we Christians are called to acknowledge God's generosity and to be 'dressed' appropriately in the finery of our baptismal faith.



Blessings

Even amidst suffering it is possible to live as a grateful guest at God's banquet of blessings.

Maria and Alex are a married couple in their thirties, with three children under four. Every day they cope with a serious illness afflicting Alex, including all its related pressures - physical, emotional and financial.

A recent email from Maria reads: "There are wonderful gifts and graces that have resulted from all the pain. Like our growth as a family in our relationship with God. 'We now get into trouble from Georgina (3) if we forget to say grace, and last night we all held hands around the table, even the boys (2 year old twins); which was so funny because they squeezed each other too hard! Little Dom then echoed Georgie's "Amen" about ten times which led to a family discussion of the meaning of "Amen"!"

'Yesterday, in the car, Georgie was praying aloud about her father, among other things. It gives me

a huge lift that she incorporates prayer into her daily life, not just at bedtime and before meals.

'So, even as we struggle to cope from day to day, as a family I couldn't ask for more in regard to prayer and the reality that our communication with God is gradually taking on such importance in all our lives.'

Gratitude is healing

A solo parent shares:

One thing that helped me on the road to recovery after my divorce was to focus on simple blessings. In the midst of a day of desperate sadness, I would find little things to thank God for: the warm sunshine, the relief of tears, the roof over my head, the gift of a supportive friend.

A feast for the senses

It was late spring, a cloudless day. On a circular lawn I was awe-struck by the sight of two mature jacaranda trees. Their peaks stretched upwards towards each other. With the sun out, all the blossoms were shimmering. That shimmer had to have a name. 'Mauve' and 'Jacaranda blue' lacked something. In a contemplative flash of insight it came: *electric blue*. A month later, the trees again caught my attention. The green lawn was strewn with blue flowers forming a gorgeous carpet with a thick pile. 'The heavens proclaim the glory of God,' sings the psalmist. So does the earth! Thinking to take a short-cut across the lawn, I stopped, then changed my mind. To disturb such a glory would be a desecration, like defacing a priceless painting. (PK)



church below the rooftops

'Keep your eye on the ball'

In ball sports a player is urged by a good coach to 'keep your eye on the ball'. If you don't, you are sure to drop it, lose it or have it stolen from you.

Today's Gospel is saying something like this. 'Keep your focus on the blessings of God, and your life will be filled with those blessings!' On the other hand, should we take our eye off the gift of God's love, we are sure to drop it, lose it, or have it stolen from us.

A prayerful focus

Think of a time in your life when you were clearly focussed on and receptive to God's love.

And what about now? How responsive are you to the invitation of faith?

What distractions and hurts dampen your capacity to respond to God?

Think of two people who can help you to 'rekindle' that spark of faith. Bring all these reflections to prayer.



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

A publication of
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