





## Reflection on the Gospel of John 10:1-10 by Greg Sunter

The fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes known as Good Shepherd Sunday. In the three different cycles of the liturgical year, the gospel on this Sunday comes from John, chapter 10 – an extended discourse by Jesus on the image of himself as the good shepherd. This year the reading is the beginning of the chapter and stops just immediately before the words, ‘I am the good shepherd’.

When Jesus described himself as the gate of the sheepfold, his audience would have immediately understood the analogy. For a shepherd to become the gate to the sheepfold of a night was to risk his life for not only his own sheep but all the sheep in the fold overnight. It took courage and demonstrated utter commitment.

### Historical Context – A line of shepherds

When Jesus used the image of himself as a shepherd, he named himself as belonging to a Jewish ancestry that associated itself with shepherds. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses were all shepherds. David, the second King of Israel, was regarded as the greatest king in Jewish history. His humble beginning, captured magnificently in the sculpture by Michelangelo, was as a shepherd boy guarding his flock with a slingshot. The kings of Israel were charged to ‘shepherd’ their people rather than to lord it over them as the pagan kings did.

### Scriptural context – Psalm 22/23

Today’s responsorial psalm uses Psalm 22 (sometimes referenced as Psalm 23), ‘the Lord is my shepherd’. It is a very popular psalm and is often reproduced on Christian posters and other artworks. It was also a popular psalm and image at the time of Jesus. For Jesus to describe himself as the good shepherd caused great distress among the Jewish officials. They saw Jesus as being blasphemous for the psalm makes clear that *the Lord* is the shepherd. Jesus quite deliberately makes clear that he and the Father are one: the Lord is the shepherd and Jesus is the good shepherd.

### Gospel Focus – Life to the Full

John 10:10 is a very famous quote from this gospel passage. Having life to the full does not imply life filled with every convenience, comfort and wealth. Rather, it is about living a life filled with purpose and intent. If we fail to live with purpose and meaning then our life is a hollow shell of what it could be. Jesus came that we may have life – a life that is at its fullest when it is lived in such a way as to be an expression of what Jesus taught and lived.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Reader:** That our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may continue to guide the Church as a shepherd cares for his sheep. (pause) In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For the world, that all will know a culture of peace and nonviolence. (pause) In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That our parish community may serve our neighbours through practical action. (pause) In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That governments and organisations will work together to provide food security to prevent the catastrophic loss of life which is threatening parts of Africa, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and other areas. (pause) In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That men and women in the armed forces will be kept safe while serving their country and be supported after their service is finished. (pause) In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the sick will be comforted through God's merciful love, especially Archbishop Frank Carroll, Jenny Bodman, Eadadoin (pronounced Aideen) Corcoran, Maurice Farley, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Val Biggers, those on our prayer list and all who need our prayers.

(pause) In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who have died will live in the safety of eternal life, especially Terry Wilson, Simon Jeffery, Jill Burke, Tony Shepherd, Babs McNamara, . . . and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. (pause) In your glory:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Father, eternal shepherd,*

*watch over the flock redeemed by the blood of Christ and lead us to the promised land.*

*Amen.*

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**PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm**

**Weekday Mass:** No Tuesday Mass until May.

**Meditation:** Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

**Social Justice Group:** Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery

**Krawarree Mass: May (date to be advised) at 11am.**

**Funerals:** Jill Burke: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 10am in St. Andrew's Uniting Church

Michael Williams: 5<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm – graveside service in Braidwood Lawn Cemetery

Simon Jeffery: date to be advised in St Bede's Church

## **Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal – Collection for Formation of our Seminarians:**

This weekend we especially give thanks for the vocations that have sprung from our own communities – those young men whose families and lives are planted in our local parishes and who, God willing, will return as ordained priests to serve here. Please give a generous donation today or begin a monthly donation to support the education of our seminarians. Special envelopes are provided in the church or donations can be made on-line at [bit.ly/goodshepherd2023](http://bit.ly/goodshepherd2023)

## **Thursday 4 May | Marist College Canberra | 7-8.30pm**

All invited to an ***Evening of Dialogue*** which creates space for a respectful exploration of what is needed for humanity to flourish. The night will consist of keynote speakers, a Q&A session and an opportunity for open discussion. Keynote speakers include Dr Hugh Mackay (Social Psychologist and Author), Lara Kirk (Marriage, Family and Relationships Manager), Michael McGirr (Mission Facilitator at Caritas Australia and Author) and Professor Br David Hall FMS (Marist Brother and Dean of the ACU La Salle Academy).

**Free Registration:** <https://bit.ly/41AKHAZ>

**First Thursday Lunch at the Club is on May 4**, commencing at 11.30pm. Bookings essential for the bus.

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting:** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 10am. All parishioners are invited to attend. There is much to discuss. A cuppa will be provided.

**Mothers' Day Breakfast:** All women are welcome to come along to a Mother's Day Breakfast on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> in the **CWA rooms**. 8.00 – 9.30am. Let's get together to enjoy each other's company and conclude with prayers of thanks and celebration for the mothering roles in our lives.



**Parish Dinner:** Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> is Curry Night (following Mass). There will be a selection of lovely homemade curries (mild) for you to enjoy! So please join us at the Servicemen's Club for a friendly evening to welcome winter! Cost \$30 per person (to be confirmed)

RSVP by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May with exact cash in envelope to: Helen H, Germaine, Cathy or Joy.

**Readings for Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Acts 2: 14, 36-41. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Peter 2:20-25. Gospel: John 10:1-10.

**Next week:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Acts 6:1-7. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Peter 2:4-9. Gospel: John 14:1-12.

<b>Ministries for our Mass:</b>	<b>29 April</b>	<b>6 May</b>	<b>13 May</b>	<b>20 May</b>	<b>27 May</b>
Welcomer:	Geraldine	Cathy F	Helen P	Geraldine	Cathy F
Acolyte:					
Reader 1:	Michael	Bobbie	Wendy M-B	Ann T	Bobbie
Reader 2:	Cathy F	Tommy	Germaine	Wendy H	Tommy
<b>Ministries of service:</b>	<b>28 April</b>	<b>5 May</b>	<b>12 May</b>	<b>20 May</b>	
Altar Decorating:	Cathy	Margaret	Joy	Helen P	
Cleaning:		Pauline & Wendy M-B		Felix	
Counters:	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday: volunteer please	2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sunday: Wendy H 4 <sup>th</sup> : Phil Owen			
Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.					

Take care of each other,

Helen

The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.