

# Living the Word

MEDITATING ON THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Year C - 4th Sunday of Easter

A resource for personal, family and community prayer.



“...I know them and they follow me.”

## Gospel: John 10:27-30

*You are invited to read the Gospel passage attentively, respectfully and reverently as a gift of God.*

<sup>27</sup>Jesus said, “The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. <sup>29</sup>The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one.”

### Background to Gospel passage

#### Where does it happen?

Jesus is still in Jerusalem, possibly still close to the Temple area.

#### When does it happen?

His preaching of the Good Shepherd follows immediately on from the healing of the man born blind.

#### Who is there?

Jesus is in dialogue with the Pharisees and the Jews (religious and political leaders)

#### What happens?

This Sunday is known as Good Shepherd Sunday when we celebrate Jesus, “The Good Shepherd”, but also all the ‘good shepherds’ we have known in our lives - parents, teachers, grandparents, spiritual guides and community leaders.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows and loves his sheep. He cares deeply for each one and knows each one by name. They belong to him. They are safe in his love.

Jesus receives the responsibility as Shepherd to the flock as a gift from the Father. The oneness of Jesus with his sheep flows from the oneness of Jesus with his Father - a bond that is unbreakable.

**Suggested Guidelines** to help you recognise this passage in your life experience.

**“I will give them eternal life; they will never be lost.”**

Can you enter into the experience of Jesus by remembering a time when you were in the role of ‘the good shepherd’, faithfully accompanying someone who was going through a difficult time and reassuring them that they would never be alone?

**“I know them and they follow me.”**

Can you enter into the experience of Jesus by remembering a time when you had a leadership role that was rooted in trust, and those in your care followed you because they knew you had their best interests at heart?

**“The Father and I are one.”**

Can you remember an experience of a good shepherd in your own life who has inspired you to give of yourself generously in the service and care of others?

**“The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice”**

Can you remember an experience of being in the presence of a ‘good shepherd’ (a parent, grandparent, friend, teacher, spiritual guide) where you felt at home, safe, known and loved?

**What does this Gospel remind me of?** *Where was it? When was it? Who was there? What happened?*

***Now I can see that God’s loving presence and action were in that life experience.***

**Prayer Response** - you are invited to respond in prayer in your own words.

*Heavenly Father, I thank you for the times when I have experienced this Gospel in my life...*

*Heavenly Father, I am sorry for the times I have fallen short of living this Gospel...*

*Heavenly Father, please help me to live this Gospel...*



You are invited to deepen this prayer experience by resting your heart silently in God's presence and love. The quiet repetition of a word or phrase from the passage may help you on this journey to stillness and silence.

### **An Invitation to Reflect**

What new insight has the Gospel opened my eyes to see?

### **Action**

This week I will try to live the Gospel by...

### **Thought for the week**

When we know we are loved, we find the strongest foundation for life and the freedom to become the best version of ourselves.

*Rest in this truth, hold it in prayer and trust that it will bear fruit in your life.*



Jesus compares himself to a shepherd. His sheep know his caring and encouraging voice and choose to follow him. Jesus shares that the people who follow him will live fully and forever.

Can you think of a 'shepherd person', maybe a friend, teacher or coach, who was a voice of care and encouragement in your life?

Draw or write about this 'shepherd person' and how they cared for and encouraged you.



Father, I thank you for the gift of this story which encourages me to listen for the voice of Your Son, the Good Shepherd, who knows me, calls me by name, cares for me, encourages me and leads me to life.

**Action: this week I will try to show love by...**

For more information check out our website: [lectio.newrydominican.com](http://lectio.newrydominican.com)

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