

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem! Is 60:1-6
A mystery revealed. Eph 3:2-3,5-6
The star went forward to where the child lay. Mt 2:1-12

Next Week: Baptism at the Jordan. Is 55:1-11 or 42:1-4,6-7;
1 Jn 5:1-9 or Acts 10:34-38;
Mk 1:7-11

In a nutshell

Christ is light to a dark world. All people are invited to walk in his light. Epiphany Sunday issues a missionary challenge: The gift of salvation is a gift to be shared. Like the star leading the wise men to the Christ child, let us illuminate the way to Christ through the truth, joy and goodness of our lives.



Light to our Nation

Oct '99 in an Australian home.

Sitting down to Sunday lunch after Mass (no, not a roast these days but hot bread and a big pot of homemade soup!) the discussion among the older siblings turned to the upcoming referendum on the republic (Nov '99). Eight year old Kathleen asked if we had a president already and the three older children began to describe the role of the Governor General, Sr William Deane. We were all amazed at the many times we remember him bringing the country together in prayer at a time of need - Port Arthur, the Blackhawk disaster, the canyoning tragedy in Switzerland. The children then recalled a friend who has Down Syndrome who met him at Government House and the Christmas party Sr William Deane threw for street kids.

Stephanie, aged six, took all of this in and said: 'Does that mean he is a Jesus person?' We all thought for a moment and agreed that he really is a 'Jesus person', someone

who is a light to all Australians. (Elizabeth)

Postscript: Six year old Stephanie is our family philosopher. She thinks deeply and tries to work out how all the pieces of life fit together. One day she asked thoughtfully: 'Mum, is Jesus' heart the world?'

Think about it

Mealtime conversation is a natural way to validate, nourish and deepen the bonds of family and faith.

- Are family meals part of your lifestyle?
- If so, treasure this practice. You are light to the world!
- If not, point the way for others by taking more mealtime initiative.

Who are the 'bright stars' drawing us into the radiance of Christ's presence?

Lighting the way

At a very low period of my life, nothing and no one could take the burden from my heart. No one, that is, except two year old Ricky. Half an hour of babysitting was all it took for his innocent face and humorous antics to break through my darkness. A little child shall indeed lead us... (Tracy)

Our youth gathering, held in the parish hall, is always full of joyful music and singing. One day Nathan appeared. Nathan was seventeen and unemployed. His appearance was dishevelled, his ears sported multiple earrings. He had wandered in off the street, attracted by the band's music. He didn't say much. Still doesn't. Just comes and sits at

the back. He seems content just to 'be' with us. A 'nobody' out there, he is 'somebody' to us. (Nick)



Think. Talk. Pray.

- Who has been your 'Star of Bethlehem', leading you to Christ?
- In what ways are you leading other people to Christ?
- When the Magi met the Christ-child, they came away changed; their lives now pointing in a new direction. Have you had an experience of conversion like this? Tell the story...
- Pray: Christ, be our light! Dispel the darkness and bring us home to you.

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