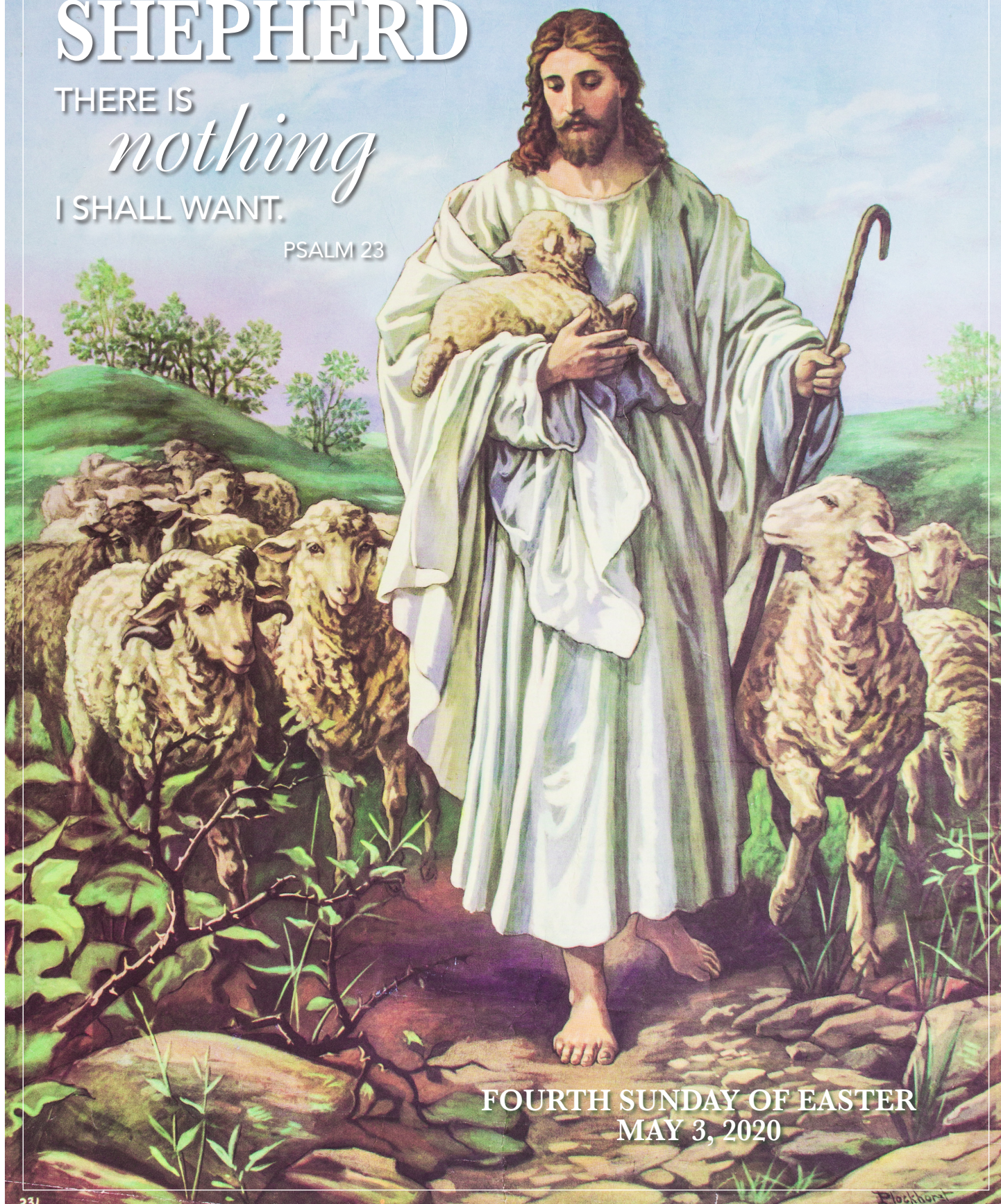


THE LORD IS MY
SHEPHERD

THERE IS
nothing
I SHALL WANT.

