

# THE Wednesday WORD



## SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday is traditionally known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who leads us into the joys of eternal life.

Part of a shepherd's job is to look after the sheep and help them to stay safe. When we let Jesus lead us, just as a shepherd leads his sheep, he helps us to make the right choices and fills our lives with goodness and holiness. All we need to do is to follow him.

Today, Jesus can lead us and our children through the Church, through prayer and through the lives of people who show us how to live in a way that pleases God. He is the patient shepherd who never gives up on us.

Enjoy a very special time together exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **FOLLOW**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) - Parents' Pages - Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

### THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023



Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock. When the shepherd has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger, but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers." The disciples failed to understand what Jesus meant. So Jesus spoke to them again: "I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: they will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. But I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full."

Adapted from John 10:1-10

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year A

You are warmly invited to learn more about the Gospel through your local parish church.

"Be passionate in teaching your children to know and to follow Jesus." Pope Francis



HAVING FAITH IN YOUR FAMILY

The Gospel above or the **FAMILY TIME** section overleaf can be read independently by adults or children alike. However, reading the Gospel as a family really does help the family to grow in faith, wisdom and love.

When we really know Jesus and how much he loves us, it's natural to want to follow him. By following Jesus, we too can help others to know and love God - to experience the fullness of life, to live in God's love - here and now!



# 1 Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)

Jesus told a parable to his disciples to help them understand that he was the Good Shepherd who they should follow, but they did not understand. So Jesus said, "I am the gate of the sheepfold. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: they will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. Whoever tries to climb into the sheepfold some other way is a thief and a robber who wants to steal and kill. But I have come so that everyone can have the fullness of life."



**Who does Jesus want us to follow?** Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? What does the Gospel picture make you think about?

# 2 Wednesday's Word is ...

## FOLLOW



# 3 Loving God & Each Other

"It is for each of us to learn the path by which Jesus requires us to follow him, and to follow in that path." *St Katharine Drexel*

Ask your child if they know what 'to follow someone' means. Who impresses them? Who sets them a good example which they would like to follow? How has that person made life better for your child, for someone else or for the community? It may help your child if you can talk about a person whose example you follow, or have followed.

"To follow Jesus means to share his merciful love for every human being." *Pope Francis*

We can follow Jesus in the simple things we do in our lives every day, and make life better for all the family and everyone around us. How can we follow Jesus the Good Shepherd this week? Perhaps we can: be kind and contact a friend to see how they are doing at this time; go out of our way to help out at home; show others how to do the right thing and avoid what is wrong; listen carefully to wise and good people; show our gratitude to all those who teach and lead us through life.

Dear Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who knows us by name and guides us through life. Please help us to hear your voice and follow you always. Amen.

## Gospel Gallery

B Y S E D H S G N I R B  
 D P D H R N J E S U S H  
 I S U S E J B R I G N S  
 L H T G H E Y C E F I L  
 L E M A P N P A S F B I  
 I E H T E J O F Y U N F  
 F P T E H E D R O L H D  
 E F J A S S E N L L U F  
 D O O G G U C L G N D N  
 O L H Y S H E P H E R D  
 O D P G O O D H N S P Y  
 E N H Y B R I N G S N H

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- SHEEPFOLD
- GATE
- GOOD SHEPHERD
- JESUS BRINGS
- FULLNESS OF LIFE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Cross out the letters **ikf** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**hitakve Jeksutis fufillnekss kevertyonie**

\_\_\_\_\_ said, "I \_\_\_\_\_ come so that

\_\_\_\_\_ can have the \_\_\_\_\_ of life."

Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

There may be times when we have to stop doing certain things to follow Jesus - rather than 'following the crowd' - if it feels wrong. Let's try to follow Jesus this week by leaving behind anything which we know is not right and then try to do all the good we can.



Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....  
 .....

