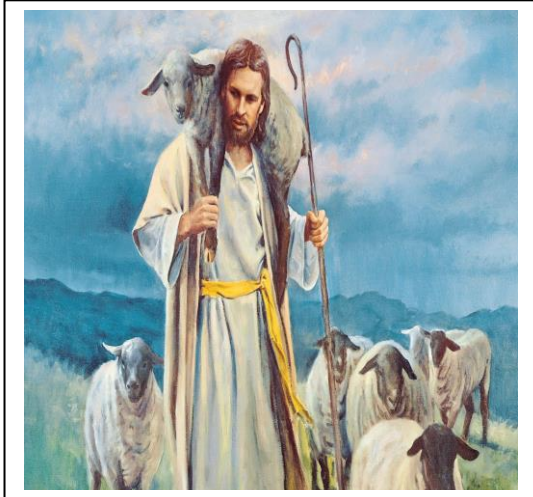


YEAR A



Children's Liturgy of the **Word**



Sunday 30th April 2023

4th Sunday of Easter

Colour: Father will have **White** coloured vestments on.

Welcome: Today Jesus talks about how important it is to listen to him. And how he knows us and cares about each and every one of us, no matter who we are. Let's think some more about this today.

Opening Prayer: God of all, help us to listen to your voice and to care for each other as you care for all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Song: **Jesus Loves Me This I Know**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-ryg9plBM4>

Gospel Preparation

Reader: The Lord be with you

Children: And with Your

.. a reading from the Holy Gospel according to

John

Children: Glory to you, O Lord

After the Gospel is read:

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ
Spirit



May I
Hear
the word of God,
Speak
the word of God,
Love
the word of God,
with my
Mind, Heart and
Soul



Gospel: John 10: 1 - 10

Jesus said to his disciples: "I tell you for certain that only thieves and robbers climb over the fence instead of going in through the gate to the sheep pen.

But the gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and he goes in through it.

The sheep know their shepherd's voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out.

"When he has led out all of his sheep, he walks in front of them, and they follow, because they know his voice.

The sheep will not follow strangers. They don't recognize a stranger's voice, and they run away."

Jesus told the people this story. But they did not understand what he was talking about.

Then Jesus said: "I tell you for certain that I am the gate for the sheep. Everyone who came before me was a thief or a robber, and the sheep did not listen to any of them.

I am the gate. All who come in through me will be saved. Through me they will come and go and find pasture. "A thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy.

I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

Gospel Reflection Questions:

- **What do you remember from the reading today?**

Jesus talks about sheep. Jesus didn't spend his time looking after sheep out in the fields,

- **Who do you think Jesus' sheep are? Who is he talking about?**

Jesus is a shepherd of people. He shows us the way to live our lives. He looks after us and cares for us, just as a shepherd looks after their sheep.

- **What does Jesus say about his sheep in the gospel reading today?**

Jesus says that his sheep listen to his voice.

- **How do we listen to Jesus in our lives? (Through hearing his word in the readings, through prayer etc)**

Jesus also says that he knows his sheep, and that they will never be lost.

- **What do you think this means?**

Jesus cares for each and every one of us. No matter who we are or from where we come.

- **Have you ever heard a voice and recognised that it belongs to someone you know?**
- **Can you think of a time when you needed to ask your Mum or Dad a question and even before you asked them you knew exactly what they would say?**
- **Why do you think Jesus talks of shepherds and sheep?** (in his day, a shepherd cared for a group of sheep and he knew each one by name. He looked after them, protected them from dangers, took them to where there was grass to eat and water to drink. He would talk to his sheep and even sleep with them so that no wild animals could attack them in the night; the sheep knew that their shepherd kept them safe so they trusted him.)

{Jesus chose this image to show his great love, because he gives life to us just as the shepherd does for his sheep}

- **What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us with this story today?** (like the sheep we can hear and recognise God's voice.)
- **How can we do this?** (by listening to our parents, teachers and saying our prayers)



This week, let's try to listen to what Jesus is saying to us, and share the love that he has for us all, with others.

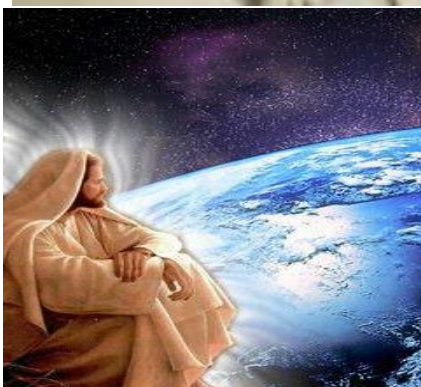
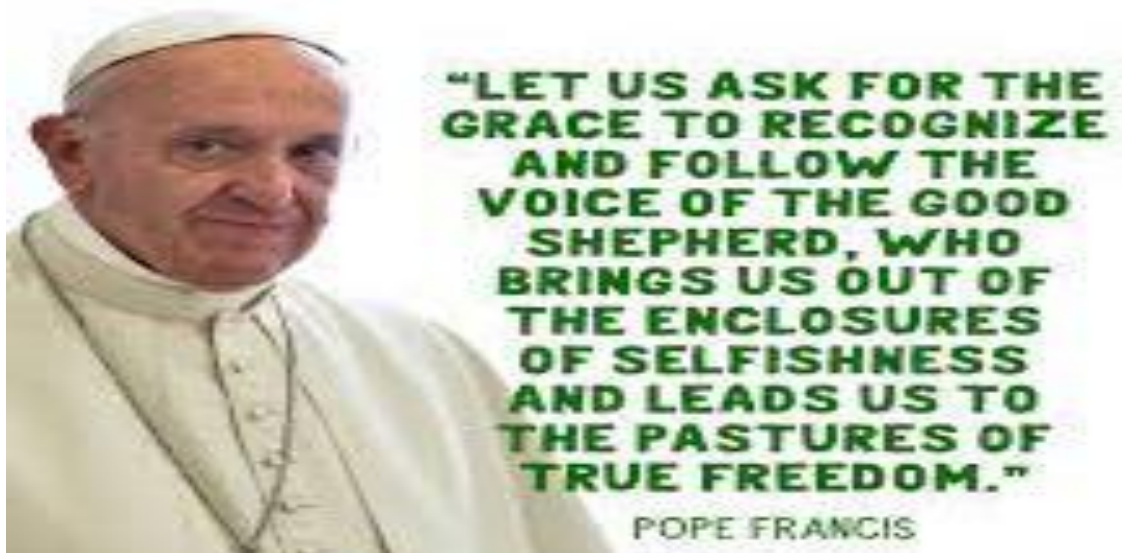
Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help us to listen to and follow you and to care for each other, so that all members of our global family may live together in peace. Amen.

Activity Suggestions:

- Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and puzzles. On the back they could write or draw either how they will show that they are listening to Jesus this week, or how they will care for their brothers and sisters.
- Encourage them to remember that **all** people are loved by God, and to try to care for others as Jesus cares for us, his sheep, during the week.

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland © 2 and You may access The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) for a guide to this week's Children's Liturgy, activity sheet and a virtual Children's Liturgy using the link: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>



Whom can I get to make our world a better place?

Will you help make a difference?

Special Feasts this week:

1 May Saint Joseph the worker
2 May Saint Athanasius
3 May Saints Phillip and James

