

4th Sunday of Easter

21st April 2024



The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. John 10



Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He will not run at the first sign of danger but the opposite—he lays down his life for the sake of his sheep.

There is nothing that Jesus will not do for his sheep. He won't always give us what we want, but he will meet every need that we have. He is the Good Shepherd.

He knows us by name. He sees us the way we really are. He knows our strengths and our weaknesses, our victories and our failures. He knows us as closely as he knows the Father and he loves us.

In addition, he wants us to know him also. To have the strong, unbreakable bonds of friendship. He wants us to invest time and energy in seeking his face and his embrace.

In the time and homelands of Jesus, shepherds would often put their sheep in a shared sheepfold overnight. In the morning, the shepherds would call their respective sheep by name and, it is said, their sheep would hear the voice of their own shepherd and go to them.

Jesus' sheep know their shepherd. They know when he calls their name and they follow him. Are we ready to hear when he calls our name? Do we know how we will respond?



This week let us pray for:

- ◆ the light of the Easter message shining across the world;
- ◆ strength and support for all those facing difficulties;
- ◆ all those who are feeling isolated;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



**“We are the Easter people, and Hallelujah is our song.”
Pope Saint John Paul II**

A Prayer for St Joseph the Worker—1st May

God our Father, Creator and Ruler of the universe, in every age you call us to use and develop our gifts for the good of others. With St. Joseph as our guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised.
Please grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

An Easter Prayer

Dear God,
Thank You that You make all things new. Thank You for the victory and power in Your name. Thank You that You hold the keys over death, that by Your might, Jesus was raised from the grave, paving the way for us to have new life with You. Thank You that You had a plan, that You made a way.
We confess our need for You...fresh...new...again. We ask that You renew our hearts, minds, and lives, for the days ahead. We pray for Your refreshing over us. Amen