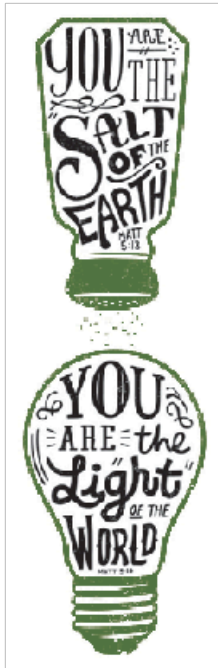


“Women have the right to insist that their dignity be respected.”

Saint John Paul II



SCRIPTURE
of the DAY

Acts 4: 8-12
Psalm 117: 1, 8-9, 21-23,
26, 28-29
1John 3: 1-2
John 10: 11-18

That baby grew up to be David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister and one of England's greatest statesmen. (Today in the Word, January, 1998, p. 10).

Closer to home, we have The Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (amongst many religious congregations.) *The nuns are called to a mission of reconciliation; of empowering lives, restoring rights, upholding dignity, and embracing people who have experienced injustice, oppression and alienation, especially women and children.* <https://gssmission.wordpress.com>

Today, as we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, we know the Lord has come in the persons of many selfless women and men who have given up lives of comfort so as to be of service to those in need. When we listen to their stories, we know the reason for their being is because of a life of intimacy with the Lord. The Lord affirms this intimacy with him as he says, 'My own knows me.'

The mission of the Church calls us to follow our Good Shepherd. It is not just for the nuns and priests, but for each one of us. We look at Peter, the closest to the Lord as he lives and breathes the Living Christ, the Cornerstone. Peter knows the Shepherd, and he follows Him, taking his journey all the way to the Cross. *Indeed, 'my own knows me.'*

Do we want to follow the Good Shepherd? John in the 2nd readings spurs us on, *'Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children, and that is what we are.'* Son-ship is ours to claim!✠

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

newbec

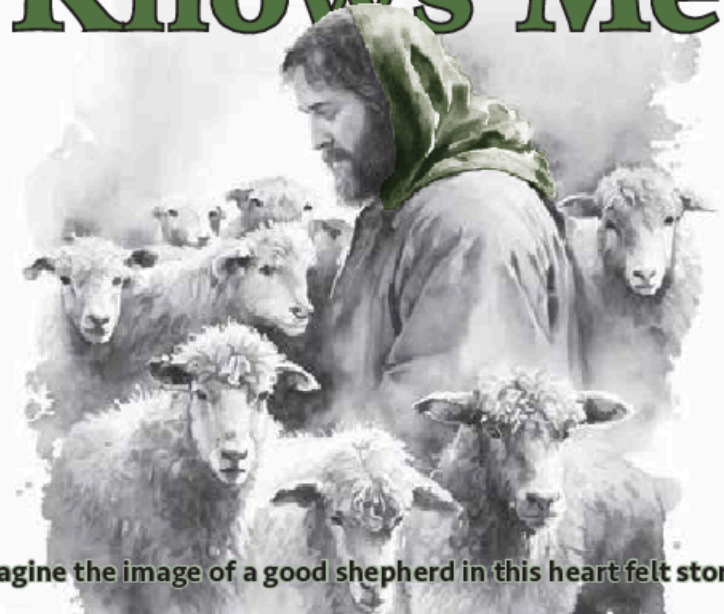
21 April 2024
4th Sunday of Easter
(Good Shepherd Sunday)

**SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION
PARTICIPATION AND MISSION. (MATTHEW 5: 13-16)**

MONTHLY FOCUS

CELEBRATING THE DIGNITY AND VALUE OF WOMEN

My Own Knows Me



Imagine the image of a good shepherd in this heart felt story:

Many years ago, a young mother was making her way on foot across the hills of South Wales, carrying her infant son. A blinding blizzard overtook the pair, and the mother never reached her destination. Searchers found her lifeless body, with the baby snuggled beneath her, warm and alive. She had wrapped her outer clothing and scarf around the boy and then covered him with her own body.