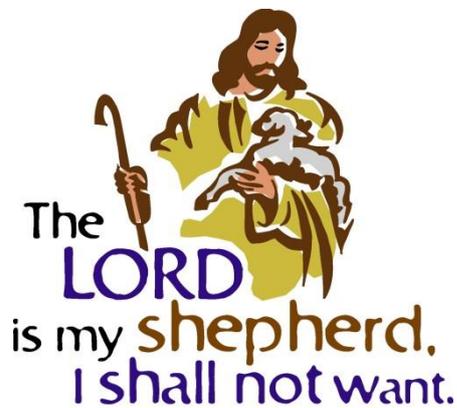


Today's responsorial psalm is probably one of the best known psalms. "The Lord is my Shepherd" is used in both Jewish and Christian liturgies and has been set to music many times. The words it speaks of the love, care, compassion and goodness of God draw the listener into an understanding and belief of the nature of God as the one we can trust.



He gives me repose
Restful waters
He guides me
You give me comfort
A banquet for me
My cup is overflowing
Goodness and kindness
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
For ever and ever

There is nothing I shall want

In the first reading we hear the prophet Jeremiah tell how God condemns the "shepherds" who have not loved and cared for God's people. God's promise, then, is to raise up good shepherds who will look after the people and guide them.

In the Gospel, Jesus, although he is very tired and needs rest, takes pity on the people who he sees as like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus, perhaps remembering the words of Jeremiah, teaches them at length, showing how to be a Good Shepherd.

In our community today there are many people who are very tired and need rest, especially with the Covid pandemic, yet they keep going to show goodness and kindness to others; to give them comfort; to make them feel loved.



Let us take time this week to pray for these "Good Shepherds" who give tirelessly to others, that God will look kindly on them, give them time to rest and recover and keep them safe so that they are able to continue their mission of love.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd who walks with us in the joyful and the difficult times. When we feel that we do not have the strength to carry on, he carries us gently. Let us always allow ourselves to take strength and comfort from him, for he is compassion and love.

**The Shepherd who guides us, the the Friend who walks with us, the Love which surrounds us
– our Good God.**