

We Respond

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 22)

ANTIPHON: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

RESPONSE: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Or **Alleluia.**

LECTOR: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

LECTOR: He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R.**

LECTOR: You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

LECTOR: Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 2:14, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10

NEXT WEEK (5th Sunday Easter, Year A) Acts 6:1-7; Ps 32; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12.

*Want
to learn
more?*

Mother's Day will be celebrated around the country on Sunday May 10. Families will get together to celebrate their wonderful mums. In her book, *Being a Catholic Mother*, Elizabeth Davies looks at what it means being a Catholic mother in this day-and-age. The single mum to four children explores her faith and how she "weathers the storms" in her life. The book is available from Majellan Media for \$19.95 (postage included). Further details from **03 9592 2777** or **office@majellan.org.au**

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*Are we open
to hearing
Jesus?*



3 May 2020 4th Sunday Easter Year A

What is it to listen, to actually hear what's being said, let alone hear the voice of Jesus? As today's gospel makes clear, this is what identifies us. In John's Gospel, we hear the story of the man born blind, and while others can't hear what Jesus is on about, this man having been healed by him, is alive to the presence of Jesus. What he hears is someone who is of God, who he subsequently worships.

Today we hear the first part of chapter 10 where Jesus speaks of himself as the good shepherd – not directly just yet – as a way of speaking about our relationship with him. So today is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. He calls us by name and we respond to his voice. The shepherd protects the sheepfold from brigands and robbers and leads the sheep out to pasture. Jesus explains, "I am the gate" through which those who hear his voice can enter safely at night, going 'freely in and out.'" Later in the chapter the good shepherd is said to lay down his life for his sheep.

As the psalm reminds us, the image of shepherd and sheep is deeply rooted in the Hebrew scriptures and, in using it, Jesus embodies the promise held out by scripture, even though many who are listening, 'fail to understand what he meant.'

Good Shepherd Sunday is Vocations Sunday and the question is asked again

more pointedly: can we hear his voice calling us to care for one another? This isn't a sentimental thing as Pope Francis reminded us when he urged priests to be 'shepherds living with the smell of the sheep' – in other words, to be that close to one another.

Resurrection is the game changer: his death enables us to become him, his body, so that we're able to belong to one another, to hear one another. To take one dramatic instance of this dynamic. In El Salvador, in 1980, Jean Donovan was a lay missionary who was caught up in the violence that beset the country. She said: "Several times I have decided to leave. I almost could except for the children, the poor bruised victims of adult lunacy. Who could care for them? Whose heart would be so staunch as to favour the reasonable thing in a sea of tears and helplessness. Not mine, dear friend, not mine."

A month later she was murdered. She heard the voice of Jesus and she laid down her life for the children. What prevents us from hearing Jesus? And are we a Church that reveals the reality of Jesus Christ risen from the dead, so that, 'they may have life and have it to the full'? It's the promise of Easter.

Damian Coleridge
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