

Getting Ready for Sunday!



The Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season

30 April 2023

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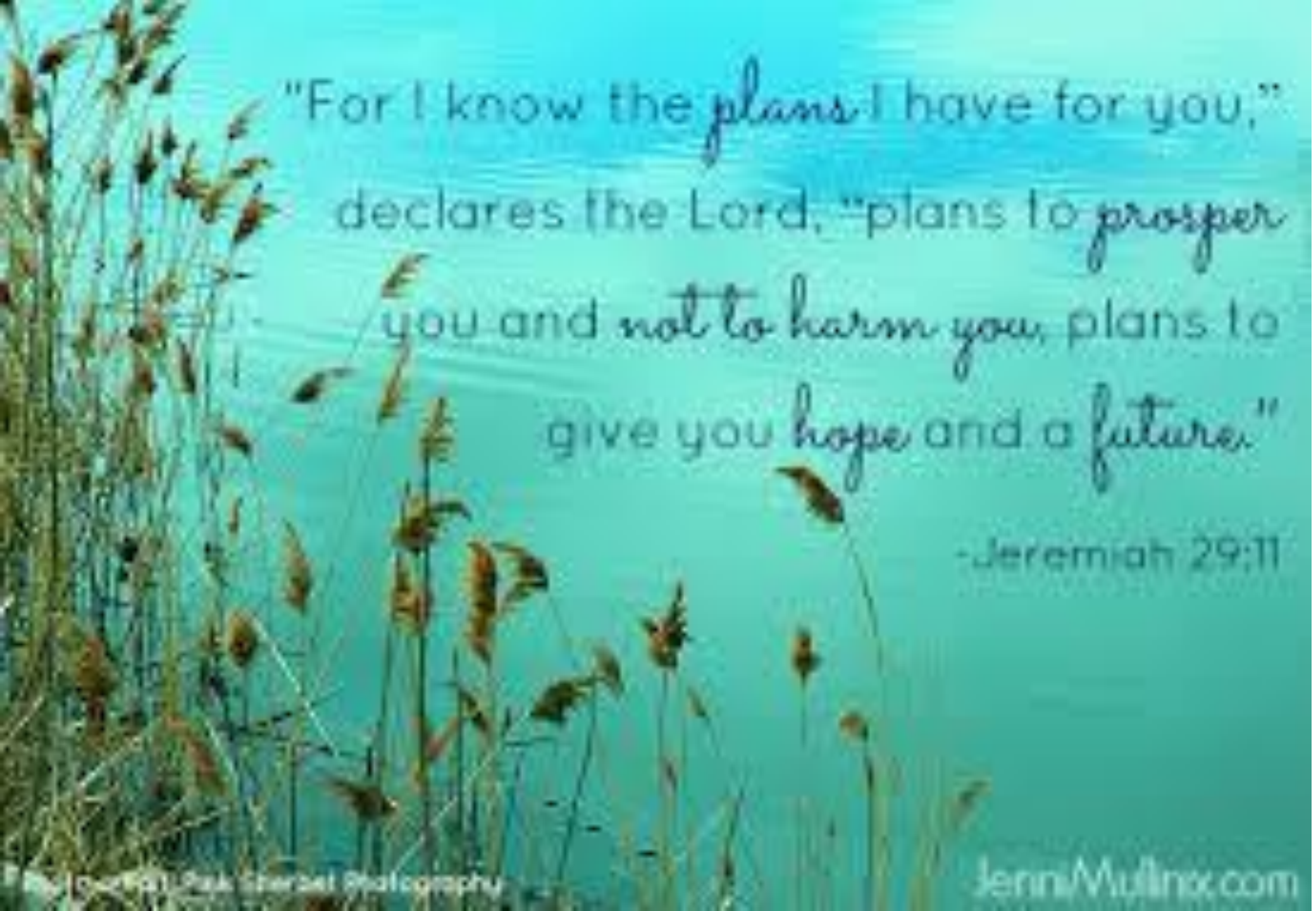
This Sunday is called Good Shepherd Sunday because it is the day on which we consider how we can best follow Jesus as He calls us to follow Him.

God calls each one of us according to the gifts given to us so that we may live full and fruitful lives.

God's call is a loving one.

When we follow the plan God has for us we will find fulfilment.

God calls us to bring the Good News of Gods love to others.



"For I know the *plans* I have for you,"
declares the Lord, "plans to *prosper*
you and *not* to harm you, plans to
give you *hope* and a *future*."

-Jeremiah 29:11

How is God calling you to today?



We all have paths to travel as we follow Gods call.

That path may be as a priest, as a husband or wife, as a missionary, as a single person, as a nun or religious sister.....

There are many paths to God.....we need to find the right one for ourselves.

God guides us to the right path in the quiet of our hearts, our gut feeling, through the people we meet each day, through our experience of life, through prayer and scripture.....

When we find the right path, there is a sense of being in the right place in life!

God's

Calling



Will You Answer?

In today's Gospel Jesus speaks of Himself as the Good Shepherd.

Jesus, in the Gospel, was speaking to people who owned sheep, who looked after sheep each day, who cared for their sheep because their lives depended on them.

The shepherd always does right by his sheep – giving them what they need to eat and to be healthy.

He keeps them close to him so that they will be safe and protected from danger.

The shepherd closes the gate when the sheep are in so that they won't be attacked by wolves or other wild animals.

When the sheep stay close to the shepherd and trust him, he will keep them from danger and take them out of danger.

We need to stay close to Jesus, our shepherd, so that we know we are protected from danger, healed in illness, open to receive and share love and to live full lives.

John 10:1-10



Jesus the Good Shepherd

Jesus said: Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

Jesus calls us to follow Him. The gate that we are to enter is the gate of love, self-sacrifice and willingness to live as Jesus shows us. There is no short cut or any other way to own our belonging with God!



The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

We are each called by Jesus,
like a shepherd calls his sheep.
We need to listen and believe
that God is always calling us if
we are to find the gate.



Today's gate may be
through someone who is
asking you to help them or
someone who is helping you
to live a better life.

When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.

When Jesus calls us, He doesn't leave us on our own to find our way. Jesus is always with us and in us, guiding us through life.

Jesus leads us when we pray.

Jesus leads us through those who love us.

Jesus leads us by the gifts God has given us.



Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them:

Even Jesus friends didn't understand how to follow Him!

**We just need to do what Jesus does!
Jesus shows us the way!**

We need to follow the example Jesus gives to us.

Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.



I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

**When we do as Jesus shows us in the Gospel we will be strengthened by God on our journey through life.
When we turn away from the way of God we destroy the gifts given to us by God!**



I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

God came among us in Jesus so that we may find the way to be close to God.

When we are close to God we find the way in our hearts to use our gifts for the good of all, including ourselves!

God loves us and God's plan for our lives is a loving one!

How is God calling you to follow Jesus today?



Bible Search

Read John 10:1-10 in your family Bible

This is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



Consider



Are you on the right path to God?

Praying to Jesus



Pray for the grace to be open to hearing God's call to you.

