

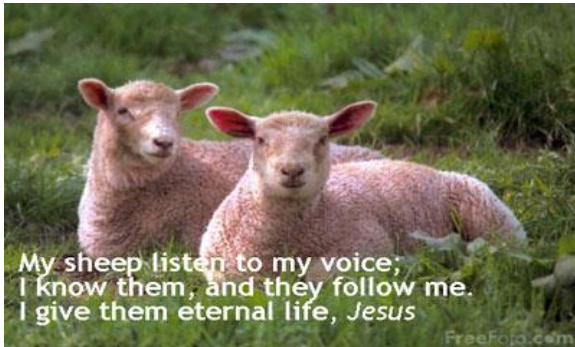
Challenge:

- ✦ If 'The Lord is my Shepherd' what would I like to ask of Him so that I can follow his call and allow Him lead me to become the person that He has created me to be?
- ✦ When might I experience Jesus leading me?
- ✦ What are my gifts and talents?
- ✦ Do I always make the most of my gifts and talents?
- ✦ Do I always try to be the best person I can be?

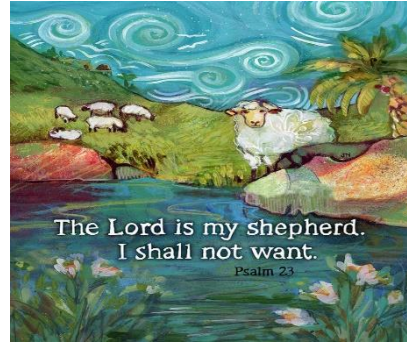
'Let us always meet each other with a smile, for a smile is the beginning of love.' St Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Let us pray:

Lord, let me know clearly the work which you are calling me to do in my life. As my shepherd, give me the grace and strength that I need to answer your call with courage and love and a lasting commitment to do your will. Amen.



Gospel - 4th Sunday of Easter.



Jesus said, "I am telling you the truth: the man who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who goes in through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **The gatekeeper opens the gate for him; the sheep hear his voice as he calls his own sheep by name, and he leads them out.** When he has brought them out, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they know his voice. They will not follow someone else; instead, they will run away from such a person, because they do not know his voice."

Jesus told them this parable, but they did not understand what he meant. So Jesus said again, "I am telling you the truth: I am the gate for the sheep. All others who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever comes in by me will be saved; they will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. **I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness.** John 10:1-10

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection: The fourth Sunday of Easter is often known as Good Shepherd Sunday. In the Gospel this week, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd of His people and the people as His sheep. He looks after us and cares for us and leads us in the right direction. He shows us the way to live our lives. Jesus cares for each and every one of us, no matter who we are or where we come from. Just as a good shepherd will never leave his sheep, our 'Good Shepherd' will lead us to God, who will always be there for us.

As well as describing Himself as a Good Shepherd, Jesus uses the metaphor of Himself as a 'gate'. Just as the shepherd leads his sheep to safety through a gate into the pen, the only way that we can become part of God's flock is through Jesus (the 'gate').

The words that really stand out in this Gospel come right at the end when Jesus says to his friends, "**I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness.**" This doesn't mean that we must have the best that money can buy, the biggest house, the latest phone or most fashionable clothes ... It is referring to the state of our hearts rather than that of our bank balance! It means we should be the best person that we can be, making the right choices in our lives each day, using our gifts and talents for the good of others. He is reminding them - and us - that it is possible to live a full life, knowing that that He is looking out for us because He is our shepherd, and we know His voice.

