

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A – 3rd May 2020

Preparation

- If possible arrange candles, a crucifix and a Gospel or Sunday Missal on a table.
- If you have or can locate online a picture of Jesus with sheep, have it available for this week's reflection.

Introduction

Today is the fourth Sunday in the Easter Season.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us.

An adult lights the candles.

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Especially when our daily routines are different just now. Have you shown patience to those around you? Have you been kind and helpful even when you don't feel like it and it's difficult?

Lead the children in singing the “Sorry Song”.

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

(To the Tune of Frere Jacques)

Gloria (Sung)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of the Father.

Amen

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

(Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It)

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,

As we listen to the story,
let us praise him for his glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel According to St. John

All say "Glory to You Oh Lord" while making a cross on your forehead, on your lips and on your heart.

John 10:1-10 (refer to) <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children's> liturgy

Finish by saying: The Gospel of the Lord

All reply : Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

This story was confusing to the people who listened to Jesus tell the story. Let's see if we can figure out what he was telling them.

Who do the sheep follow in this story?

- The shepherd.

What job does a shepherd have?

- He cares for and nurtures each and every sheep. He makes sure they are safe and have everything they need to lead a happy and healthy life.

How do they recognize him?

- He comes through the gate, not over the fence like the robbers, they know his voice and he knows each sheep.

Is there a voice that you can recognize without seeing the person?

- Being able to do this is because you know the person really well and have heard their voice and seen them many times.

What is Jesus teaching us in this gospel? Who is the shepherd like? Jesus

Who are the sheep like? Us

- If we follow God's teaching and live our lives as he asks we are like the sheep following the shepherd. He will look after us and make sure that we have everything that we need. If we make mistakes and tell him we are sorry he will forgive us and still love us. This is a good time to share the picture of Jesus with the sheep.

How can we follow Jesus?

- Listen to the voices of our parents, carers, teachers etc. who we recognise and lead us to follow God's teachings.

Prayers of the Faithful

Lord Jesus, You are my shepherd, there is nothing I am missing. In green pastures you lead me. You restore me.

Lord in Your Mercy

-Hear our Prayer

Lord Jesus, guide me down the right path. Even when I am afraid give me courage.

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

Closing Prayer

Jesus, thank you for being our Good Shepherd and taking care of each and every one of us. Please help me to hear your voice when you call me.

For Parents or Carers reading this at home, there are some further resources on the Archdiocesan website including some craft ideas to prepare in advance to help with reflection or enjoy afterwards.