

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

Moses: confident in the presence of God. Ex 34:4-6,8-9  
Simple lessons for a life of peace. 2 Cor 13:11-13  
The greatest love story ever told. John 3:16-18

## Next week:

The Body and Blood of  
Christ. Dt 8:2-3,14-16;  
1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58.

## In a nutshell

How infinite, relentless and all-encompassing is God's love! That this love is a perfect union—three persons, one God—holds a great challenge for our own lives. As a church community made up of complex human persons, all called to live 'as one', how do our relationships reflect the love of the Trinity?



## Kindness of strangers

On Tuesday I received a distraught phone call from my 15 year old daughter who had found herself stranded at the train station of a country town in NSW. She was on her way home to Canberra, only to find that her bus connection had been cancelled. There was no easy way for her to make the homeward journey, nor did she have sufficient funds with her. At a distance of 300 km it was the stuff of a mother's nightmare. I knew of no one in this town whom I could call to 'rescue' my daughter and ensure her safety while I made the three-hour car trip to pick her up.

However, the hand of providence was guiding our movements in that I decided to ring the Catholic presbytery of this town to seek assistance. The two women who received my call, the parish secretary and one of the nuns from the parish team, immediately allayed my fears. Within fifteen minutes, Sister Ellen made the trip to the station, collected my daughter and took care of her until

I arrived later in the afternoon. I knew neither of these women and had never spoken to them until my phone call yesterday. However, I felt secure and confident that I could rely on them as I could on anyone in my own parish.

There is some intangible bond and unspoken allegiance between people of my generation of the Australian church. This bond is not dependent on a personal knowledge of the other nor is it restricted by distance. I was drawing on the power of a shared past and pilgrimage which provide me with an understanding of belonging. (Therese)

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*Today: Bless your child, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

## God's love

My mother is not one given for speaking about her spiritual life, but on the eve of my wedding day we shared a rare moment of intimacy. 'When I fell in love with your father I felt a great sense of God's goodness and love,' she said thoughtfully. 'I remember being at Mass one day during our engagement and thinking: My cup is full. It can't get any better than this. It was a sense of wholeness...and holiness.' (Gena)

## Think...Talk

What are some important expressions of love in your family/parish/community?  
Name some of the 'little things' that can make or break a relationship.



church below the rooftops

## A simple message

'Grandma! Here's a lovely plate! Grandma...oops.' CRASH. SHRIEK. WAIL. Granddaughter No. 5 - four years old, full of curiosity and 'only trying to help' had just dropped grandma's treasured heirloom. The fact that it was a hundred years in the family and now lay in jagged pieces was enough to send tears streaming down grandma's face.

Yet in that same moment, she was cuddling the equally distraught four year old. 'It's OK darling, I know you didn't mean any harm.'

In this crazy mix of tears and love, I saw a simple but important gospel message communicated: People are more important than things; no heirloom is more important than the love it symbolises. (Mick)

## Pray...Act

*God of love, show us how to love one another.*

Choose someone you find hard to love and resolve to act and speak in a caring and affirming manner.



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

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