

## ***Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church***

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### **Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 7, 2017**

#### **Weekday Masses**

Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 AM

#### **Sunday Masses**

Saturday – 4:30 PM (anticipated Mass)  
Sunday –9:00 AM

#### **Confessions**

Weekdays Tuesday to Saturday – 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM  
Saturday - 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM  
Always available upon request.

#### **Please pray for our sick and shut in parishioners.**

May Our Lord sustain, comfort and heal them through their faith.

Mimi LaBossiere, Ann Vinet, Don Appel, Lew and Dolores Hampton, Marilyn McKay, Galdino Berti, Yunha Kim, Gerard Born, George Stock, Jerzy and Irena Klimczek, Rita Rocan, Theresa Witjes, Dolores Azevedo, Amanda Paller.

#### **Last Sunday Offering**

\$General  
\$Building and Maintenance  
\$Average Weekly Expenses

Thank you for your generous support of your Parish.

#### **Reflection on today's Gospel – John 10:1-10**

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Although we may have wonderfully romantic pictures of a shepherd's life, it is a very difficult and demanding life. There is one detail that provides a focus for some reflection today. Jesus says that the sheep follow the shepherd because they recognize his voice. Consider the people who were listening to Jesus in today's Gospel. They know that sheep do in fact recognize the voice or sound of the shepherd who cares for them, and they trustingly follow that voice.

The shepherd acts as the gate for the sheepfold. When the sheep hear the shepherd's voice calling them, they pass into the gate through his hands as he examines each one in turn, applies healing olive oil to any scratches or bruises, and gives each one a drink of cool water. Dry, dusty eyes are soothed from a cup of overflowing water. Flocks of sheep are protected from the wild animals of the night in an area surrounded by a low wall. When all have passed through the gate, the shepherd lies across the entrance to protect the sheep from all prowling predators.

In today's Gospel Jesus gives us an image that He is the Good Shepherd when He says, "I am the gate for the sheep." Jesus is the Shepherd who calls us by the name we received at our Baptism. He is the only gate to the fullness of life, the eternal kingdom. No one can go to the Father except through Jesus.

As our Good Shepherd, Jesus examines each one of us. We feel our life being examined in the light of His teaching. He shows up our bruises and hurts caused by sin in order to heal us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or Confession. He offers us food and drink from the overflowing cup at the Eucharistic celebration.

Jesus is telling us that He knows us individually and thinks so much of each one of us that He cannot let us out of His sight. The fact that we have a special place in His heart should instill hope in us and increase our love for Christ. Even when sin causes us to wander and stray, our Good Shepherd is there to come to our rescue. Jesus searches for us and brings us back, carrying us safely home to the fold of His Holy Church.

Jesus makes a bold promise. He will give eternal life to those who are His sheep, and He will not allow anyone to take them away from Him, unless it is by their choice. He will care for them, guide them, and comfort them.

Jesus says, "Whoever enters by me will be saved..." Jesus offers us the care and security which enable us to enjoy true freedom. Just as the sheep in today's Gospel give a positive, eager response to the shepherd's voice, so too should we follow Jesus and listen to His voice. When we know the love of our Shepherd for us, such a response is not difficult. When we know Jesus as our Good Shepherd, we will gladly follow Him. And when we do follow the path of Jesus, we will have life, and have it abundantly.

However, the relationship has to be two-way. The sheep have to choose to belong to Jesus and His flock. Similarly we each have to make a personal commitment to follow Jesus for life and listen to His voice. Jesus will not, or cannot, save people against their will, but if we do choose to listen to the voice of Jesus and follow Him and remain faithful, Jesus promises to give us eternal life.

The flock of sheep in today's Gospel is an image of community. We too have a deep need for community. In the Catholic community we will find mutual support, encouragement, and companionship. We cannot belong to Jesus without belonging also to His flock. The privilege of belonging is not something that is offered to a chosen few, but to everyone.

During these weeks of Easter, let us re-commit ourselves to listen more closely to Christ, and to see in Him the one and only gate to more abundant life with Him as our Good Shepherd.

### **Jesus says, "I am the Bread of Life"**

Jesus says to the Apostles: "I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35).

When we are born into this world we are meant to grow physically and mature from a child to an adult. When we are born into God's family through Baptism, we are meant to grow from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity.

Like our natural growth, spiritual growth should be a normal part of our development as we follow Christ. We know that we cannot grow physically without eating and drinking, and the same is true spiritually.

How does God feed us, nourish us, and cause us to grow? It is through the life of God's Word in Sacred Scripture, through the life of His Son, Jesus, through the life of the Holy Spirit in our hearts to guide us into all Truth, through the life of the Sacrifice of the Mass, through the life of the Holy Eucharist to feed us, nourish us with Jesus' Body and Blood, through the life of the Sacraments and through the life of our spiritual brothers and sisters.

Jesus is the Bread of Life. Jesus is the only One who can satisfy our spiritual hunger. Jesus wants us to be enriched by His presence and power as we grow into all God wants us to be.

For reflection, "Would anyone say that I have grown to spiritual maturity?"

### **Who Am I?**

Are you longing to improve your relationships or increase your happiness and productivity? Discover the richness within yourself. Join us for a 4 day workshop on May 27-28 and June 3-4 at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre, 4885 Saint John Paul II Way, Vancouver. To register or for more info., contact Leah Bittante at 604-613-0023 or lbittante2@gmail.com. Visit [www.prh-canada.com](http://www.prh-canada.com) for more info.