Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21st, 2024

FAITH @ HOWE

Forth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 4: 8-12

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118: 1, 8-9,21-

23,26,28,29

Second Reading: 1John 3: 1-2 **Gospel** John 10: 11-18

Full readings can be found here!

1. HEAR

Grab your bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries you can find the Gospel reading by clicking HERE. (Bishop O'Connell's Gospel Reflection page.)

As an alternative to reading the Gospel, you can watch a short video with the proclamation for adults by clicking HERE. (YouTube, WOG channel, 1:09 min)

The children can also watch a video proclamation of the Gospel by clicking <u>HERE</u>. (YouTube, The Kids Wing channel, 2:14 min)

2. PRAY

Prepare a sacred space in your home and gather with the family to reflect together with this resource.

Have an adult access the following video (click here) and have it ready to be seen by all in the family. You may use a cellphone, or a tablet, or a TV with internet access (if possible). Ask all in the family to watch the video in silence.

After watching the video, one adult in the family asks the following question: "How did the shepherd of the story showed his love for the lost sheep?" Allow members of the family to give an answer. Note: if you have small children, they may draw a picture or show you with gestures their answer.

When ready, invite all members to take time to pray to Jesus in their hearts.

For example, they may say a prayer out loud or in silence, inviting Jesus to be their shepherd who loves and cares for them.

To close this moment of prayer, one adult can recite out loud the following prayer:

We thank you, Lord Jesus, because you make us as vulnerable as little sheep so that we may seek to be with you always. Help us recognize your voice, because we live in a society full of voices of hate, of indifference towards the pain of the poor, of false voices inviting us to forget our dignity of your sons and daughters. Help us to always be attentive to your word, and to always know how to listen to you. Amen.

3. TALK

Today's Gospel tells us about Jesus who is the Good Shepherd who takes care of all his sheep. That means he takes care of us and always protects us. Think for a moment and answer this question: Which people in your family are responsible for taking care of the other members? Let some family members give their answer.



If you have small children, you can ask them this other question: How do your mom or dad take care of you? Ask them to share their response with the family.

Jesus knows each one of us and loves us. Think for a moment and answer this question: In what way have you experienced the care and love of Jesus? Ask a few people to share their answer.

This week, show your gratitude to that person in your family who is responsible for taking care of others. For example, offer to do some housework instead; give a flower to that person; or you can help that person in some work they are doing; etc

Optional: Invite the young children in your home to watch this video with a song about the parable of the Good Shepherd, by clicking here. (YouTube, Christine In Action channel, 1:04 min)

