JESUS KNOWS ME!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - APRIL 21, 2024

On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, called Good Shepherd Sunday, the Gospel (Jn 10:11-18) presents Jesus as the true shepherd who defends, knows and loves his sheep.
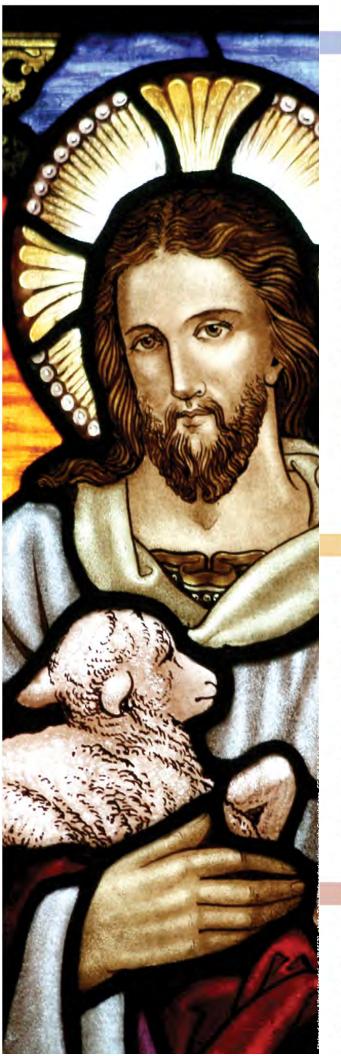
The "mercenary", the one who does not care about the sheep because they are not his, is the opposite of the Good Shepherd. He does the job only for pay and is not concerned about defending them: when a wolf arrives, he flees and abandons them (cf vv. 12-13). Instead, Jesus, the true shepherd, defends us always and saves us in so many difficult situations, dangerous situations through the light of his word and the strength of his presence that we always experience if we want to listen, every day.

The second aspect is that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows — the first aspect: defend; the second: he knows his sheep and the sheep know him (v. 14). How beautiful and comforting it is to know that Jesus knows us one by one, that we are not unknown to him, that our name is known to him! We are not a "mass", a "multitude" for him, no. We are unique individuals, each with his or her own story, he knows each of us with our own story, each one with his or her own value, both as creatures and as people redeemed by Christ. Each of us can say: Jesus, knows me! It is true, it is like this: He knows us like no other. Only he knows what is in our hearts, our intentions, our most hidden feelings. Jesus knows our strengths and our defects, and is always ready to care for us, to heal the wounds of our errors with the abundance of his mercy. In him, the image the prophets had provided of the shepherd of the people of God is completely fulfilled: Jesus is concerned about his sheep, he gathers them, he binds their wounds, he heals their ailments. We can read this in the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (cf Ez 34:11-16).

Therefore, Jesus the Good Shepherd defends, knows, and above all loves his sheep. And this is why he gives his life for them (cf Jn 10:15). Love for his sheep, that is, for each one of us, leads him to die on the cross because this is the Father's will — that no one should be lost. Christ's love is not selective; it embraces everyone. He himself reminds us of this in today's Gospel when he says: "And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd" (Jn 10:16). These words testify to his universal concern: He is everyone's shepherd. Jesus wants everyone to be able to receive the Father's love and encounter God.

And the Church is called to carry on this mission of Christ. Aside from those who participate in our communities, there are many people, the majority, who do so only at particular moments or never. But this does not mean they are not God's children: the Father entrusts everyone to Jesus the Good Shepherd, who gave his life for everyone.

Brothers and sisters, Jesus defends, knows and loves all of us. May Mary Most Holy help us be the first to welcome and follow the Good Shepherd, to joyfully cooperate in his mission.

POPE FRANCIS — April 25, 2021

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Several years ago I went to a shopping mall with my six-year-old son, and I could tell he was overwhelmed by the fast-moving crowds; he stuck close to my side. Not long into our trip, he turned a corner and, suddenly, his face lit up. He pointed at a young boy ahead. "That's James! I know him! He's in my class!" he exclaimed, and ran up to talk to him. Out of the sea of strangers was someone he *knew,* and who knew him. That changed the whole experience for him. Today's readings are all about that kind of knowing. In the Gospel Jesus tells us that, like a good shepherd, he knows his flock and they know him. How comforting it is to know that Jesus not only knows each one of us, but he willingly chose to lay down his life for each one of us as the ultimate sacrifice of love. But how do we get to know our Good Shepherd better? By immersing ourselves in Scripture and prayer and seeking a personal relationship with him. If we stay close to the Lord, we'll know his voice when we hear it – in the quiet of our prayer, in the everyday promptings of the Spirit in our decision-making, and even, in the midst of all the noise, as the calming and guiding voice leading us along the right path.

