

FAMILY PRAYER

WEEK BY WEEK



Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year A

2 May 2020

"I am the gate of the sheepfold."

Something to Think About

You probably don't know any shepherds, but there were lots of shepherds in Jesus' time. All the people understood that a shepherd's job was to feed his sheep, protect them from harm and patiently guide them on the right path.

Jesus is like a shepherd to all of us. He knows each of us very well, he loves us and looks after us. We listen to Jesus' voice and we follow him, just as sheep follow their shepherd.

The Story

In the time of Jesus, shepherds led a very difficult life, being constantly on duty. The sheep required constant surveillance and needed to be protected against danger and wild animals. The shepherd knew his sheep - often calling them by name. The shepherd led the way and the sheep followed wherever he went. The sheep knew the voice of the shepherd and would not answer to the voice of a stranger. Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd and leads us as a shepherd leads his flock.

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

10:2-5, 7-10

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and he goes in through it.

The sheep know their shepherd's voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out. When he has led out all of his sheep, he walks in front of them, and they follow, because they know his voice. The sheep will not follow strangers. They don't recognise a stranger's voice, and they run away."

Then Jesus said: "I tell you for certain that I am the gate for the sheep.

Everyone who came before me was a thief or a robber, and the sheep did not listen to any of them. I am the gate. All who come in through me will be saved. Through me they will come and go and find pasture. I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Video

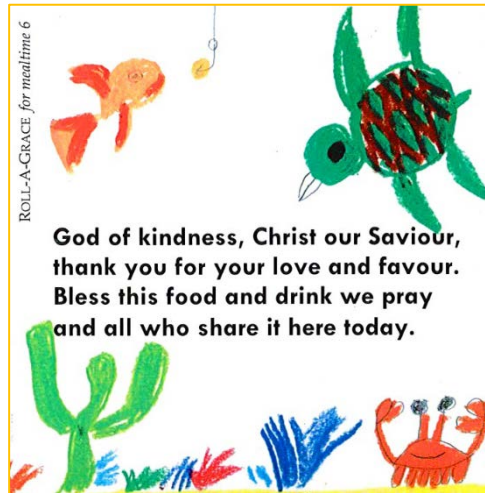
Click to watch the video:

[The Good Shepherd](#)



THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Mealtime Prayer



Family Discussion

Have you ever heard someone's voice and recognised that it belongs to someone you know?

Take turns to talk about the 'shepherds' in your lives – the people who care for, nurture, and love you. What qualities do these people have that make you think of them as 'shepherds'? What can you do to become 'shepherds' to people in your lives?

Family Activity

In the gospel, Jesus said the shepherd calls each of the sheep by name. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and knows each of us by name. Find out the story of each person's name – why their parents chose their name. Pray for each member of the family by name.



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**CUT OUT THE SHEEP AND PUT THEM IN THE PEN WHERE THE SHEPHERD
WILL KEEP THEM SAFE FROM THE WOLF AND THE ROBBER**

EASTER 4 – YEAR A
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JESUS - THE GOOD SHEPHERD

