

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings:

Moses on Mt Sinai. Ex 34:4-6,8-9
Be united, live in peace. 2 Cor 13:11-13
Gift to the world. Jn 3:16-18

Next Week:

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

In a nutshell

'God so loved the world...'

In a sentence, today's Gospel captures something of the infinite depths of God's love and its transforming effect on the world. It is a love so powerful that none can remain unmoved. It is an invitation to faith: to believe and gain eternal life, or choose disbelief which is to refuse life itself.



The reality of love

'For God so loved the world...'

Australian families share how they experience this love and life in tangible ways:

Time well spent

As parents, we are very conscious of spending time with our children during their formative years. We don't want to live with later regrets of 'if only'. We enjoy each day and are thankful for the blessings our family has received.

Moving on

My husband left us when my daughter, 5, was diagnosed with leukaemia. My daughter is now in remission and, although life is busy, I am blessed. I have spent two years as a team member of 'The Beginning Experience'* so have moved on with wonderful support. I am very proud of what my children and I have achieved.

(* 'The Beginning Experience' is a program for people who find themselves single again through divorce or death of a spouse.)

Tough love

My family has been through some really tough times due to illness and teenage peer pressure (dope and alcohol). We enjoy our time together and things are getting better. We have made some steps forward and our children are starting to respect our saying 'no!' Life is like a roller coaster for us, up then down. We will be fine, though. We have our faith, determination and each other.

Family and parish family

I am a widower and my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are my family and my joy. Happy times are birthdays, Easter and Christmas. My next family is my Family Group. We get on very well and we look after each other, phone, pray, and so on.

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

Loving each other, like God does

Thirty married couples gathered for a seminar designed to sharpen their relationship skills. Although the exercises were shared privately between wife and husband, it was clear from the atmosphere in the room as the day progressed that a deeper level of communication was being forged in the life of each couple.

At the end of the seminar, the leaders invited everyone to join in a closing prayer. At the words 'Let us pray...' it was as if every husband and wife in the room instinctively moved closer to each other: an arm

encircling, a hand reaching. The link between marital intimacy and spirituality was so clear.



Melting moments

Our daughter has just started kindy and the best part of the day is when we get home together and she shares her day with us. The happiness on her face and the excitement in her voice melts the woes of my day!

'God loved the world so much...'

Reflect upon, and share with a friend or family member:

- Two ways you received God's love during the past week.
- Two ways you gave love in the past week.
- Two areas of your life in which you would like to become a more loving person.

Close your reflections by revisiting today's Gospel (Jn 3:16-18).



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

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