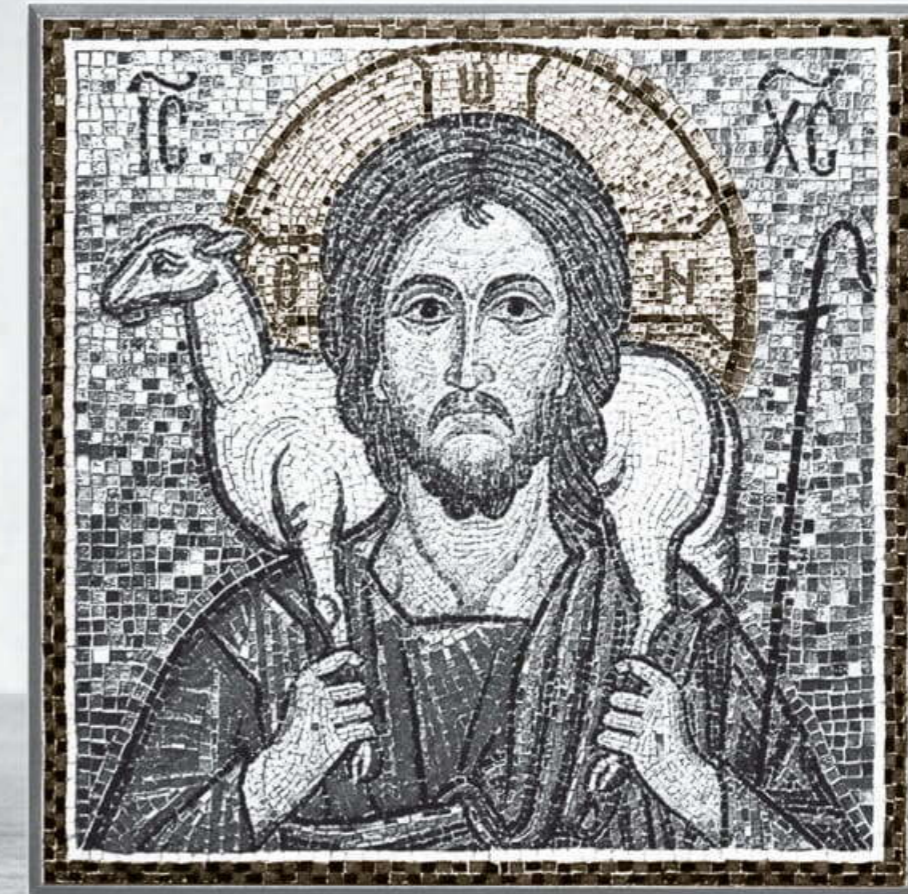


Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH **4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)**

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME: **RISE IN HOPE**



ONE FLOCK, ONE SHEPHERD

Two images strike us in today's readings. We hear that Jesus is the cornerstone which the builders rejected. Earlier, Peter had healed a beggar who had been crippled from birth. When questioned by the authorities on how he healed that man, Peter replied it was in the name of Jesus that the crippled was healed. He accused them of sending Jesus to his death, yet now Jesus is the only name that can save all mankind.



SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

Jesus says:
"I am the gate.
Anyone who
enters through
me will be safe..."

(Jn. 10: 9)

Jesus proclaimed, "I am the Good Shepherd". We are his sheep. Jesus knows us and we know Him. He gave his life for us. The idea of the Good Shepherd indicates the close relationship that Jesus has with us. He is responsible for us. A shepherd who is good knows his sheep and they follow him. There is no clearer way of telling us that He loves us and cares deeply for us. Jesus said that He will lead the sheep and the sheep will listen to him. Boggled down by life's challenges, we often only hear our own groans and moans. Instead of listening to our Good Shepherd, we ask Him to listen to us.

How then do we hear Jesus and recognise His voice? Take a breather. Say a prayer. Press the pause button. Read the Word of God. Many other ways, indeed. **We need a bit of reflection to discover which is the best way for ourselves.** And then we let Him lead. He will not let us down. Remember Jesus said that the mission the Father sent Him to do, he does willingly: to die for us and come back to life for the salvation of all – not just the sheep in His fold, but the ones outside too. He came to unite the people of the world, for there will be one flock, one Shepherd.

Again, we are reminded that we are children of God. One does not just call anyone his children, unless they mean a lot to him. And God loves each one of us as if we were His only child. As one family in Christ, let us have faith in His holy name and listen out for the voice of our Good Shepherd. ✚

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Acts 4: 8-12;

Ps. 117: 1, 8-9, 21-23,
26, 28-29;

1 Jn. 3: 1-2;

Jn. 10: 11-18.