



## **Good Shepherd Sunday**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

An expert in any life is able to see the difference in various types of music or literature. For example, an expert in Opera could immediately tell the difference in singing tone of Maria Callas from Dame Joan Sutherland.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we reflect on some qualities of a shepherd from ancient Israel. First of all, they knew their sheep and they would give their life for the wellbeing of their sheep.

In today's Gospel, we hear the term of a *gatekeeper*, they were shepherds who slept often in front of a cave entrance sideways to prevent the sheep in their care from escaping or being attacked.

The model of the Good Shepherd and of the *gatekeeper* was Jesus of Nazareth, he knew the people in his care and was prepared always to sacrifice his life for their wellbeing. For instance, think of the time he defended the woman who was caught in the act of adultery.

We are all called to be Good Shepherds beginning with parents who lead their children in their family unit. They provide generously and sacrificially for their physical, educational, spiritual and religious wellbeing. This takes time and sacrifice to do well as it does for all Good Shepherds. *Fr Martin R Maunsell*