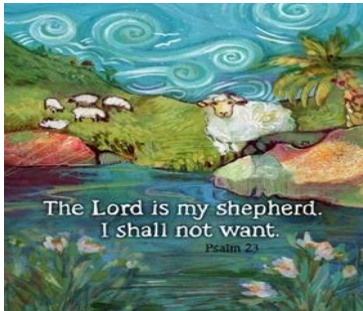
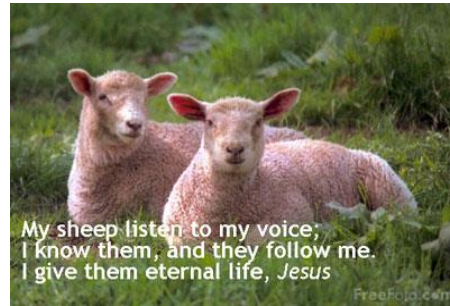


Gospel ~ John 10:11-18

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for
his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the
shepherd
and the sheep do not belong to him,
abandons the sheep and runs away
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;
this is because he is only a hired man
and has no concern for the sheep.
'I am the good shepherd;
I know my own
and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;
and I lay down my life for my sheep.
And there are other sheep I have
that are not of this fold,
and these I have to lead as well.
They too will listen to my voice,
and there will be only one flock,
and one shepherd.
'The Father loves me,
because I lay down my
life
in order to take it up
again.
No one takes it from me;
I lay it down of my own
free will,
and as it is in my power to lay it down,
so, it is in my power to take it up again; and this is
the command I have been given by my Father.'



Reflection:



our lives. He looks after us and cares for us, just as a shepherd looks after his sheep. Jesus cares for each and every one of us, no matter who we are or from where we come. A good shepherd will never leave his sheep alone. God will never leave us alone because he is our Good Shepherd.

Sheep are often seen as silly creatures who become tangled up in the brambles and need to be cut free, fall over or lose their way but their shepherd is always there to untangle them, pick them up and help them to find their way again. God is our shepherd. He knows everything about us and will always be there to help us through our tangled lives, help us find the truth and pick us up when times get tough.

In this Gospel, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, He puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. Our relationship with Jesus is an invitation to share in the life of God.

In the Gospel this week, Jesus talks about sheep! We are His sheep. Jesus is a shepherd of people. He shows us the way to live

Post-it Challenge:

God is our shepherd. He knows everything about us and will always be there to help us through our tangled lives, help us find the truth and pick us up when times get tough.



When does my life sometimes become a tangled mess?

Are there times when I feel lost?

If God is my Shepherd, what would I like to ask of Him so that I can follow his call and become the person that He has created me to be?

Let us pray:

Lord, let me know clearly the work which you are calling me to do in my life.

Grant me every grace I need to answer your call with courage, love and lasting commitment to do your will. Amen.

St Thomas, pray for us.

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

St Teresa of Calcutta