GO EVANGELIZE
PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Being known is one of the most fundamental human and spiritual needs. When my son recognized his friend, he also instinctively recognized – without being able to articulate it – this need, in the midst of the anonymity of the mall. And his reaction was so pure: "I know him, and he knows me!" But he didn't leave it at that; he went to engage with his friend. He *encountered* his friend. This is what Christ desires for, and with us – not just to know us, to simply recognize us from afar, but for us to want to encounter him! We are meant to be in community; Jesus is always here for us: in the Church, in the sacraments, in Scriptures and in our hearts.

PRAY Spending time in prayer and reading the Scriptures are essential in order to get to know the voice of Jesus. Read the Gospels this week, even a chapter a day, and contemplate what passages stand out for you. Pray about it at Mass. The Scriptures and the sacraments are how Jesus speaks to us, like a good shepherd speaks to his flock so the sheep will know his voice and follow it.

Prayer for those who guide us on behalf of Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Loving and Generous God,
it is You who call us by name
and ask us to follow You.

Help us to grow in the Love
and Service of our Church
as we experience it today.

Give us the energy and courage
of Your Spirit to shape its future

Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace
Christ's Mission of love and justice.

Bless our church by raising up dedicated
and generous leaders
from our families and friends
who will serve Your people as Sisters,
Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better and open our
hearts to hear Your call.

We ask this through our Lord. Amen

Oracion por quienes nos guian en nombre de Jesús, el Buen Pastor

Amadísimo y generoso Dios,
Eres Tú quien nos llama
por nuestro nombre y nos pides que te sigamos.

Ayúdanos a crecer en el amor
y en el servicio a nuestra Iglesia.

Danos el entusiasmo y la energía de tu Espíritu
para preparar su futuro.

Danos líderes llenos de fe que abracen
la misión de Cristo en amor y en justicia.

Bendice nuestra Iglesia
con líderes de nuestras familias
que dediquen sus vidas al servicio de su pueblo
como sacerdotes, religiosos,
diáconos y ministros laicos.

Inspíranos a conocerte mejor y abre
nuestros corazones para oír tu llamada. Amén.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 20   **5:00 PM Mass**
  +Ron Craig +Yvonne Fair +Stella Dombroskie
Sunday, April 21   **9:00 AM Mass**
Fourth Sunday of Easter
    For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, April 23   **11:00 AM Mass**
Wednesday, April 24   **11:00 AM Mass**
     +David White
Thursday, April 25   **11:00 AM Mass**
St. Mark
     +David White
Friday, April 26   **11:00 AM Mass**
     +Nora Brown
Saturday, April 27   **5:00 PM Mass**
     +David White +John McMahon
Sunday, April 28   **9:00 AM Mass**
Fifth Sunday of Easter
    For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

Sabado 20 de abril   **7:00 PM**
     +Norma Heredia +Gilda Ibarra
     +Julio Hernandez +Walter Sidler
Domingo 21 de abril   **11:00 AM**
IV Domingo de Pascua
    Por la Comunidad Parroquial
Martes 23 de abril   **12:00 PM**
Miércoles 24 de abril   **12:00 PM**
     +Norma Heredia
Jueves 25 de abril   **12:00 PM**
San Marcos
Viernes 26 de abril   **12:00 PM**
Sabado 27 de abril   **7:00 PM**

Domingo 28 de abril   **11:00 AM**
V Domingo de Pascua
    Por la Comunidad Parroquial

THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME VIRTUAL PRAYER ROOM FOR PEACE

is open! Every Friday, Sisters, associates and friends can enter a peaceful space to pray for the needs of the world. All are invited to enter the room for restoration and united prayer open on Fridays 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. EST. Thanks to Sister Barbara Paleczny, SSND, for alerting us to this opportunity! Let us unite for peace in our fractured world. [Here](#)