

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year C – 8th May 2022

Introduction

In today's gospel we hear Jesus – the “Good Shepherd”- promise us His “sheep” that if we listen to His voice and follow Him we will have the gift of eternal life!

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights the candles).

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Ask them if they have always been kind and helpful to others, obedient to their parents, listened to their teachers etc.

Lead the children in singing the “sorry song”.

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord, (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

Gloria (sung)

Choose a children's version of the Gloria from one of our listed Children's Liturgy Resource books, or you may have another CL resource. You will probably want to practice your chosen Gloria and use it every week so that everyone becomes familiar with it.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Jesus says,

To us all:

"I am the Good Shepherd, (same tune as above)

I know my sheep,

And my sheep,

All know me."

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on page 49 of "Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year C)

John 10:27-30

"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John".

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart (in this way we think God's word, speak God's word and keep God's word in our hearts) **as we say together "Glory to You, O Lord."**

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

"The Gospel of the Lord".

All reply: **"Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ".**

Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Ask the children what they know about shepherds and sheep.

Have a discussion with the children explaining how carefully a shepherd looks after the sheep in their care. Think of the amount of time a shepherd spends out all day- never separated from the sheep always watching for any danger and protecting the sheep. Think of the winter snow and the shepherd rescuing the sheep from the extreme weather and carrying any sheep who cannot walk - perhaps through injury or exhaustion – back home.

How does Jesus, the “Good Shepherd” look after us – His sheep?

Discuss that everything that is good comes from God, that God looks after us every day and night, that God has given us our parents or guardians to look after us. He has given us our families, friends, the food we eat, our homes, our schools, our churches.

Why does Jesus tell us to “listen” to Him?

Jesus wants us all to be happy and join Him in heaven and live eternally there with Him. He has asked us to listen to Him so that we follow God’s commandments and by doing this we will come closer to God and find true happiness.

(Discuss with the children how they feel when they know they have done something wrong? Sad, knowing that you have hurt someone, or made them sad – and you know that this has also made Jesus sad. Then ask how they feel when they have done something good, for example by being kind and helping someone else - happy).

Explain that Jesus has promised to be with us always as our “Good Shepherd” to look after us, help us and protect us and that we can ask Him for help anytime by speaking to Him in prayer.

Prayers of the Faithful (optional/ time dependent)

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

Dear Jesus, Thank you for being our “Good Shepherd” and looking after us, protecting us and gently showing us the right path to take to lead us safely home to heaven to be with You forever.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Dear Jesus,

Help us to remember to tell You that we love You when we pray to You and especially when You come to us in Holy Communion.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Closing Prayer

Let us pray as Jesus taught us to pray as we say together the “our Father”.

“Our Father, who art in heaven

Now, if required, ask for volunteers for the Offertory Procession. After the procession, children return quietly to sit with their families in church.

