

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Moses calls on the name of the Lord. Ex 34:4-6,8-9
A holy greeting. 2 Cor 13:11-13
God gave his only Son. Jn 3:16-18

Next week:

Jesus, Living Bread.
Dt 8:2-3,14-16; 1 Cor 10:16-17;
Jn 6:51-58

In a nutshell

'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son...' These words which we hear on Trinity Sunday speak of the greatest of all love stories. Through baptism in Christ, we enter into that great love story. Each unfolding day is a call to the believer to 'live in love', a journey that culminates in the gift of eternal life.



Families who love

These sharings from Australian families show us that the unity of the Church involves personal decisions to be 'for' and 'with' one another.

'When we were first married we took up a tradition in my husband's family: we sit down together every night with a drink and nibbles before cooking dinner. This time together over the years has been very important for our relationship.'

'A good family time for us in winter is when we get together to watch the football. Sometimes we go to the game. Other times we watch the game on TV and have soup and bread...'

'We always hold hands when we say grace at dinner time. This is hard to do when we are cranky with each other. But I think it helps us to say sorry when we need to.'

'Our kids love to bring out our "funny book" on special occasions. Over the years we have written down the funny sayings and antics of our children. The kids never tire of hearing what they once said

and did. It's wonderful to see their sense of humour developing.'

This week's stories come from families in Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese, collected by Ministry for Family Development. [1999]

Families who love

'Our family has moved several times in the last twelve years. Part of the ritual for moving involves the children drawing a picture of the house we are leaving and the people who were important to them.'

'We have a fire-lighting ritual in our house for the beginning of winter. I make sure I clean out the chimney and order the wood in April. We all gather for the first lighting of the fire. We have mulled wine, hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows.'

Families at prayer

'On the window ledge above the kitchen sink we have a couple of candles, an oil burner and two little prints of Millet's The Angelus and The Shepherdess. Both are pictures of prayer in the midst of work. After dinner my husband and I light the candles and make washing-up a reflective time.'

'Each of our children take turns in leading family prayer. The ritual, prayer, music and candles are all the child's choice. They get carried away though. One day we had incense choking the room. Another day they tried the collection plate idea from Sunday Mass.'



Think...Talk

God is love. Ponder the profound simplicity of this truth.

Recall a fond family ritual in your growing-up years.

What rituals are part of your own family/household today?

How do they help to bring life, love and laughter into your home?

Pray

Jesus, help us to understand what it means to live as one, as you and the Father are one.

Act

What is one new ritual that could be introduced into your household? Talk and pray about this question together before coming to an agreement.



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

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