

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language

at a glance

In today's readings:

Deep within I will plant my Law. Jeremiah 31:31-34
Christ learnt to obey. Hebrews 5:7-9
Unless a grain of wheat falls. John 12:20-33

Next week: Passion Sunday.

Entrance: Mk 11:1-10
Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11;
Mark 14:1-15:47

In a nutshell

In giving life, we find it. This is the message of today's Gospel. In itself the seed of grain offers nothing; it must die to bear fruit. Likewise Jesus laid down his own life so that we might live. For Christians, life is an ongoing journey of dying and rising. Individually and as a Church, the path to maturity is about learning to yield to the Holy Spirit.



Letting go

One day while out walking, I was reflecting on my past, worrying about my future. After months of tests for a life-threatening illness, my doctor told me there was nothing more he could do and referred me to the oncology unit. I had left the surgery in a daze. How could this be happening? I searched for meaning but found none.

Some ten years earlier I had struggled to accept another child into the family. I had thought that my child-bearing days were over and I was looking forward to doing some study. This child came into our lives and became the spring of light and life in our home.

Having had these last ten years, my current anger was directed at God for threatening to take this away. After all, I was given a job to do (parenting) and I was not going to be able to finish it. What kind of God would give you a family to rear and then take you away before you had finished? It didn't make sense. I was extremely angry.

As I walked, with my meditation

and breathing I calmed down and cleared my mind of all thoughts of death. Out of one of those rare luminous silences came an answer. God spoke to me and said: 'They are my children too. Why do you think YOU know what is better for my children than I do? I love them unconditionally, and want only the best for them also. Trust me.'

In this moment of truth I remembered that my God knows my needs as well as I do and I was left with a peaceful feeling. I knew deep down that no matter what lay ahead, things were going to be OK. I had no idea what that OK would mean in terms of living or dying, but I was able to accept whatever lay ahead knowing that God was there with me in all the stress and worry, walking with me, and this was enough to comfort me. My faith prepared me to meet the future, rather than to foretell it. (Margaret)



The electrician

It was a cold Friday night and the electricity failed at our house. Ours seemed to be the only property blacked out. The fuses were checked and there was no trouble here. Clearly the problem was more serious. We didn't fancy our chances of getting a tradesman out at this time of night. But an electrician responded to our call within the hour, did a thorough check and discovered the problem to be an aged power box. As he was fixing the various fittings, I noticed he was wearing protective

gloves. The cold affected his blood circulation, he said. Despite cost to himself, he was helping us out of our crisis. With power restored we settled the account. I wanted to give him a tip for his trouble, but he firmly refused saying, 'It's all part of the service.' (RS)

One summer's day...

At the beach I was grappling with the outdoor shower. The tap was stiff and you had to hold it and awkwardly shower at the same time. As I struggled a teenage girl stepped up and offered to hold the tap for me. 'Thanks!' I said. I was grateful but also surprised by her gesture. Around here most people keep to themselves.

Later I noticed the girl assisting her brother to shower. Her brother had Down Syndrome and she was wonderful with him. Care for others, in and outside the family, obviously came naturally to this girl. Perhaps her little brother had been a wonderful teacher. (Rebecca)

Think . Talk

Consider the difficulties which have been part of your life. What gifts, graces and opportunities have developed from these painful experiences?



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

A publication of
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