

Sermon Summary
4th of Easter
21st April 2013

- In John 10, the claim that Jesus' sheep know his voice and follow him
- Central to this is the second claim that he knows all their names.
- As Joseph Ratzinger (Benedict XVI) has pointed out, we should know the dangers of living in societies where names are replaced by numbers and ciphers: he was talking of the Holocaust.
- This suggests an intimate relationship with Jesus is normal.
- We need to ask if we are aware that this is the norm.
- Perhaps because we struggle to love ourselves, we have problems in grasping how much we are loved by Jesus?
- Yet in a church dedicated to the Good Shepherd, we are called to live out this closeness to God.
- We nurture it through our prayers, reading of Scripture, and the sacraments
- We are called to know how we are so loved
- We are also called to let others, those desperately in search of such love and acknowledgement, that this opportunity is also there for them.
- Purely and simply that is the missionary task of the church.

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