

Fourth Sunday of Easter

You are my sheep

INTRODUCTION

Jesus knows and loves each one of us just like a shepherd with his sheep; he is the 'Good Shepherd' who came to care for us and to show us the way to everlasting happiness.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who takes care of all our needs.

Help us

to follow you wherever you lead.

Sing *See the light*.

SORRY

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who will lead us to the Kingdom of Heaven if we follow him.

Listen to this story Jesus told:

One day a shepherd found that one of his flock was missing, so he left the other ninety-nine sheep, and went off to look for it. He searched and searched until he found it, because everyone of his sheep was precious to him.

Let us ask Jesus to forgive us if we have wandered from his love, as we sing Sorry Song 2 together.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord help us to listen and to recognise your voice.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL (cf John 10:27-28)

Jesus said: 'My sheep know my voice and they follow me, as I lead them to everlasting life. I know each one of them by name, and they can always trust me to take care of them and to protect them from harm.'

DISCUSSION

Does anyone have a pet dog or cat?

What happens if you call their name?

Hopefully they come when you call them!

What makes them come? – They recognise their name and the sound of your voice. They know that you care for them and they follow you because they trust in your love.

Who are the 'sheep' that follow Jesus? – Jesus is the 'Good Shepherd' and anyone who follows him belongs to his flock. Jesus used the idea of a

shepherd and his flock to make the people understand how he would guide and look after his people. He knows each one of us by name, and called us to follow him when we were christened or baptised into the family of God.

Who can we turn to in times of trouble or when we feel afraid or alone? – A good shepherd is always there when his sheep need him, just as Jesus is always there for us in times of need. He will never abandon us and is always watching over us. We can place all our trust in his love and care, knowing that he was ready to die for us so that we could be with him forever.

ACTIVITY

Copy the activity sheet and ask the children to find a way for the sheep to follow their shepherd.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask the children to sit quietly with their eyes closed and listen to the words of Psalm 23:

The good shepherd takes care of all my needs;

He leads me to green meadows

and crystal clear pools.

He guides and protects me,

and I grow strong in his care.

When night falls, I am not afraid,

for he is always by my side

to protect me from harm.

When he calls, I will follow,

knowing that his love for me

will last forever.