

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

I will rain bread from heaven. Exodus 16:2-4,12-15  
Spiritual revolution. Ephesians 4:17,20-24  
I am the bread of life. John 6:24-35

## Next week:

I am the living bread.  
1 Kings 19:4-8; Ephesians  
4:30-5:2; John 6:41-51

## In a nutshell

Today's gospel is part of a longer section which clarifies the meaning of the miracle of loaves and fishes. The people come looking for Jesus to satisfy their material needs and curiosities. Jesus, however, offers them his teaching and draws their attention to their deepest need 'for food that endures to eternal life'.



*From material luxuries to self-help books, our world has so much on offer, all promising us fulfilment and happiness. Today's Gospel urges us to carefully consider the ways in which we try to satisfy our hungers, seeking not superficial quick fixes but 'bread that lasts'.*

## A memorable meal

Colleagues from work invited me out for a drink but I had this urge to go home first. Thank goodness I did. On the answering machine there was a message. Dad had just returned from his sister's funeral and would like to go out for dinner. I knew Dad was really grieving his sister's death and had a lot on his mind so I was keen to respond to his dinner invitation.

I thought dinner would consist of Mum and Dad and myself, but when I arrived at the restaurant almost the whole family was there - brothers, wives and girlfriends. Looking around at the scene it was obvious that we all wanted to be there for Dad. And I knew Dad felt and appreciated our support.

At one stage during the meal he looked around at us all and said, 'If someone offered me a million dollars right now I would gladly give it up for all this.' I'd have to agree. The warmth and closeness of just being together at this time was a priceless gift. (Margy)

## Priorities

A priest friend of mine has recently been appointed to a parish which has suffered much pain and turmoil over the last two years. Aware of his strong gifts in the area of strategic planning I asked him what was on the agenda for the coming year. His response surprised me. 'There is so much hurt and brokenness here,' he said. 'The people of this parish just need to be loved for the next twelve months.'

*Reflect on the words 'Give us this day our daily bread'.*

## Overheard

A senior parishioner whose wife died remembers with gratitude the time his parish reached out with the bread of life. 'Over the four months that Kath was dying someone from the parish brought her Holy Communion every day. When we couldn't come out to church, the Church came to us.'

## Think...Act

Consider becoming a Eucharistic minister in your parish.



church below the rooftops

## Hungry heart

I have been friends with Carmel for years. But lately something has shifted. More and more our conversations are about spiritual things. She displays a hunger for prayer, for answers to life's questions. It's as if she's 'seen' something in other people of faith and wants 'more'. Last weekend we organised our own little prayer day. Simple stuff. We got together in the park, read some scripture, spent some time in silence and then chatted about our reflections. Only time will tell what impact that day had, but I have no doubt it has added a new depth to our friendship. (Pat)



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

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