

This Sunday's Gospel Reading
4th Sunday of Easter, Year A
(John 10: 1-10)

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.



This is the Gospel of the Lord

Prayer One

The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection:

*Our theme this week is Fullness of Life.
We chose this because in the Gospel
reading, Jesus talks about the fact that he
gives us life to the full. The idea of life is an
important one to us as Christians...*



The Church always talks about the need to protect *life from conception to natural death.*

This is a phrase we hear a lot and it reminds us that life is important. Right from when a baby is being formed in the womb, through it's birth, through childhood, through adulthood and throughout life. At every step we believe that a person is special and that life can have unlimited possibilities. Each person has the right to be loved and to love others, the right to be respected and the right to learn about who they are and why God made them.

Let us take a moment today to pray for life. There are lots of threats to life, and so it's important to pray that human life is respected. We should also take a minute to pray for those trying to defend life and human rights.



Final Prayer:

Loving Father,

We thank you for the gift of life, and we pray for all those whose life is in danger. We pray for those whose rights are oppressed in brutal countries, for those who are the victim of crime and natural disaster, and for all those whose lives are under threat. Work in the hearts of those who threaten others, and give courage and wisdom to those who work for justice.

**We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayer Two

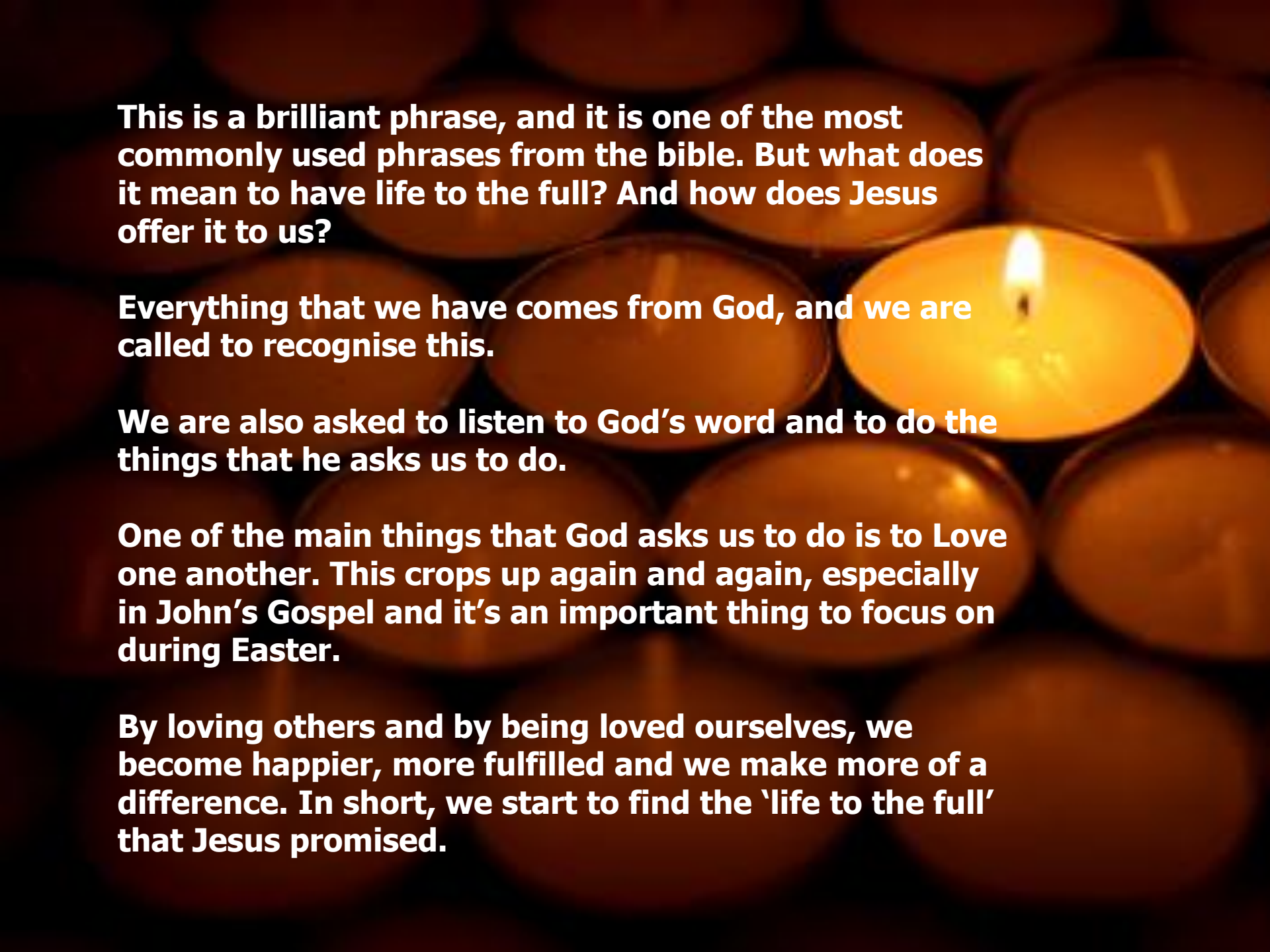
The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection:

In this week's Gospel, Jesus said

'I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full!'



This is a brilliant phrase, and it is one of the most commonly used phrases from the bible. But what does it mean to have life to the full? And how does Jesus offer it to us?

Everything that we have comes from God, and we are called to recognise this.

We are also asked to listen to God's word and to do the things that he asks us to do.

One of the main things that God asks us to do is to Love one another. This crops up again and again, especially in John's Gospel and it's an important thing to focus on during Easter.

By loving others and by being loved ourselves, we become happier, more fulfilled and we make more of a difference. In short, we start to find the 'life to the full' that Jesus promised.



Final Prayer:

Loving Father,

Give us the grace to trust you and to let you lead us into the wonderful and full life you have prepared for us.

Let us trust in you, let us love one another and let us always remember that you made us in your image.

**We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayer Three

The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection: Think about things that we
can do and the opportunities that we have
to improve the lives of those around us.



During this week in 1973 two American men called Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis received a patent for an idea they had. Their idea was to use denim and copper rivets to make trousers for farmers, cattle ranchers and other working men.

The idea caught on, and their invention - denim jeans - became one of the most enduring and long-lasting items of clothing the world had ever seen. Pretty impressive, given how quickly fashions come and go. It's even more impressive, when you consider that jeans were never meant to be high fashion, or expensive, luxury items, but just working clothes.

What Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis demonstrated is the capacity that people have to come up with good ideas and make a difference. They also showed the world that with a bit of hard work, a simple idea can go a very long way.



Final Prayer

Loving Father,

Help us to believe in our capacity to make a difference to others and help us to use this ability to do what is genuinely good.

May we always work hard, may we always work well with others, and may we always work so that everything may be for the good of others and the building of a better world.

**We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



Final Thought...

“ LIFE IS AN
ADVENTURE,
LIVE, LAUGH,
LOVE.”

& THEN I REALIZED
Adventures
ARE THE BEST WAY TO LEARN.


Next weeks theme: The Truth