

MARRIAGE MATTERS

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Scripture reflections for couples for the Easter season.

Easter Sunday

(Acts 10:34, 37-43 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-9)

Love our spouse just as they are

The different behaviour patterns of Jesus' friends are well illustrated in these Scriptures. Jesus loved each of them exactly as they were, just as He loves each of us. Our challenge is to really love our spouse, just as they are, with all the differences that we have. It's a lifelong journey, but like Jesus' friends, our understanding can grow.

Second Sunday of Easter

(Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31)

Togetherness

Our 'togetherness' in what we do and say is a 'sign' of our love and a source of joy for us. Sometimes, like Thomas, we can be stubborn, with an attitude of 'I'll believe it when I see it' creating a sense of separation and distance. But together we have the power to stop, reflect, be forgiven, and begin again.

Third Sunday of Easter

(Acts 2:14, 22-28 1 Peter 1:17-21 Luke 24:13-35)

How well do we listen to each other?

As Jesus walked to Emmaus, he listened carefully to His disciples and experienced their grief. An important part of our relationship is listening. We may disagree with our partner's thoughts and judgments but they are part of who this person is. We need to experience him/her and convey the joy of discovering the person he/she is.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

(Acts 2:14, 36-41 1 Peter 2:20-25 John 10:1-10)

Feeding your sheep

John 10:10 describes us as 'sheep'. God watches over and feeds us with his Word, and in the Eucharist. With God's help we have created a few more sheep, so we pray for His help, read books, use the internet to protect our children from the harm done by the 'media' and many of today 'addictions'. That's being good shepherds.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

(Acts 6:1-7 1 Peter 2:4-9 John 14:1-12)

I am in you and you are in me

Jesus says, "To have seen me is to have seen the Father".

In our married life, through the visible sign of the way we love each other, when people meet one of us we can be a sign that 'when seeing me, you see the one I love, in me and with me', thus emulating Jesus' relationship with His Father.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

(Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 1 Peter 3:15-18 John 14:15-21)

Listen to Jesus within ourselves and within our partner

Jesus is in me and in you!

In marriage we are especially called to honour that presence in our spouse every day. There may be times when we hurt each other or take each other for granted, leading to feelings of jealousy and resentment, often to arguments. At times like this the call is for forgiveness, for healing, for affirmation.

Seventh Sunday of Easter The Ascension

(Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:17-23 Matt 28:16-20)

Filled with hope

Today's readings tell us of the end and the beginning of something new and exciting in the life of the young Church.

When we married, we were filled with both excitement and trepidation for our future together. But like the disciples, the Spirit of the risen Lord has been with us since we became "Little Church" on our wedding day.

Pentecost

(Acts 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 John 20:19-23)

The Spirit works in all sorts of different ways

Years ago, on a Marriage Encounter weekend, we had a real experience of the Spirit working "in all sorts of different ways in different people", not in Church documents, but in real life.

We were like the disciples at Pentecost, "filled with joy when they saw the Lord", and we heard our own native language, deep inside each of us.