

Homily by Fr. Robin CRM for the 4th Sunday after Easter

Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36–41; 1 Peter 2:20b–25; John 10:1–10

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today the Church gives us one of the most comforting images of Jesus in the whole Gospel: **Jesus the Good Shepherd.**

In a world where many people feel lost, anxious, confused, or alone, today's readings remind us that we do not walk through life abandoned. We belong to a Shepherd who knows us, loves us, protects us, and leads us to life.

In the Gospel, Jesus says: **“I am the gate for the sheep... Whoever enters through me will be saved.”**

This image may seem unusual to modern ears, but in the time of Jesus it was deeply meaningful. Shepherds cared personally for their sheep. They knew each one. At night they gathered them into a sheepfold, and often the shepherd himself lay across the entrance, becoming the gate. Nothing could enter or leave without passing through him.

So when Jesus says, **“I am the gate,”** He means:

I am your safety.

I am your protection.

I am the way home.

I am the one through whom life is found.

And when He says He is the shepherd, He means He does not lead from a distance. He walks with His flock.

That is very important for us today.

Many people live with the feeling that life is uncertain. Families worry about finances, health, relationships, children, the future of society, and the state of the world. People often ask: *Who will guide us? Who can we trust? Where is security?*

Jesus answers: **“Come through me.”**

Not through popularity.

Not through wealth.

Not through pride.

Not through selfish ambition.

But through Christ.

He alone leads to lasting peace.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter speaks boldly to the people after Pentecost. He tells them that Jesus whom they crucified has been made both Lord and Christ.

The people are deeply moved. They ask, **“What are we to do?”**

Peter gives a clear answer: **Repent and be baptized.**

That message is still relevant today. Whenever we realize we have gone astray, whenever we recognize that we have wandered from the Shepherd, the response is the same: turn back to Christ.

Repentance is not about shame; it is about coming home.

Sometimes people imagine repentance as something negative. But repentance simply means changing direction—from darkness to light, from sin to grace, from wandering to being guided again.

It is the moment the lost sheep hears the Shepherd’s voice and follows.

In the second reading, Saint Peter tells us that Christ suffered for us and left us an example to follow. He says, **“You had gone astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.”**

What a beautiful phrase: **guardian of your souls.**

We protect many things in life: our homes, our money, our possessions, our reputation. But do we care for our souls?

Jesus does.

He cares not only about our outward success but about our inner life: our peace, holiness, hope, and eternal destiny.

The world often asks:

How much do you earn?

How successful are you?

How admired are you?

Jesus asks something deeper:

How is your soul?

Are you at peace?

Are you walking in truth?

Are you close to me?

That is the voice of the Shepherd.

My dear friends, one of the great dangers today is that there are many voices calling to us.

Voices of fear.

Voices of anger.

Voices of consumerism.

Voices saying you are not enough.

Voices telling us to chase endless distractions.

Jesus says the sheep know the shepherd's voice.

So the question is: **Do we know His voice?**

We learn His voice through prayer.

We hear His voice in Scripture.

We encounter His voice in the teaching of the Church.

We receive His strength in the Eucharist.

We experience His mercy in Confession.

If we rarely pray, rarely listen, rarely come close to Him, then other voices grow louder.

But when we spend time with Christ, His voice becomes clear.

And what does His voice sound like?

It is truthful, but never cruel.

It challenges us, but never humiliates us.

It calls us higher, but never abandons us.

It corrects us, but always in love.

Jesus also says: **"I came so that they may have life, and have it abundantly."**

Notice He does not say merely survive. He says live abundantly.

Abundant life does not necessarily mean an easy life. Christians still face illness, grief, and struggles. But abundant life means a heart filled with meaning, grace, forgiveness, and hope even in hardship.

Some of the happiest saints suffered greatly, yet were full of joy because they lived close to the Shepherd.

So what can we take home today?

First: Listen for the Shepherd's voice every day.

Spend even five minutes in prayer.

Second: Follow where He leads, even when difficult.

The safest path is not always the easiest path.

Third: Return if you have wandered.

No sheep is too lost for Christ to seek.

Fourth: Help others hear His voice.

Be gentle, faithful, and loving in your family and community.

My brothers and sisters, the world can feel noisy and uncertain. But we are not abandoned sheep. We have a Shepherd. We have a Gate. We have a Saviour.

He knows your name.

He sees your wounds.

He understands your fears.

He walks ahead of you.

So today let us renew our trust in Him and say:

Lord Jesus, Shepherd of our souls, lead us, guard us, and bring us safely home.

Amen.