

FAITH @Home

8 MAY 2022 | VOL. II ISSUE 23

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love
in the heart of the family!



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4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Acts 13@14, 43-52

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 99(100): 1-3,5

Second Reading:

Apocalypse 7:9,14-17

Gospel:

John 10:27-30

*"The sheep that belong to me
listen to My voice"*



Stained glass: Alfred Handel, d. 1946[2], photo:Toby Hudson, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [here](#).

Check out [this video](#) of the Gospel for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we find ourselves with Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Allow yourself some time to contemplate the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Imagine that you are that lamb, nestled close to Him, close enough to hear His gentle voice and the beat of His heart. Stay in that warm and safe space for a time.
- Ask yourself in prayer, what it means for your own personal life to have Jesus as your Shepherd. Do you find it easy to hear His voice? What distractions might you need to remove? What other voices are claiming your attention? Pray for the grace to hear and respond to Him more this week.

Talk

In today's Gospel we see Jesus the Good Shepherd explaining how His sheep know His voice.

- Who are the people in your life who you can recognise just by the sound of their voice, even with just a few words on the phone?
- Whose voice do you love to hear? Maybe you associate good things with that voice, like granny coming to visit!
- How good are you at recognising someone's tone of voice and what that means?
- What kind of tone of voice do you think Jesus speaks to you in?
- Is there space in your home to hear the voice of Jesus, or is there always a lot of noise? Is there a way that, as a family, you could create quiet time to let Jesus speak His word into your hearts?

Family Challenge!

Do something this week that brings you together as a family. Jesus and the Father are totally united, they are as one. What fun activity can you do to unite your family this week?

Mission: Sheep need to listen to their Shepherd to know where to go. The Shepherd keeps them safe from harm and cares for all their needs. Make a really big effort this week to listen to Jesus, and to do that you need to make time to pray and be silent!

Song of the Week!
JUST WANNA BE A SHEEP



Prayer is first of all listening to God. It's openness. God is always speaking; he's always doing something.
Henri Nouwen

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

In today's Gospel Jesus was drawing on a well-known image at the time of a shepherd calling his sheep. We might not have the same familiarity with what He means, but even today in Israel you will find different flocks pasturing together in a sheep fold or scattered throughout the hills, but when their own shepherd calls them they respond to him and follow. It's incredible to see! How can they know his particular voice? They know their shepherd because they trust him; he provides for them, cares for them, keeps them safe from harm. In fact, he protects him with his own life if necessary, facing down threats like wolves and thieves for their sake.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd - He doesn't give Himself that title in this Gospel passage, but elsewhere. That makes us, as baptised Christians, His sheep. But a really important question for us to ask is not just "do we listen to His voice?" but rather, since we have free will, "do we **want** to listen to His voice?" Do we believe that Jesus knows what is best for us? Do we trust that He will always provide? Do we turn to Him for help and advice? Are we drowning out His voice with other noise or voice?

This week's video from Fr Mark Mary helps us to know how to listen and to know what God is asking us to do. We call that discernment. We can discern the little things as well as the big. Try to put this into practice, starting this week!

VIDEO: [Struggling to hear God's voice \(Fr Mark Mary\)](#)

TUNE: [Every Promise of Your Word \(K & K Getty\)](#)

Check out "To the Heights" full resource



Family Prayer

*Lord, let me know clearly
The work which you are calling me
to do in life. And grant me every
grace I need to answer your call
With courage and love and lasting
dedication to your will. Amen.*

Loyola Sunday Connection

EVENTS

ANIMA: 3 week zoom series on Wednesday nights beginning on May 4th @8pm: video, chat, fellowship, prayer. Email events@waterfordlismore.ie or call 087 4042784

Encounter: for **young adults aged 18-35** in St John's Church, Waterford Fri 13th May, 8pm, Talk - Music - Prayer - Refreshments. More info: www.waterfordlismore.ie

Family Day at Holy Family Mission: Sun May 8th, 10am - 3pm. Bring a packed lunch! Booking is essential: 052 6133181 or email info@holymission.ie

Christ in the City: May 22nd - June 11th. Join us for three weeks in Waterford City of homeless outreach, community life & prayer. Meals and accommodation included. Ages 18 - 27. Learn more at www.christinthecity.org

Promotional Talks for Eucharistic Adoration in St John's Parish, Waterford will take place during Masses on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May.

TO KNOW JESUS IS TO KNOW THE FATHER

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge to his authority by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders. Already, the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angered that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31 and 10:39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

Set in a moment of tension and conflict in John's Gospel, today's Gospel reading is Jesus' answer to the question, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus responds by saying, in essence, "If you have to ask, then you are not one of my sheep." Then Jesus asserts his unity with the Father. At the conclusion of these words, John reports that the Jews intend to stone Jesus for blasphemy, but he escapes arrest.

