

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

A united community of believers. Acts 4:32-35
Love God. Love God's children. 1 John 5:1-6
Jesus: 'Shalom!' John 20:19-31

Next week:

After Emmaus
Acts 3:13-15,17-19;
1 John 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48

In a nutshell

'Peace be with you.' 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' Our Gospel is about the fulfilment of Jesus' promises concerning his faithful presence: the gift of the Spirit, forgiveness of sins, peace and eternal life. The same Spirit who created the world empowers the disciples to go forth as the 'new creation', continuing the mission of the risen Jesus.



Easter image

Today I dropped our three children at school. Our boys jumped out first and I stood beside car to hurriedly brush my daughter's long hair. Whilst doing this I enjoyed seeing my youngest, Hugh, greet a friend as they approached the bottom of the stairs. Both are in kindergarten.

'Jordie!' called my son and with arms outstretched he ran to hug his friend with all the exuberance only a five year old can muster.

'Huuuweeeee!' called Jordan, equally delighted to see his friend. It was as joyful a meeting as you could hope to see, even though they had shared their playtime just the day before.

As the pair laughed and chatted, and headed up the stairs together, they stopped on the middle step while Hugh lifted his friend's school cap and delightedly patted the top of Jordie's head, revelling in the feel of its lumpy texture and the colour, so different from his own. Hugh's straight hair is silky, smooth and blonde, and his skin is milky white. Jordan has closely cropped black,

fuzzy curls and skin as smooth and dark as chocolate.

It would be hard to find two children more opposite in appearance. Bound together in friendship and innocent of history's conflicts, their differences are not endured as a problem but celebrated in a moment of pure joy. The imagery captured in this encounter was not lost on Jordan's father either, for as he caught my eye, he beamed a familiar smile, echoing his son's.

In the years ahead, it is likely that my son's hair will darken. But I hope that my son's delight in the differences between others does not darken. I hope that he continues to be as celebratory in his attitude to those of a different colour, race or creed as he was today, embracing his friend at the bottom of the steps of life. (Jenny)

From a traveller's diary

My time in Lourdes was the most enriching part of my overseas trip. The comment of a Scottish woman with whom I shared breakfast one morning still rings in my ears: 'There are always miracles at Lourdes; not necessarily cures, but miracles.' (Ken)

Think about it

What signs of Jesus' living presence have you seen or heard or felt in the past few days? Perhaps in a letter from a friend, in a loving gesture or shared joy. The risen Jesus might simply be in the glimmer of hope in a dark situation; or in your courage to get up this morning and face a difficult day.



The decision

Elizabeth recalls the words of a twelve year old girl who became a Catholic. 'She was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis,' Elizabeth explains. 'She told her mother she would like to become a Catholic. When asked why, she said: "Well, since I have been sick I have been talking to Jesus a lot and I would like to be with other people who talk to Jesus."'

Think . Talk . Act

Describe a time when the Spirit of joy, peace, unity was palpable in your life.

- What was the occasion?
- How did it feel?
- How did you come away changed?

Stop rushing around for a moment. Take a deep breath. Breathe in the Spirit of the risen Jesus. Exhale all fear and disquiet.

- What will you do this week to express some real Easter joy?



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

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