

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Vision of victory! Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
While you wait, live holy lives. 2 Peter 3:8-14
Voice in the wilderness. Mark 1:1-8

Next week: Witness to the light.

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;
John 1:6-8,19-28

In a nutshell

'Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight,' says the prophet. Christ wants to walk directly into our hearts, yet so often we put up road blocks that prevent us from receiving his love. Today let us examine our life choices and start clearing the way for the Lord's peace to enter our hearts.



Clearing the path

'Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight.'

How can we clear the obstacles and diversions that prevent Christ's love from finding a way into our hearts? Here is what some people said:

The prayer path

One day I was feeling angry and abandoned because God seemed so very distant from me. But then it occurred to me that I wasn't putting aside the time for prayer like I used to. I was treating God like a spiritual fast-food chain. Run in, grab your fill, and run out again. I simply wasn't being available just to be with God. I'm not married, but I suppose it would be like trying to expect your marriage to grow without time spent with your spouse. My resolution has been to get up a little earlier each morning and just sit with the scriptures for 30 or 40 minutes before racing off to work. (Lisa)

The consumer path

My beloved old car had finally packed up. It was clearly time to get new wheels. But what to buy? There was a brand new Hyundai available at a bargain price and it was very tempting to buy it. But, as a Catholic and a priest, I also wanted to witness to the gospel value of a simple lifestyle. In purely financial terms the new car made sense. But I wondered what this would 'symbolise' to other people - especially families who could not afford a brand new car. I talked to a number of people about my dilemma, took the decision to prayer, and eventually settled on a seven year old Corolla. I'm glad I made this choice. As far as the car's concerned, it's very roadworthy. And as far as my conscience is concerned, I am very much at peace. (VC)

The path to true love

In my 20s I was looking for a husband...a guy who was a faithful, loving, family-oriented man. The problem was, at the same time, I was regularly seeing an old boyfriend, a bit of a 'rogue' who was interested in nothing more than a physical relationship. There came a point where I realised that unless I gave up my 'rogue', there might never be the space in my heart for Mr Right. (Barbara)

The path to true life

Lately my elderly grandfather seems to be revisiting different parts of his life, going over and over memories and events. It's almost as if he's trying to resolve something before he dies. (Gregory)

The lifestyle path

Late night TV is a real trap for me. It's such a temptation to stay and watch the next show, no matter how brainless it is. I have to make myself turn it off so that I can function better in the mornings, and so that I can make 6.30am Mass in our parish. If I don't, I find myself just 'veging out' and wasting time. I go to bed restless and wake up tired and unfocused. (Ben)



Advent Action

Name one 'path' to your heart that needs straightening. Talk to Jesus in prayer about this path...

As a family/household talk about ways you can simplify your Christmas. E.g., Less material pressures. More time for prayer, listening, conversation.

TeresaPirola.net



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