PSALM 23



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 3, 2020

Weekly Scripture

Sunday, May 3

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6

1 Pt 2:20b-25

Jn 10:1-10

Monday, May 4

Easter Weekday

Acts 11:1-18

Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4

Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday, May 5

Easter Weekday

Acts 11:19-26

Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7

Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday, May 6

Easter Weekday

Acts 12:24-13:5a

Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8

Jn 12:44-50

Thursday, May 7

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:13-25

Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27

Jn 13:16-20

Friday, May 8

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:26-33

Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab

Jn 14:1-6

Saturday, May 9

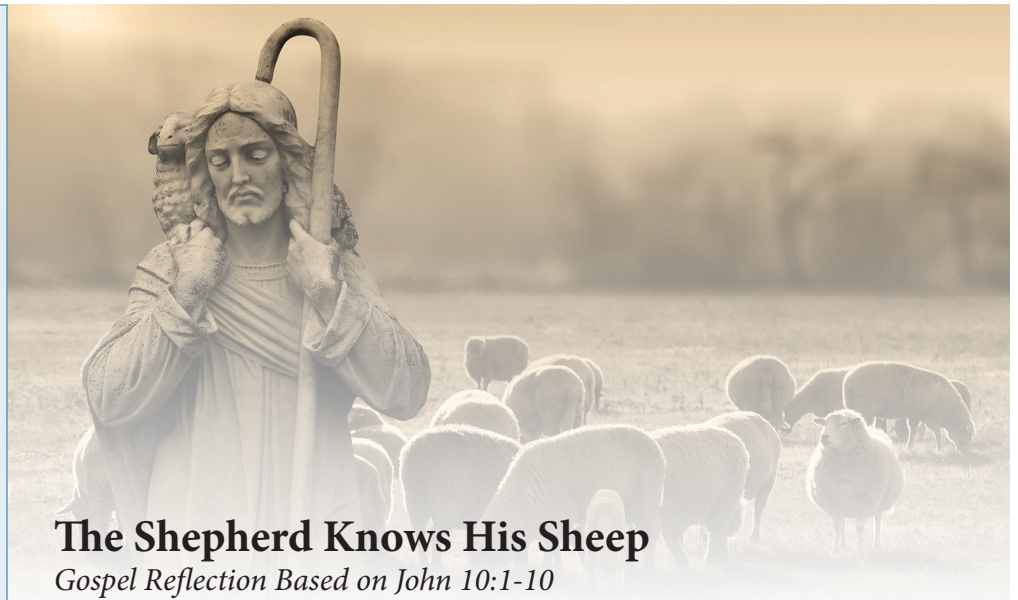
Easter Weekday

Acts 13:44-52

Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

Jn 14:7-14

Access *The New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE)* online at <http://cms.usccb.org/bible/index.cfm>



The Shepherd Knows His Sheep

Gospel Reflection Based on John 10:1-10

Introducing himself as the Good Shepherd of his flock, Jesus makes three claims in today's Gospel.

- 1. He knows his sheep and his sheep hear his voice.** Just as the Palestinian shepherds knew each sheep of their flock by name, and the sheep knew their shepherd and his voice, so Jesus knows each one of us, our needs, our merits and our faults. He loves us as we are, with all our limitations, and he expects us to return his love by keeping his words. He speaks to us at every Mass, through the Bible, through our pastors, through our parents, through our friends and through the events of our lives. "God whispers to us in our pleasures, He speaks to us in our consciences, and He shouts to us in our pain!" (C.S. Lewis).
- 2. He gives eternal life to us, his sheep by receiving us into his sheepfold** and giving us Faith through Baptism, and then he strengthens that Faith in Confirmation. He supplies food for our souls in the Holy Eucharist and in the Divine words of the Holy Bible. He makes our society holy by the Sacraments of Matrimony and the priesthood (Holy Orders).
- 3. He protects his sheep by placing them in the loving hands of his Almighty Father.** Without him to guide us and protect us, we are an easy prey for the spiritual wolves of this world, including Satan and his minions.

Through today's Gospel, Jesus teaches one of the central aspects of the ministerial priesthood: the priest as shepherd. It means that a priest is one who, by his consecration, lives for others. The title, "Father," like the title, "Shepherd," expresses a relation of loving service to others in everything, from the most sacred ministries to the most trivial chores... Let us pray for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and the consecrated life so that we may have more good shepherds to lead, feed and protect the Catholic community. Let us remember that the duty of fostering vocations is the concern of the whole believing community, and we discharge that responsibility primarily by living exemplary Christian lives.

Excerpted from Kadavil, Fr. Antony. *Word of God: Reflections for the IV Sunday of Easter*. Vatican News, Dicasterium pro Communicatione, 9 May 2019, www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2019-05/sunday-reflections-9-may-2019.html.

Prayer for Vocations

World Day of Prayer for Vocations occurs on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. The day is set aside to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that You inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will.

Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments.

We ask this though Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for Vocation. Invisible Monastery, Vianney Vocations, www.invisiblemonastery.com/prayers/simple-prayers/. (Accessed 23 April 20).

Mother Teresa: On Holiness

In order to be saints, you have to seriously want to be one.

Saint Thomas Aquinas assures us that holiness "is nothing else but a resolution made, the heroic act of a soul that surrenders to God." And he adds: "Spontaneously we love God, we run towards him, we get close to him, we possess him."

Our willingness is important because it changes us into the image of God and likens us to him! The decision to be holy is a dear one.

Renunciation, temptations, struggles, persecutions, and all kinds of sacrifices are what surround the soul that has opted for holiness.

Mother Teresa (1996). Holiness. In J. L. González-Balado (Ed). *Mother Teresa: In My Own Words*, Gramercy Books, New York.

Prayer to St. Jane Frances de Chantal Protection from Isolation

Loving Jane Frances de Chantal, please ask our dearest Lord to protect all of those who have been isolated.

I pray for those without family and friends to support them and for those in my life that I have kept far away from my heart. Pray to our loving Father that those who are standing alone outside will find a kind shelter under the grace of God. Amen.

Philip Lief Group, Inc. (2004). *Saintly Advice: A Prayer for Every Problem*. Capodanno, J. (Ed.). Kansas City, MO: Barnes and Noble



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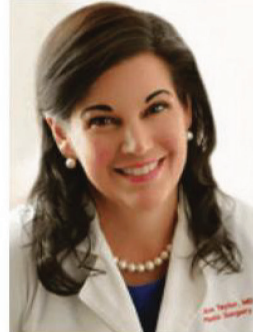


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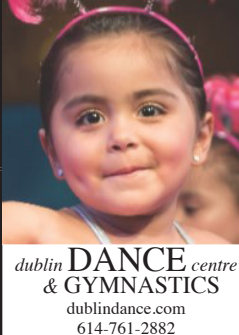


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