

SUNDAY PLUS

Follow me!

Growing up on a Welsh sheep farm has given me a particular viewpoint on the times when Christ talks about being the Good Shepherd. While shouting and waving sticks can get a flock moving quickly, sometimes they just scatter in fright, ending up stuck in brambles or falling into streams. The better way is slower and gentler. Jesus our Good Shepherd

knows each of his own better than we know ourselves, guiding us towards what's truly in our best interests. Sometimes the sheep need treating with medicine or to have their wool shorn and they don't comprehend the benefits.

How often in our Christian life do we feel the Lord calling us to something a bit more demanding or difficult than we'd immediately like? Following Jesus and trusting him to be our good shepherd

is something we do on the everyday level, but also when we're trying to work out what the Lord wants for our vocation in life. If you speak to anyone in a religious order or a priest, then their journey has always taken an unexpected route, and at times all we can do is trust in the goodness of God and try to work out best what his will is. Of course, sheep only thrive in a flock, with the

support and companionship of others, so whatever your vocation is in life, let us all support each other in prayer and friendship.

Finally, if you notice someone who might be called to some sort of ministry in the Church, quietly let them know, as it could be just what they're waiting for!

Br Royston Price is the Vocations Director for the Redemptorists' London Province.

Follow the Good Shepherd

by Br Royston Price C.Ss.R.

Lead by example

by Rachel Thompson

All young adults now, my children are well placed to know my failings as a mother and tell me where I have gone wrong – although it hasn't been for want of trying! In one drive to be good parents, we used Covey's idea of "emotional bank accounts": we pay into someone's account with time and attention, and so build trust. It is this trust which is at the heart of the personal relationship between sheep and their shepherd. As the ideal shepherd, Jesus shows us that trust costs. Real love, consistently putting the other first, is hard but there can be no greater investment and Jesus shows by example how it's done. The wolves will always

be there, but Jesus' sacrifice enables me to know the reality of God's love and to understand that all will, eventually, be well. I am hopeful that Jesus' example of forgiveness is one my children will be following...

Rachel Thompson, in addition to being the Children's Editor for Redemptorist Publications, is also a full-time secondary school teacher.

"How can we not struggle together? How can we not pray and work together, side by side... to show the sacred countenance of the Lord, and to care for his work of creation?"

Pope Francis

Iconic!

by Martin Delaney

Jesus is the world's biggest icon but his fan club requires more than an autograph. He asks us to be more than the hired hand, who splits at the first sign of the wolf.

Being a fan of an icon means we can often admire them at a distance, finding inspiration in the ideas, but then all too easily forgetting them when we go out into the world.

Jesus calls us to be more than that as part of his membership: not mere fans, but followers, disciples and family members. He calls us to his family, to his flock and, most importantly, he calls us to be like him. He asks us, as disciples, to become more like him in our

actions, in our words and in the way we serve. He calls us to establish a relationship with the Father, so that we too may join that one flock: to know the Father as the Father know us.

Martin Delaney is an actor, writer and personal development coach. He is best-known for his work in Oscar-winning *Zero Dark Thirty*, *Now You See Me 2* and George Clooney's *Catch 22*.

Good Shepherd, watch over, protect and bless everyone whom I know and love. Let us follow you wherever you might lead us. + Amen.

Today:
Acts 4:8-12
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

Monday:
Acts 11:1-18
John 10:1-10

Tuesday:
Acts 11:19-26
John 10:22-30

Wednesday:
Acts 12:24 – 3:5
John 12:44-50

Thursday:
Acts 13:13-25
John 13:16-20

Friday:
Acts 13:26-33
John 14:1-6

Saturday:
Acts 13:44-52
John 14:7-14

Next Sunday:
Acts 9:26-31
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8