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

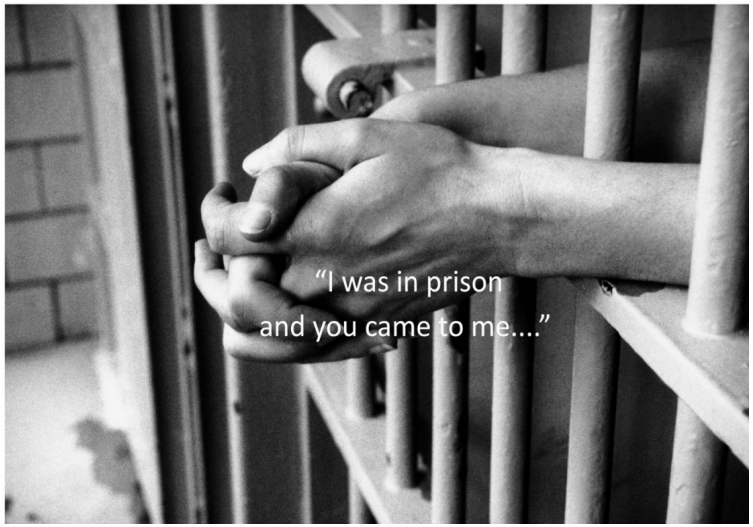
I will seek the lost and bring back the strayed. *First Reading*

Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul. *Psalm*

The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace. *Communion Antiphon*

Father all-powerful, God of love,
you have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from death to life,
resplendent in glory as King of creation.
Open our hearts, free all the world to rejoice in his peace,
to glory in his justice, to live his love.
Bring all together in Jesus Christ your Son,
whose kingdom is with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. *Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:
Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17; Psalm 23 (22); 1 Cor. 15: 20–26, 28; Matt. 25: 31–46



"Lord, when did we see you a stranger and welcome you?"

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Prego Leaflet

**Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King Of The Universe
Year A, 22nd November 2026**

The Lord is my Shepherd

On the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, in this last Sunday of Year A, the image of a shepherd echoes throughout the readings. Christ's Kingship is one of tender care and love of his flock.

In the **First Reading** the prophet Ezekiel describes how the Lord will seek us out when we are lost. He will rescue, heal, care and feed us.

Psalm 23 affirms this prophecy. The Lord leads us to lush pastures, revives and anoints us with love. He desires that we dwell with him forever.

In the letter to the Corinthians **(Second Reading)** Paul teaches that Christ has overcome all things, even death. In Christ we are fully alive. Christ is all, and Christ is in all.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus gives his disciples a powerful teaching about the nature of his kingship. Christ our King is to be found in the stranger, the outcast, the weak and the vulnerable. We will be judged by how we treat these amongst us.

This week, let us pray for the grace to become compassionate shepherds of one another, reverencing the presence of Christ within us, and serving Christ in the most vulnerable amongst us.

Opening Prayer
Almighty ever-living God,
whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son,
the King of the universe,
grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery,
may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.

First Reading Ezekiel 34: 11–12, 15–17

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats.

I come to my place of prayer knowing that '*The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want*'.

Perhaps I use elements of the imagery from Psalm 23 to help settle my body and mind into prayerful silence. In my mind's eye, I see lush green pastures, refreshing reviving waters, a guiding hand that anoints me with love.

Or I may come to a point of prayerful stillness in whatever way works best for me.

I turn to the text and read the words of the prophet as many times as I need.

Where is my spirit drawn as I pray? Perhaps there are one or two words or phrases upon which I choose to centre my prayer.

What grace do these words gift to me?

There is rich imagery describing how God cares for all his people throughout this passage. It may help my prayer to imagine God as a shepherd searching for me.

How does this make me feel? How do I want to respond to being sought out?

What have been the clouds and darkness behind which I have hidden?

Perhaps there have been times – maybe even now – when I have felt injured, broken, weak.

I ponder on how I have lived through times of desolation and separation from God. Even in times when I have felt lost, God has always been present, always seeking me out.

If I need to express sorrow or seek forgiveness from God, I do so, and then I bring my time of prayer to an end with simple words of gratitude.

I close this prayer with a slow prayerful sign of the cross, the sign of how much God, Father, Son and Spirit, loves and cares for me. Amen.

Matthew 25: 31–46 (abbreviated)

Jesus said to his disciples, 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me."

Then he will say to those on his left. I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?" Then he will answer them, saying, "Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

After settling into stillness and silence, I prayerfully read and re-read the Gospel passage.

I ask Jesus to guide me as I pray. I look back over the last few days, weeks ... perhaps this whole liturgical year.

Where have I noticed Christ present in his people? Has anything blocked me from acknowledging Christ amongst the least in his kingdom?

Trusting that Jesus tenderly holds me now like a shepherd who has gathered up a lost sheep, I share with Jesus all that has moved me during this time of prayer.

With Jesus I close my prayer with '*Our Father* ...'