We may be less familiar with the metaphors of sheep and shepherd than those to whom Jesus spoke. The image of Jesus as Good Shepherd and the community of followers as his sheep has endured over the centuries as a primary image in our faith tradition. Its power to describe the relationship between Jesus and his followers transcends direct experience with sheep. The image speaks to us about the protection, security, and care that shepherds represent for their sheep. Today's Gospel speaks powerfully about the familiarity and intimacy between Jesus and his disciples, expressed as recognizing and knowing another's voice. Today's Gospel also speaks to the relationship between Jesus and the Father. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. Our relationship with Jesus is an invitation to share in the life of God.

Adapted from Loyola Sunday Connection



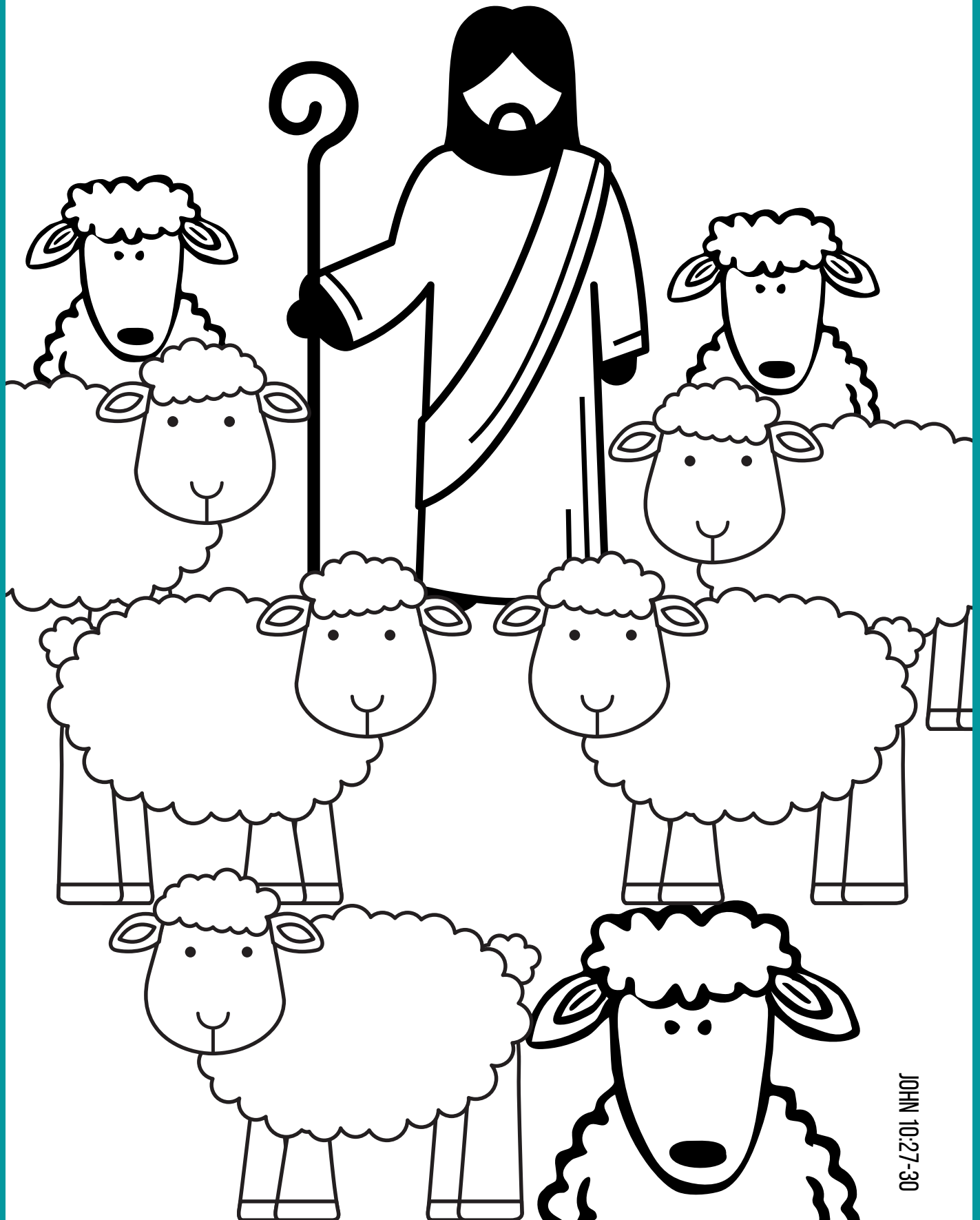
CHECK IT OUT: DIOCESAN YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

The first ever official Diocese of Waterford & Lismore Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje is taking place this summer, lead by Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan. Taking in part of the International Youth Festival, this pilgrimage for 16 - 35 year olds promises to be an unforgettable experience in the incredible, peace-filled and joyful surroundings of Medjugorje! August 3rd - 10th. Cost: €725pps. For more information contact: Roisin Browne 083 3002123 / Annmarie Browne 086 4572353 / Declan Browne 083 4865213

If you would like to help fundraise for young people who cannot afford this pilgrimage, you can purchase a raffle ticket (€10) for entry into a draw for a free ticket to Medjugorje redeemable at any time of the year. Contact the numbers above!



The Sheep that belong to
me listen to my voice



JOHN 10:27-30