

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Don't be troubled by the past.
Isaiah 43:18-19,21-22,24-25
'Yes' to the life of the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 1:18-22
Pick up your stretcher and walk! Mark 2:1-12

Next week:

New wine, new wineskins.
Hosea 2:16-17,21-22;
2 Corinthians 3:1-6; Mark 2:18-22.

In a nutshell

Today's Gospel tells of Jesus the healer who forgives sins and restores health. Notice the loving effort of the four men who lowered their friend through the roof to reach Jesus. In our own lives, no matter how 'together' we may seem, our troubled hearts cry out for healing. Let's help one another to come to Jesus.



How greatly we need friends on our healing journey. A reader shares this story.

Healing journey

At Mass one day, I noticed John's name listed in the 'anniversary' section of our parish newsletter. It brought back thoughts, not only of John, but of the turbulent year I myself endured.

I remembered attending John's funeral. He had been a successful businessman who held many positions in the community. He was highly respected; a man always there for others. The church was overflowing with mourners as Father spoke kind words. Then, those words: 'In a moment of madness, John took his own life. Why? We will never know...'

Madness? How dare he! I had thought at the time. *If someone is that unhappy, they have the right to peace.* Little did I realise my own life was heading down the same path as John's.

It took another eight months before my world fell apart. I had lived life pretending everything was

fine. Like John I was always there for people: the mother, the business woman, the supporter, the friend. To everyone I was organised and in control. I believed that if I worked hard my problems would go away. How wrong could I be.

Slowly I realised my time was running out. *If only I can get through Christmas.* But I could bear it no more. No matter how 'good' I was, it didn't take away the years of hidden child abuse. My world caved in. Life didn't seem worth living. But God had other plans. Instead of a funeral, I had therapy.

A year has passed. I have a new life, full of love and joy for the Lord, for he showed me that in truth I will be saved. I am still a mother, a wife, a friend. But I am also your next door neighbour. So the next time you see someone who appears to 'have it all', share a kind word - for they too may need a helping hand. (Sue)

Share an insight from your own healing journey through life.

Healing hands

In this parish report we see a simple and practical example of Christ's healing presence in the world today:

From very humble beginnings about five weeks ago, a tiny group of ordinary people in our parish were able to organise a 'main event' that raised \$6,945.00 to assist those suffering in East Timor.

From our Trivia Night two money orders have been made out to Caritas and the Mary MacKillop Foundation. Not one cent of the money raised was spent to set up or

run the Trivia Night.

For all of us it was a great lesson in trust and faith. We were continually surprised by the willingness of businesses and individuals to give that little bit extra.

We are very grateful to all who participated and made the evening such a joy and a success. We are now planning a bush dance for the same cause. (Vic)



church below the rooftops

Think . Talk

- Do you believe that Jesus can heal?
- Who has been a friend to you on your own healing journey?

Pray . Act

Teach your children about the healing power of Jesus. As well as applying the appropriate medical and emotional aid to a hurting child, lay hands and pray for healing.



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

A publication of
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