

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## Today's Readings:

Come to the waters. Is 55:1-11 or Is 42:1-4,6-7  
The Spirit, the water and the blood give witness.  
1 Jn 5:1-9  
Jesus is baptised. Mk 1:7-11

## Next Week:

Gospel chain reaction.  
1 Sam 3:3-10,19;  
1 Cor 6:13-15,17-20;  
Jn 1:35-42

## In a nutshell

Mark's gospel account of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan reveals him to be the one chosen and sent by God. Immersed in the Father's love and filled with the power of the spirit, he is ready to begin his public mission. We who are baptised in water and in the spirit are part of Christ's life and mission.



## Loved, called, sent

*Like a wedding, a baptism is the beginning of a lifelong relationship. The grace of this sacrament empowers us to live as a people who share in the life and mission of Jesus Christ.*

## Baptism: it's about love

I visited a family home today. There they were, husband and wife, taking shifts as first one, then the other, calmly walked the floor with a screaming three-month-old baby. They were composed, quietly resolute. They took the blood-curdling screams in their stride, continuing to converse with me as if they were deaf to the din. What to me was intolerable bedlam, for them was 'business as usual' - all part of being a parent. I marvel at the gentleness, patience and other-centredness this couple has developed in the process of learning to be parents. I left their home with a reverence for all parents - the sacrifices they make and their gospel witness to the world.

## Baptism: it's about faithful presence

A fantastic ministry for me is visiting the homes of parishioners who can't get to church. I go to the homes of elderly people, spend half an hour with them, share a prayer and some parish news. One of the people I visit has Alzheimer's. When I arrive she doesn't recognize me, and when I say I'm from the church she asks 'How much?!'

These elderly folk are really vulnerable, but so strong in faith. Some are lonely. Each has a different story... so often it is one of strength and courage. (MR)

## Baptism: its about belonging

When Rachael had her baby son baptised, it was so important to her that the baptism take place in the old parish church where she had grown up. She could have waited a little longer and held the baptism in the beautiful brand new church which was about to open next door. But no, she insisted that her son be baptised in the 'old' church. Her decision reflected a sense of continuity with her past and the love that she had experienced from her faith family over so many years.

## Baptism: it's about witness

I have been asked to help man the St Vinnies Food Van: taking food to homeless people on the streets. I'm not sure what to expect, but I'm prepared to give it a go. (CJ)

*In your own words:  
'Baptism: it's about...'*



## Think . Talk

Share stories of how people live out their baptism in terms of:

- Love and belonging
- Presence and prayer
- Mission and witness

Include a story about yourself.

## Pray

Pray for a deeper awareness of the gift of baptism and the responsibility it entails.

## Today...

Think about the meaning of your baptism: the love God has for you; the love this faith community has for you.

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