

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Get lost, prophet! Amos 7:12-15
Hymn to the mystery of Christ. Ephesians 1:3-14
Instructions for twelve disciples. Mark 6:7-13

Next week:

Jesus has pity on the crowds
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ephesians
2:13-18; Mark 6:30-34

In a nutshell

Today we hear practical advice for the disciple: Travel lightly. Unburden yourself of all but the essentials. Trust God. Share in the hospitality of those who welcome you. Stay settled; don't flit from house to house (or ministry to ministry). Don't dwell on rejection but 'shake the dust' and move on as the Spirit leads.



'Joonafek!'

When I was younger I stopped genuflecting in church. Perhaps it was a reaction to old-fashioned pedagogy, but ever since then I have been inclined to just slide into the pew without bending my knee first, content to know that I am welcomed by the Lord and happy to be in God's house.

But last week I was challenged to think again about the value of genuflecting. A friend whom I sometimes see at weekday Mass has a two year old son, Jack. I noticed that my friend has taught Jack to genuflect. He seems very proud of himself as he performs the action; he wobbles as he bends one knee and says in a loud voice 'Joonafek!' (Two-year-old language for 'genuflect')

I began to think about my own two year old child. Why was I not teaching her this little ritual? Surely this is all part of how children learn about their faith community, our beliefs and traditions, through copying the religious words and actions of their parents. And wasn't

genuflection a sign of reverence for the Lord's presence? Didn't I want my child to grow up sensing the specialness of this sacred place? And knowing that her Mum was responsive to Christ's presence? At the end of Mass I walked over to my friend's pew to have a quiet word with my friend. As I stood next to her pew, little Jack looked at me expectantly and said loudly 'Joonafek!'

Dutifully (and a little rusty) I bobbed on one knee. Yes, Lord. Your lesson is clear. Taught by a two year old. (CP)

Today, talk about simple ways we can pass on our faith to children through word and gesture.

A simple way to witness

We were having drinks after a touch football game. David's wife, Mary, was there with the team, chatting about her pregnancy. 'We've got this wonderful prayerful couple who are going to be the baby's godparents,' she enthused. 'They have been saying novenas for the baby's safe passage into the world!'

That's what I love about Mary. The way she openly shares her faith, even though she knows a couple of cynical people present will ridicule her religious beliefs as soon as she turns her back. Later I commented on this to Mary. 'Sure,' she said. 'I'm aware of their reactions. But so what?! It's my child who is being prayed for! Why can't I rejoice in that?' (CL)



Witness

When our friend was dying in a country hospital, the way he and his wife related to each other in those last precious weeks of his life was an inspiration to the staff. Our friend constantly spoke of his 'beautiful Julia' and never missed an opportunity to speak of their love for each other.

Think...Pray...Act

- Think of one person - someone you deeply care about - with whom you would love to share your faith in Jesus Christ.
- Have you ever communicated this desire to him or her?
- Bring your thoughts to prayer and see what action ensues.



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

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