

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Our God of tenderness and love. Hosea 2:16-17,21-22
You are a letter from Christ. 2 Corinthians 3:1-6
New wine for new wineskins. Mark 2:18-22

Next week: Master of the sabbath.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15;
2 Corinthians 4:6-11;
Mark 2:23-3:6.

In a nutshell

The life and message of Jesus Christ call for a total surrender to the ways of God. Wherever we find ourselves when we meet Christ, our faith is not an appendage to an existing lifestyle, nor is it a 'new look' to old habits. The Spirit of the risen Christ transforms and recreates us. Are we open to receive the Spirit of the risen Lord?



New vision

In a quiet and understated manner, a young man shared this story of faith and conversion:

'Some years back I drifted from the Church. I stopped going to Mass for about a year or two - it might have been four. Then I did some travelling in Europe. Being a tourist, I would invariably visit a church at each city I visited. That got me thinking. Then one day I went to a rally where many people gathered to greet the Pope. I wept. I can't exactly explain why, but I found myself in tears. There was something happening inside me. After that I started going to Mass again and my Catholic faith has become very important to me.'

The young man went on to say that he works as a sales assistant in a suburban store. He deliberately requested a change in his shift hours so that he can spend half an hour praying in his local parish church each morning before he goes to work.

'My morning prayers help me at work,' he explained. 'I used to

go through the day and just see tedious work. Now I see so much more - I see the customers as people, I enjoy serving them, I'm much happier. My morning prayer gives me this different perspective on my day. It gives me a new way of looking at life.'

*'What's new' in your spiritual life?
Swap notes with a friend.*

Beyond fashion

I'm sure we've all read at some time statements like 'Grey (or brown or navy) is the new black', or 'Vietnam (or Tibet or Ethiopia) is the new hip tourist destination.'

Well, today I read 'Forty is the new thirty'! Since I am not so far from forty I suppose I should be delighted by this new insight, but it seems just another fairly mindless example of the 'cult of the new' that pervades our society.

If only the trendsetters could discover the unbelievable newness, vitality and excitement of being a disciple of Jesus Christ! I guess people like me must seem pretty boring to them; but I know I have an enthusiasm for life that will outlast any fashion statement. (TT)



church below the rooftops

Think . Talk

- In what way does your faith affect your perspective on life?
- Can you imagine what life would be like without your beliefs and practices?

Pray

Do you pray each day? When, where and how? What impact does your prayer life have on your day-to-day activities?

Act

Invite a friend to share with you an experience of Christian community. Ask him or her to join you at a Christian rally, a home gathering or parish function.



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

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