



April 30th 2023 4th Sunday of Easter Year A – John 10:1 – 10

^{10:1}Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.	➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition
➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life	➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).

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We see in today’s gospel Jesus as the Good Shepherd or leader. We are invited to celebrate people who have ‘shepherded’ us by touching our lives and bringing us hope during these very difficult times. We see the great trust between shepherds and their sheep. The sheep ‘know the voice’ of their shepherd and follow him with great trust.

What type of leaders are we? Are we like a good shepherd enabling our sheep to gain trust to follow us? Are we content to be the humble instruments through which people can learn to live their lives to the full with joy and confidence in their hearts?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for those who have gained our trust, thus enabling us to hear your voice and follow you in freedom with joy and confidence in our hearts..

Forgive us Lord for the times as leaders that we did not take the time to get to know your sheep and let them know that each one of them is special to you and you know them by name.

Lord help us with more vineyard workers and we ask you to send us many good priests, religious and men and women who without any sign of possessiveness be a passageway through which many will pass and live life to the full.