

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

A prophet is called and sent. Ezekiel 2:2-5
Paul boasts of his weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Jesus: too close for comfort. Mark 6:1-6

Next week:

Twelve are summoned
Amos 7:12-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:7-13

In a nutshell

How can Joe's son, the boy next door, be the messiah?! The Gospel speaks of the difficulty Jesus posed for some in his home town. A prophet in both word and deed, his presence created offence as well as attracting followers. The Gospel indicates that Jesus' healing powers are not those of a self-made wonder-worker but involve the call to faith and conversion of heart.



In takes particular courage to speak out against the tragedy of abortion which quietly destroys 100,000 unborn Australian children each year.

Giving Sorrow Words

I wish someone had said 'There will be losses having a baby, but don't underestimate the loss of having an abortion.' (Lee)

Giving Sorrow Words by Melinda Tankard Reist (published by Duffy & Snellgrove, 2000) tells the stories of Australian women grieving after abortion. It includes the personal stories of 18 women and draws on the experiences of more than 200 others. These are voices of women who, until now, have been little heard in the abortion debate; women who have experienced heart-breaking sorrow which our society has never allowed them to grieve. This book is sure to have a quiet healing influence on our communities.

Walking for life

From a 'Walk for Little Feet' organised by Right to Life Victoria comes this story:

On the last leg of the Walk, Friar David noticed a young boy walking beside him. The boy struck up a conversation, saying how wonderful it was to be taking part. Friar David asked him where his parents were. At home, came the reply. Did they know he was taking part in the Walk? 'No,' said the boy. 'Mum's sort of Christian but she doesn't go to church and my Dad follows football.' What inspired him to join the Walk? Said the boy: 'I have a friend who would have had an older brother but his mother had an abortion. I'm walking for him 'cause he never had a chance to walk.'

(Abridged version of a story originally published in the Franciscan newsletter 'The Little Troubadour')

A prophet close to home

When I was a 19 year old seminarian, I found my theological studies to be quite challenging. Issues which I had thought were black and white suddenly looked very grey. I remember chatting about it with my Dad one day and he said 'Sure, you can debate all those issues, but the most important thing to remember is that God *is*.' At the time I thought: 'Dad obviously doesn't know much theology!' It was only much later after I was ordained and had been working in a parish for a couple of years that the wisdom of his comment really hit home. Far from being simplistic, my Dad was in touch with a profound

truth without which all debate and speculation in the church is pointless. How important to listen to people of deep faith. (VC)



Just kids?

Sitting in the pews at the conclusion of Mass one Sunday, I looked over to see the youthful music ministry packing up their instruments. 'Nice kids' was the flippant thought that passed through my mind. Nice kids? Hang on! I chastised myself for my patronising attitude. I remembered being their age, how my friends and I played music in church with a desire to touch hearts and change lives. We were not just musicians, we were disciples of Christ! Did parishioners look upon us back then, smile and dismiss us as 'nice kids'? Perhaps. (Anne)

- Tell the story of at time when you became aware of 'a prophet close to home'.
- Who was the prophet?
- What was the message?
- How did you respond?



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

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