

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

For the promise is for you, and for your children, and for all.

First Reading

[You] give me repose ... [you] revive my soul. For you are with me.

Psalm

Jesus seeks a warm friendship, trust, intimacy. He wants to give us a new and marvellous awareness: that of knowing we are always loved by him and, therefore, that we are never left alone by ourselves.

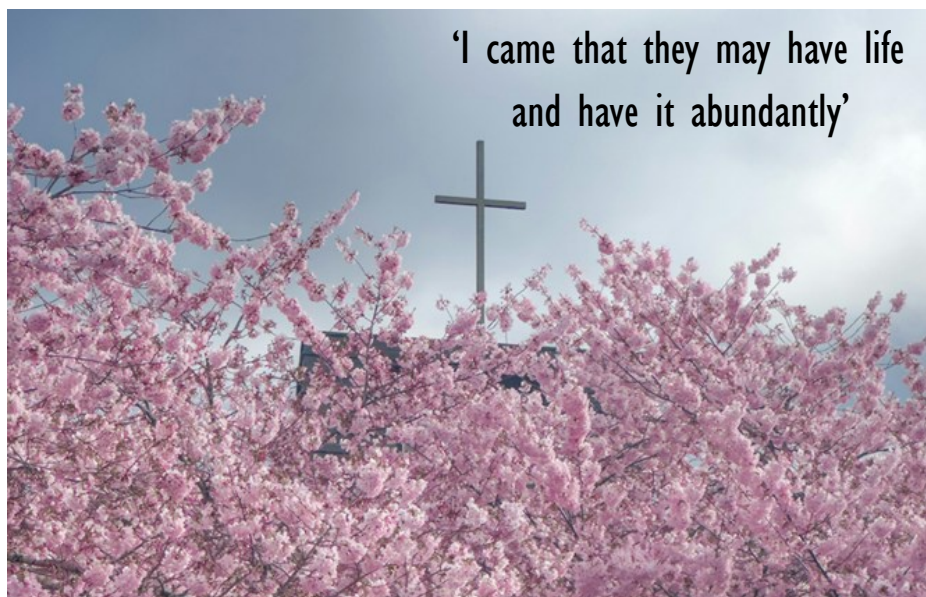
Pope Francis: Angelus, 8 May, 2022

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, they will be saved. *Gospel*

Almighty and ever-living God, give us new strength
from the courage of Christ our shepherd,
and lead us to join the saints in heavens.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:
Acts 2: 14, 36-41; Psalm 22 (23); 1 Peter 2: 20-25; John 10: 1-10

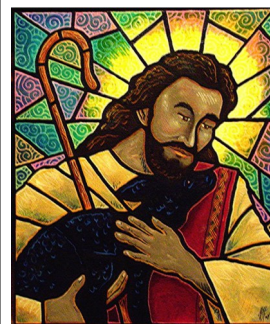


'I came that they may have life
and have it abundantly'

If you'd like to receive Prego by email each week, sign up at
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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

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PREGO LEAFLET

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
(Good Shepherd Sunday)
Year A, 26th April 2026**

'I am the good shepherd ...
I know my sheep and my own know me'

Today's readings invite us to contemplate the tender image of Christ as the Good Shepherd, who leads, protects, and cares for his flock. His relationship with the sheep is one of trust, recognition, and belonging, where the sheep follow only their shepherd, the one who knows them personally and calls them by name.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus reveals himself as the door of the sheepfold through which the sheep enter. He warns his listeners against the voices of strangers who prey on the vulnerable and weak, leading to confusion and fear rather than the life that Jesus offers.

The **Second Reading** urges us to follow Christ's example and endure hardships patiently, trusting in God. Even when we wander and lose our way, we can return to the safety of the Lord, our shepherd.

The familiar **Psalm** tells us that the Lord always cares for and protects us, guiding us to safety.

Peter calls all to turn away from sin and be baptized in the name of Jesus (**First Reading**). The gift of the Holy Spirit is for every one whom the Lord has called.

Today is also kept as Vocations Sunday. As we consider how each of us responds to the voice of the Good Shepherd, we pray for the grace to respond to God's invitation, always trusting in his loving care and guidance through any struggles.



Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.

Psalm 22 (23)

R./ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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; he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name.

Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.

Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell

for length of days unending.

As I get ready for my prayer, I notice how I am. What's going on in my life just now? Perhaps I feel weary or anxious due to my own situation, or the conflicts and tensions in the wider world.

But for now, I try to set this aside and empty my mind of any chatter.

I settle myself before the Lord, who is always eager to welcome me.

In time, I turn to this beautiful psalm of trust, and read it slowly, aloud if I can. I pause after each verse, allowing the words to deepen within me.

I may picture Jesus leading me to green pasture, sitting with me. Perhaps we read the psalm together, as he may have read it with his mother.

I stay with any line, word or image that resonates for me.

Perhaps a word like *repose ... revives ... guides ... comfort ... anointed ... overflowing ... mercy ... unending ...* seems important?

Or maybe *the shadow of death* or *the sight of my foes* has particular meaning for me today?

I speak to the Lord as one friend to another. However I feel, I entrust this to the One who loves me deeply.

Giving thanks, I slowly close my prayer, perhaps repeating the first stanza.

Gospel John 10: 1–10

At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that person is a thief and a robber. But the one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To that person, the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, they will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

I gently become still and turn my attention towards the Lord. I invite his Spirit to guide me. Then I prayerfully and carefully read this passage.

What message am I receiving? How does Jesus's voice sound as I listen?
Perhaps gentle ... direct ... firm ... warm ... inviting ...?

How does it feel to be called and led by Jesus Christ? In which ways do I know his voice? Where am I in relation to the shepherd?

What other voices may try to get in the way?

I speak from my heart with Jesus about whatever may be arising within me.
I listen.

When the day ends, the sheep are taken to the common sheepfold where one shepherd protects them by lying across the entrance until the next morning.

What do I want to say to Jesus, my own good shepherd, who laid down his life for me? I tell him how much he means to me.

His greatest desire is that I should have abundant life: life in all its fullness.

What does that mean for me? I ponder how Jesus has brought me abundance; the blessings that I have received.

When I am ready, I end my prayer with the response to the psalm:

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