

'OUR GOOD SHEPHERD' – HOMILY - 22 April 2018.

Already, earlier in John's Gospel Chapter 10, we have some descriptions of Jesus as a **shepherd** and as a **gate** through which the sheep pass.

- *"The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep."*
- *"The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice."*
- *"He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."*
- *"When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice."*
- *"I am the gate for the sheep."*
- *"I am the gate."*
- *"Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture."*
- *"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

#### IN BAPTISM | JESUS IS THEIR SHEPHERD

In this weekend Mass, we listen to the voice of Jesus our shepherd and see his love in the baptism of Logan as a new member invited into the abundance of life. We listen to Logan's parents and Godparents in faith and love. Jesus is their shepherd.

#### YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS | JESUS IS THEIR SHEPHERD

We listen to Ashwin, David, Louie and Minje in this Year of Youth and Young Adults as they share their insights as seminarians and as young adults. Jesus is their shepherd.

#### CHILDREN OF SYRIA | JESUS IS THEIR SHEPHERD

We pray for the children of Syria in need of laughter and peace and hope. Jesus is their shepherd, and, our shepherd calling us to solidarity with them.

#### CARE FOR CREATION & WORLD [MOTHER] EARTH DAY | JESUS IS OUR SHEPHERD

We celebrate our care for creation and remember World [Mother] Earth Day. Jesus is our shepherd.

#### TODAY'S GOSPEL John 10:11-18

Now we hear of Jesus twice as the **good shepherd** and twice of **his willingness to lay down his life for us**.

- *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life 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 the sheep."*

John's community feels special and blessed. Will they recognize that they are a part of a **larger flock** who listens to Jesus and follows him.

We are all different individually and as communities (sheepfolds) of faith.

***"I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.  
I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice."***

The next words of Jesus call us to unity:

***"So there will be one flock, one shepherd."***

**BUT WHY DID JESUS WANT TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FLOCK?**

By **being loved by the Father** and the **Father's command of love.**

***"For this reason the Father loves me,  
because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.  
No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.  
I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.  
I have received this command from my Father."***

We are not isolated sheep folds,  
**we are a part of the whole flock of Jesus.**

Though each sheepfold is unique, all are connected.

Jesus laid down his life. For all of us.

Jesus took up his life again in his resurrection. For all of us.

Jesus is not only your shepherd and my shepherd.

Jesus is shepherd of the whole flock.

**JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

Jesus is the **Good Shepherd**

in whom we **trust** and **believe** and **celebrate** and **live** and **hope.**

**QUOTES FROM POPE FRANCIS REJOICE & BE GLAD [GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE]**

For the past 13 days, we have reflected each day on a quote from Pope Francis.

From his **Apostolic Exhortation 'Rejoice and Be Glad'**.

Pope Francis helps us to listen to the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd,  
calling us to be holy in everyday life.

The quotes will continue for another 12 days.

Let us pray for Logan and his parents and Godparents.

Let us pray for Ashwin, David, Louie and Minje.

Let us pray for the children of Syria.

Let us pray for ways of caring for God's creation.

Let us pray for an openness to learn from the insights  
of Pope Francis in 'Rejoice and Be Glad'.

Let us pray to Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

Let us journey and pray together.

Fr Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/042218.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook22042018>]

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