

## Reflection Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Week Easter 2024

Following on from Good Shepherd Sunday Jesus invites us to follow him, portraying himself as the gate through which to pass in order to do this. He also prompts us to think about our own leadership and the initiatives we take in our communities. The Gospels for yesterday and today probably leaves us identifying with the sheep. Sheep who are vulnerable to being led astray and becoming lost and have a tendency to walk into danger and difficulty. Like sheep we can easily join in a herd mentality, becoming caught up more and more with what is in front of us but failing to look at things in the future. The reading today calls us to be modern-day shepherds: shepherds who teach lambs their own names as soon as they are born; shepherds who bring sheep into the Christian flock; shepherds who bring their flock to green pastures; shepherds who help produce the most magnificent wool because nourished by the body and blood of Jesus Christ and his goodness, mercy and grace.

Like Jesus, we too can be shepherds, swinging open the gates of our love and care, encouraging and welcoming everyone into the families of our communities.

*Good Shepherd teach me to walk as you walk*

*beside those in mourning*

*so that they will know joy,*

*beside those in fear*

*so that they will know comfort,*

*beside those in hunger*

*so that they will feast until their cup overflows.*

*Help us strive to help build on earth*

*what you have promised us in heaven.*

*In the face of all calamity, present and yet to come,*

*let me lead my neighbour beside the quiet waters of the Good Shepherd. Amen.*