



Church of the Holy Family  
6 Chapel Road, S(429509) Tel: 6344-0046

### **Message for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year A, 2020.**

Dear Parishioners of Holy Family Church

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter every year, the Church invites us to reflect on Risen Lord as the Good Shepherd and thus the Gospel Reading is taken from the Gospel of John Chapter 10 annually though a different passage is chosen each for Year A, B and C. For Year A, the text is taken from v1 – v10 where our Lord presents himself as the Gate, the Gatekeeper and the Shepherd who enters the Gate. He is all of the above so says St John Chrysostom.

He is our Protector and Shield as the Gatekeeper. In this period of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we need Him to keep us safe from the Corona virus, the Dengue virus and the Common Flu virus etc. The Gatekeeper is our Sentinel who can unmask trojan horses before they pass through the gate. One Singaporean epidemiologist who often appears on TV has used the term 'trojan horses' to ascribe the danger posed by asymptomatic cases.

He takes care of us personally as the Good Shepherd. He feeds us, nourishes us, heals us, consoles us, guides us, accompanies, leads us from the front, let His voice assures us all the time and even lay down His life for us. The Responsorial Psalm tells us that the Lord is my Shepherd and there is nothing else that I can find which is missing in my life. The Good Shepherd is all I ever need. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading reminds us to return to the Shepherd who is the guardian of our soul and His Holy Spirit helps us to locate answers to the question found in the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, 'What must we do...?'

He introduces us to the Father as the Gate. 'Trust in God and still trust in me'; 'There are many rooms in my Father's House...I shall return...so that where I am you may be too'. 'As I...myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me'.

At same time, we open the gates of our heart to Him for the Lord wants to be with us to help us to pull through this difficult time. We keep our gates open to his grace and power when we pray, lift up our needs to Him and offer petitions for our neighbors near and far.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, besides being called the Good Shepherd Sunday, is also called Vocation Sunday. Let us continue to pray for more vocations and we remember those especially who are still in formation namely Br Andrew Lin who used to be our Youth Full-timer and also Sr Amy of the Cenacle Sisters whose parents stay at Marine Crescent.

We also remember in our prayers those Religious Orders who have communities within our Parish boundaries. They are the La Salle Brothers, the IJ Sisters, the Good Shepherd Sisters and the Redemptorist Fathers.

3<sup>rd</sup> May is the Feast of the Apostles St James (the Less) and St Philip. 4<sup>th</sup> May is the feast day of St Florian of Linz (Austria) where I spent 6 weeks learning the basics of German language. 5<sup>th</sup> May is the feast day of St Angelus of Jerusalem who was in the pioneering cluster of hermits at Mt Carmel. 6<sup>th</sup> May is the feast day of St Dominic Savio, the youngest canonized saint who is not martyred. 7<sup>th</sup> May is the feast day of St Rose Venerini. 8<sup>th</sup> May is the feast day of Pope St Boniface IV. 9<sup>th</sup> May is the feast day of St Hermas who is mentioned in Rom 16:14.

Let us be strong and stay focus on the Good Shepherd who has gone through all that we are going through now and we shall overcome our adversities. Alleluia!

Fr Stanislaus PANG