

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

Keep the commandments! Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8  
Listen to God's Word, and do it! James 1:17-18,21-22,27  
Purity is a state of heart. Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

## Next week:

The deaf hear, the dumb speak.  
Isaiah 35:4-7; James 2:1-5; Mark  
7:31-37

## In a nutshell

In the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, Jesus makes the point that external religiosity is not enough on its own. God seeks from a person the purity of a heart which is truly oriented to the ways of God; not lipservice but a lifestyle that is an authentic embodiment of God's commandments.



*Little Nathan has had three heart operations and is doing well. This story is from his grandmother.*

## More than a Job

The nurses and doctors at the Children's Hospital are wonderful. Their work is not 'just a job'; they seem to really care about us. One of the nurses had three days off just after Nathan's first heart operation. She told us how, on her first morning back at work, she'd crept fearfully into Nathan's ward, straining to see if Nathan was still in the bed – that is, still alive. Her relief to see him there was enormous. Then, when we were getting ready to take Nathan home, his surgeon stood at the foot of the bed for ages, just beaming as he enjoyed the sight of Nathan's health and life. It's wonderful when the staff care as much as we do.

## Holiness in action

A Protestant minister who became a Catholic tells how he prepared to be received into the Catholic Church on Easter Sunday. He was very serious about his new commitment and had his spiritual preparation for Holy Week all mapped out: spiritual reading, scripture reflections, talks with a spiritual director, lots of praying. He took his plan to the parish priest who took one look at it and said, "That's great Scott, but where do your wife and children fit into all this?" Scott felt ashamed. He hadn't even considered them! 'I've got a better idea,' said the parish priest. 'For your Holy Week preparation why don't you spend the whole week loving your wife and children – offering them your time, presence and attention. Then allow all your efforts to culminate in a family picnic on Saturday.'

The new plan proved to be a graced and loving experience – not just for Scott but for his whole family.

*Think about it: When did I last get my heart checked?*



## Wisdom for life

I was sitting in church one Sunday. It was just after communion and a hushed silence filled the church. I felt distracted in my prayer. I think I was day dreaming about something...nothing...anything. Then a little voice from a pew behind me broke the silence: 'Mum, I love Jesus.' Immediately, with a freshness and a smile, I focussed back on what was important. (Greg)

## Think...Talk

- *Be 'doers' of the word* is the message of today's second reading from James. Who has taught you most about turning love into action? Describe this person and the impact he/she has had on your life

## Pray...Act

- *For hearts filled with love and an 'active' faith, we pray to the Lord.*
- What are you going to 'do' for God this week?



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

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