

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT HOME

18th July 16th Sunday Year B

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A reading from the Good News told by St Mark:

The friends of Jesus who went out in pairs now came back and told Jesus all that they had said and done. Jesus told them that they deserved a rest and a holiday. He and his friends had been so busy they had not even time to eat, so they went off in a boat to a quiet place for some rest.

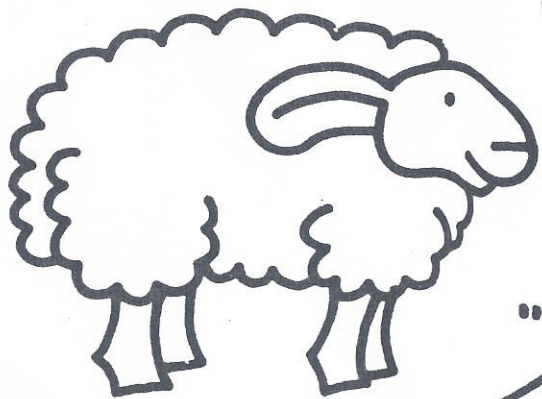
But some people saw them leaving and guessed where they were going. The word went round, so by the time Jesus and his friends arrived, there was already a crowd waiting for them.

When he saw the crowd, Jesus was sorry for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. He took pity on them and spent a long time speaking to them and teaching them.

Do you remember last week's reading when Jesus sent his friends out to spread the word of God's Kingdom and prepare people for Jesus' message? Today we hear about when they came back to tell Jesus what they had done. They'd worked hard and Jesus wanted them to have a well-earned holiday. They crossed the Sea of Galilee in a boat, not so much a cruise as a working holiday, rowing or managing the sails!

Some people wanted so much to meet Jesus after all the disciples had told them, so they made their way round the shore to where they guessed the boat would land. Jesus was tired too, but he didn't let them down. He knew they'd come to see him, so he sat and talked to them, telling them all about God's Kingdom and how people could be happy there. The crowd were like the sheep in the song they all knew from their scriptures. And he was their shepherd who would always look after them.

You're not all like woolly sheep, but think of the crowds who follow their favourite pop star or footballer. How people will wait for hours just to see them and are thrilled to get to speak to them. As I write this I don't know if we won the Euros, but the crowds are already going wild and will go to great lengths to just watch the match. Perhaps now is a good time to remember that we are on Jesus' team and he is our manager!



The good shepherd takes care of all my needs. He leads me to lush green meadows and crystal clear pools. He guides and protects me and I grow strong in his care. When

night falls, I am not afraid, for he is always beside me to protect me from harm. When he calls, I will follow, knowing that his love for me will last forever.

