

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,
Warrington*



A Prayer Service for Children

4th Sunday of Easter (A)

3 May 2020

Getting Ready

You might like to make a little prayer table like we do in school. What would you like to put on the table? A crucifix? A holy picture? A candle? Some flowers? A sheep? ...

Sign of the Cross

Let's begin our time of prayer by carefully making the Sign of the Cross...

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Introduction

Today is called Good Shepherd Sunday because in the Gospel reading Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd.

Gospel Acclamation

'Alleluia' is our Easter Song. Can you remember an 'Alleluia' from church or school? Sing it now...

Gospel

(John 10: 1-10)

One day Jesus said: "Sheep listen to their own shepherd and they will follow him. He can even call them one by one for he knows their names and he can call them out of the sheepfold through the gate.

When they have all come out, he walks in front of them, and they all follow because they know the sound of his voice.

They would never follow a stranger because they wouldn't know the sound of his voice. They would run away from him if he told them to follow him."

Then Jesus said: "I am a shepherd and I'm a good shepherd. I know all my sheep, every one of them, and they know me."

Reflection

A person who looks after sheep is called a shepherd.

In the time of Jesus, shepherds didn't live in houses; they lived with their sheep in the fields. This meant the shepherd could protect the sheep from danger and stop anyone trying to steal the sheep. It also meant that the shepherd and the sheep got to know each other very well. The sheep would recognise the shepherd by the sound of his voice, and they would follow him.

Jesus tells us that he is like a shepherd. He knows us and cares for us just like a shepherd knows and cares for his sheep.

Activity

On the parish website, there is an activity page called 'Look'. You might like to download it and fill it in.

The Lord's Prayer

Let's say the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father...

Conclusion

Let's conclude our time of prayer by carefully making the Sign of the Cross...

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.