

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Your light will shine. Is 58:7-10
By the power of the Spirit. 1 Cor 2: 1-5
Light, salt, Christ-bearer. Mt 5:13-16

Next Week:

First Sunday of Lent
Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10;
Mt 5:17-37

In a nutshell

Faith and good deeds, belief and action cannot be separated in the Christian life. So don't hide your love for Christ. Show it, shine it, prove it, do it! This is the joyful teaching of today's Gospel. Our faith in Christ and our love as a Christian community is a gift to be shared - with family, friends, parishioners, strangers...with all humanity!



Light of the world

How can we be light to the world, salt to the earth? Sometimes it's as simple as a smile and a kind word.

Enjoy Mass!

Every so often in our parish the Sunday Eucharist is 'handed over' to the young people. They prepare the hymns, play a variety of instruments, lead the singing with vigour, proclaim the Word and take up the collection. There is usually a sense of anticipation that energises the congregation. Last Sunday as I approached the church, the parish newsletter was handed to me by a young girl with a smile and an injunction to 'Enjoy the Mass!'

At first it seemed inappropriate; after all, I was not attending a show or a performance. But after some reflection, and as the Mass unfolded, I realised that what was inappropriate was my own resistance to being told to 'Enjoy the Mass!'. The idea that Sunday observance is a sombre obligation had become so ingrained that the idea of finding pleasure in the celebration of the Eucharist

was foreign. Not that it had never occurred—quite the opposite—but when it did, it was a bonus, not an expectation.

Hopefully the next generation will get it right! (Tracey)

Out of the blue: a compliment

Today I received an unexpected compliment. A friend phoned to say that she and her husband, with whom I had shared dinner the evening before, had both remarked later that I was 'as pretty as ever'. 'We so often think nice things about each other, but we never say them,' were her parting words.

Gosh! I sailed through that day. Funny how such a small word of kindness can make such a huge difference to the way we feel about ourselves and our world. (Kim)

Our family

From a child comes this proclamation of Christ's light and love.

On days when Dad is home we sometimes get into Mum and Dad's bed and listen to Dad read a story. Other times we all go into the lounge room, turn on some music and all dance together and pretend to play musical instruments. We all fall down in a heap and squash Dad. We also like to give Mum lots of hugs and kisses because she is the only girl in the family! And she is very special to all of us.

Source: *In Their Own Words* (Bishops' Committee for Family and for Life, 2000)



Today...

Make an act of faith in Christ, the true light, and in his Church, the community of faith called to bear this light to the world.

Today...

Light up someone's day with a warm smile, a kind word, a practical gesture of support.



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

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