

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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What would Jesus do today?

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GOD'S WORD

Readings for Sunday

3rd May 2020

First Reading:

Acts 2:14. 36-41

Psalms: 22

Second Reading:

1Peter 2:20-25

Gospel

John 10:1-10

PARISH BULLETIN

The Parish Bulletin is available weekly on the Parish Website, or can be emailed by forwarding your email address to the Parish Office

Jesus was an itinerant preacher and He laid His hands upon the sick. He drew large crowds both in rural areas (Sermon on the Mount) and in urban settings (Jerusalem on Palm Sunday). Social distancing and avoiding large assemblies would mean big changes in how He met and cared for people but it would not change His message. His message was straight forward. Our God is a God of love who loves each one of us personally and unconditionally forever. He has made us capable of responding to His love and of imitating it by how we appreciate and treasure each other.

Jesus was always on the lookout for experiences, images and stories that could influence our minds and touch our hearts in daily life. One such image was the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep in the culture of that time. Preaching out in the open air, Jesus pointed to the shepherd on the hillside, leading his flock to patches of nourishing grass and pure drinking water. In that barren countryside both had to be searched out by an experienced leader who also went after the wandering and the lost one. Even at night the faithful shepherd had to provide a safe shelter from hungry predators even to the extent of giving his own life for their safety. Our God is the supreme Good Shepherd and each of us is called to follow his example.



This Sunday's Good Shepherd Gospel is an invitation to reflect on how each of us is challenged to care for those with whom we share this endangered planet. Food, shelter, safety, companionship are obvious needs. Our world also needs healers, bridge builders, community leaders locally and in wider society. We need companions in prayer and worship on our journey into the heart of God.

Each one's call is determined by the circumstances of our time, our talent, our generosity, our commitment, our willingness to risk our comfort zones. We must not forget that God has a place for each of us. He has allotted each one a role to do good, a goodness that will be left undone unless I do it.

Our uniqueness is reassuring, awesome and challenging. So is all love. He is with us. Be of good heart.

Fr Tom Clancy

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 22)



He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

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

