

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings:

I am the Lord, unrivalled. Is 45:1,4-6
You are loved, chosen, empowered. 1 Thes 1:1-5
Jesus: 'Hypocrites!' Mt 22:15-21

Next Week:

Love God and neighbour.
Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thes 1:5-10;
Mt 22:34-40

In a nutshell

Politics ... taxes ... laws ... community debate In a few simple sentences, Jesus cuts through the minefield of issues in which some of the Pharisees are embroiled and gets to the heart of the matter: God! Allegiance to God puts all things in their proper perspective. In the complexities of our own lives may we never forget this.



Reaching out!

Peter was one of ten students from a group of Catholic schools in Australia and New Zealand who travelled to Papua New Guinea to deliver a gift of a thousand books which they and fellow students had collected for schools in need. Writing in 2002, Peter said:

We visited Womatne, the most beautiful place I have ever seen—lush, green hills, blue skies and generous, caring people. When we arrived in the middle of the night, people—old and young—surrounded us. The whole community was overjoyed to see the books and the next day a ceremony was held to celebrate their arrival. It was a very emotional day that will stay with me forever.

On another day we visited the children at St Joseph's School and went to work in the library arranging the books into categories. This was a long, mundane job but one of my favourite moments happened whilst doing this task. I saw a little girl given a book; she

took it, sat in the corner and read it. The look on this girl's face whilst she read that book was one of pure joy. I will never forget that moment.

The last school we visited was De La Salle Bomana. There we fixed dorms that were in bad shape and spoke to the classes. Whilst there we were lucky enough to visit the War Cemetery for those who sacrificed their lives on the Kokoda Trail in World War II. That was an emotional experience for all.

Our PNG adventure made me realise the importance and privilege of education. Not everyone in PNG are able to enter Years 9 & 10, and even fewer go on to Years 11 & 12. I see how lucky we are in Australia to have schools everywhere for everyone, and how we can take our education for granted. I was told: 'education is the gift of life' for these children in PNG. It truly is.

Beyond words

As a Q'eqchi youth coordinator in the mountains of Guatemala, Rogelio works tirelessly to help his people rise above poverty and recover a sense of dignity. How did Rogelio discover his mission? A turning point was his experience of being part of a huge Catholic youth gathering. There, surrounded by thousands of fellow youth he listened as a papal envoy spoke to them in Spanish bringing a message of encouragement from the Pope. Now, Rogelio did not understand a word; he only spoke Q'eqchi'. Yet he was profoundly impressed by the power of the risen Christ whom he recognised in the massive gathering of youth. His mission had begun.

Source: Catholic Mission



church below the rooftops

On Mission Sunday we pray for missionaries everywhere and renew our own commitment to the spread of the gospel.

Five ways to be a missionary without leaving home

1. Fill your home with the fruits of the Spirit: gentleness, compassion, forgiveness... Let all who enter be touched by the peace of Christ.
1. Display Christian symbols in your home (e.g. a cross, a bible)—a signal to visitors that your faith is important to you.
2. Support a missionary in prayer. Place a photo relating to his/her mission on the fridge door. Pray for this person at family meals.
3. Put aside a portion of your income each week for a missionary work of the Church.
4. Raise a young missionary! Read stories about Christian missionaries to your children or godchildren. Or watch them on video, DVD.



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

A publication of
The Story Source, © 1992-2002.

www.TeresaPirola.net