



Celebrating a Liturgy of the Word with Family 4th Sunday Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday, Day of Prayer for Vocations

Preparation – allow some time to prepare

- Read through the outline beforehand
- Arrange seating and set a prayer focus in the centre
- Use you in-house musician if you have one. The Lord is My Shepherd –link provided. Sing at the beginning and at the end. The psalm is, The Lord’s My Shepherd.
- Share the reader role. Encourage your readers to practice beforehand and pause for commas and full-stops. Don’t correct children as they are reading or during the Liturgy.

READER: Let’s sing.

SONG: The Lord is my Shepherd ©Brian Boniwell <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lGaRSf5CS8w>

READER: SIGN OF THE CROSS and WELCOME:

In name of the Father... OR Ki te ingoa... *Extend a warm welcome anyone else with you.* Today, the fourth Sunday of Easter, we are reminded again of the great reason we have for rejoicing: Christ has died, Christ is risen and Christ walks with us as Shepherd. Today is also vocations Sunday; we pray that the Holy Spirit will help us all understand our vocation. And, it is Mother’s Day – we are very grateful for mothers. Now, as we begin, let us recall God’s loving mercy

You are the shepherd of the sheep, Lord have mercy	(All) Lord have mercy
Your sheep hear your voice, Christ have mercy	(All) Christ have mercy
You have come that we may have life, Lord have mercy	(All) Lord have mercy

A Litany – Let us recall God’s presence and love even when we don’t feel good.

When I am lonely	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When I don’t do well at things	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When I am feeling sad	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When I don’t do my jobs	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When I get told off	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When I have done something bad	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When I am embarrassed	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When nobody understands me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When I don’t have any friends	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me

THE COLLECT: Now let us bring to mind all we want to pray for. *(Allow silence, 1 minute)*

Wonderful God, lead us to you. Teach us to be humble sheep who follow the brave shepherd. Hear the prayers we bring to you today. We ask this through Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

READER 1: A reading from the book of Acts.

Then Peter stood up with the eleven

raised his voice, and proclaimed:

"Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

READER 2: Jesus, who they crucified, was truly Lord and Christ.

READER 1: Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles,

"What are we to do, my brothers?"

READER 2: The people asked Peter, 'what are we to do?'

READER 1: Peter said to them,

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you,

in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;

and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For the promise is made to you and to your children

and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call."

READER 2: The people listened. Peter said that they were called.

READER 1: He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them,

"Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

Those who accepted his message were baptized,

and about three thousand persons were added that day.

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God

- a silence follows the reading. Then discuss the question;

READER: 'Why were the people who were listening, 'cut to the heart?'

PSALM: Psalm 26

NOTE: These words can be sung to the tune of 'The Lord's My Shepherd'

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths or righteousness
The quiet waters by.
3. Yea though I walk in death's dark vale
Yet will I fear no ill,
For thou art with me; and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint
And my cup over flows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life, Shall surely follow me
And in God's house forevermore, My dwelling place shall be.

1 Peter 2:20-15 (International Children's Bible)

READER: A reading from the book of 1 Peter

Brothers and sisters,
If you are punished for doing wrong, there is no reason to praise you for bearing punishment.
But if you suffer for doing good, and you are patient, then that pleases God.
That is what you were called to do.
Christ suffered for you. He gave you an example to follow. So you should do as he did.

“He did no sin.

He never lied.” *Isaiah 53:9*

²³ People insulted Christ, but he did not insult them in return.
Christ suffered, but he did not threaten. He let God take care of him.
God is the One who judges rightly.
Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross.
He did this so that we would stop living for sin and start living for what is right.
And we are healed because of his wounds.
You were like sheep that went the wrong way.
But now you have come back to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.
The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

SHARING - a silence follows the reading. Then discuss; this question might help

We have been given an example to follow. What example have we been given?

ALL: Sing the Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord,

Alleluia, Alleluia give praise to his name.

Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour. Alleluia ...

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Reading John 10:1-10 International Children’s Bible

READER 1: This story is about a shepherd and sheep. In Biblical times, the shepherd slept in the gateway to the sheep pen to stop wolves and thieves entering. The shepherd also had a name for each sheep and they followed the shepherd out into the pasture to get food. In this reading, Jesus tells us he is the shepherd and we are the sheep. Let’s listen.

A reading from the Gospel of John.

ALL: Glory to you O Lord.

READER 2: Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. The man who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber.

READER 1: The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

The gatekeeper who guards the door opens it for him.

READER 2: And the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep, using their names, and he leads them out.

He brings all of his sheep out.

READER 1: Then he goes ahead of them and leads them. They follow him because they know his voice.

READER 2: But they will never follow a stranger. They will run away from him because they don’t know his voice.”

READER 1: Jesus told the people this story, but they did not understand what it meant. So Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth. I am the door for the sheep. All the people who came before me were thieves and robbers. The sheep did not listen to them.

READER 2: I am the door. The person who enters through me will be saved. He will be able to come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy. But I came to give life—life in all its fullness.

READER 1: The Gospel of the Lord
ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

READER: We have a time of silence to think about the Gospel. Let some words that you heard go round and round in your mind.

After 1 minute of silence talk about the story. These questions might help –

Can you re-tell this story in your own words? Jesus used this story about a shepherd and sheep to help people understand something. What did he want people to understand?

READER: Thank you for sharing your thoughts. Let's say the Apostle's Creed together.

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. **All Amen.**

Prayer of the Faithful: As God's people, we are called to pray for the needs of the whole world.

For the Church – that we listen to, love, trust and follow Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Silence: **Reader:** E te Ariki **ALL:** whakarongo mai rā kia mātou.

For all people who have lost their job or business because of Covid 19 – that they are supported by the government, the community, neighbours, friends and family.

Silence: **Reader:** E te Ariki **ALL:** whakarongo mai rā kia mātou.

For leaders of nations – that they give all people, the right to religious freedom.

Silence: **Reader:** E te Ariki **ALL:** whakarongo mai rā kia mātou.

For vocations – that every person listens to try to understand what God is calling them to.

Silence: **Reader:** E te Ariki **ALL:** whakarongo mai rā kia mātou.

For mothers – that they be wise and gentle, helping children to know they are very deeply loved.

Silence: **Reader:** E te Ariki **ALL:** whakarongo mai rā kia mātou.

For people who feel like they are failing – that they will be supported and encouraged by friends and family.

Silence: **Reader:** E te Ariki **ALL:** whakarongo mai rā kia mātou.

For people who care for animals – that as shepherds in the natural world, they show care towards all creatures and love God the supreme Shepherd.

Silence: **Reader:** E te Ariki **ALL:** whakarongo mai rā kia mātou.

READER: And now let us pray together as Jesus taught us: Choose Māori or English
Māori at this link <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy/mass-readings-in-te-reo/> Words are on the screen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

COLLECTION:

READER: Something that Christian people do is support people who need help. There are lots of people who need help. Can we could talk about who needs help and what we could do to help them.

Some ideas to think about

- **Your Parish:** your parish and presbytery still have operating costs.
- **The Caring Foundation Covid-19 appeal** to donate, click [here](#)
- **Catholic Social Services Auckland** to donate, click [here](#)
- **The Catholic aid agency Caritas** to support their work, click [here](#)
- **St Vincent de Paul** contact your parish or click [here](#)
- **Pacific Islands cyclone Harold**

READER: Thank you for participating in today's liturgy of the word. Remember Jesus is the shepherd and we are the sheep. Go in peace now to love Jesus and do many good things.

ALL: Thanks be to God

SONG: The Lord is my Shepherd ©Brian Boniwell <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGaRSf5CS8w>

Another Shepherd song you might enjoy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSJXi_wXLi4