

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

Invitation to Christ. Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48  
Love one another. 1 John 4:7-10  
As the Father has loved me... John 15:9-17

## Next week:

Go out to all the world...  
Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23  
or 4:1-13; Mark 16:15-20

## In a nutshell

'Remain in my love'. As Jesus went to his death he left behind a small group of friends who had been gathered and formed in his love. It was they who would form the nucleus of the early Church. Everything we are and all we do as a Church must be built on Christ's commandment to love one another, as he has loved us.



## Remain in my Love...

My Uncle Mark - always the picture of health and fitness - died suddenly of heart failure. It was a great shock for all the family. Eighteen months later, crazy things remind me of him. Like pancakes (which he loved to make on Sunday mornings). Like anything to do with football (Mark was a sports fanatic). Like my Reebok sneakers that I bought just before my holiday with his family. They are all so sporty and I remember I made a keen effort to learn from them practical ways of improving my fitness. I remember how he and my aunt sat around the table with me offering suggestions as to how I could use my nursing degree. That holiday visit had a big impact on me. Mark was always so supportive and encouraging of me to be the best I could be in little practical ways, whether it be my health, my posture, my relationships.

I remember the way he would say grace before meals with a gentle, good-humoured flamboyance. He was a man of great faith with

a knack of making religion seem joyous and fun, while still a presenting a challenge.

I feel a real emptiness now that he has gone. And yet, I also feel his presence with me in so many ways. Ironically, so many memories have been built through tiny, trivial events. So called 'wasted' time like holidays and just family 'mucking around' together. Except I guess they are not trivial or wasted but precious ways in which families build memories and pass on their values. (Tina)

## Father and Son ... always

Said one of Mark's sons six months after the death of his father. 'Even though Dad's no longer here in a physical way, our relationship continues. To me it feels like a growing thing. I'm changing, Dad's changed. It's a matter of exploring our relationship in a whole new way..'

## Neighbours

In our parish there are two families committed to supporting another young family who recently lost their husband and father through cancer. I called by last weekend and there was a working bee in full flight. Tasks which the husband used to do (a gate in need of fixing, a gutter in need of clearing) were all being attended to. (Bob)



church below the rooftops

## Think... Talk

Love: It's been called the most creative force on earth. And it's absence, the most destructive. What difference does your faith make to your capacity to love and be loved?

Think of some expressions of love you have witnessed:

- profound and unusual
- ordinary and everyday

How does your family/parish/community build memories of love?

## Pray... Act

For a greater capacity to love and be loved, we pray to the Lord.

Work on those tiny habits so essential to a loving home:

- Praise, not criticism.
- Positive humour, not negative jokes.
- Affection.
- Time together.
- Noticing and naming each other's gifts and qualities.
- Grace before meals and other regular prayer times.



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

A publication of  
The Story Source, © 1992-2002.

[www.TeresaPirola.net](http://www.TeresaPirola.net)