

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Cycle A

We all have had this experience: Our phone rings... and we hesitate. Unknown number... ignore. Spam... decline. Not urgent... maybe later. But there are certain names – certain voices – that when they appear, we answer immediately. No hesitation. No delay. Because we recognize the caller... and we know the voice matters.

This is what Jesus speaks about in the Gospel today. Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. And Jesus, the Good Shepherd, tells us in the Gospel: “The sheep hear his voice... the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice... a stranger they will not follow.” Jesus is not simply giving us a beautiful image. He is revealing the very foundation of the Christian life. To be a Christian is not just to believe in God. It is to recognize His voice... and to follow it.

And that is where the struggle begins... Because we live in a world full of voices. There is the voice of success that tells us, “You are what you achieve.” The voice of pleasure that whispers, “You are what you feel.” The voice of the crowd that pressures, “You are what others say about you.” And often, these voices are loud, persistent, attractive...but they do not lead to life. We can spend our whole lives listening to these voices, and miss the One that truly knows us...the only Voice that gives life.

In contrast, the voice of Christ is different. The voice of Jesus does not shout... it calls. It does not pressure... it invites. It does not confuse... it brings peace. As Bishop Robert Barron explains, the voice of Jesus is not one voice among many. It is the voice that corresponds to the deepest longing of the human heart. It is the voice that tells us who we truly are – because it comes from the One who created us. Hearing the voice of the Good Shepherd is like tuning into a certain frequency. If we are not tuned in, we will not hear it –not because the signal is absent, but because we are not receptive. And so, the problem is not that God is silent. The problem is that we are not listening properly.

This is where the formation of conscience becomes crucial. The Church teaches that conscience is the inner sanctuary where we hear the voice of God. But conscience must be formed. And if conscience is not formed: it can be confused...it can be influenced by the wrong voices. That is why we need: Scripture, the teachings of the Church, the Sacraments, prayer, silence. These are not optional.

They are how we tune our hearts to the voice of the Shepherd. Without them, the Shepherd may still be calling... but we no longer know how to listen...and we risk forming our lives on opinion rather than truth, preference rather than God's will.

Let us be honest... Many of us are more attentive to: social media than Scripture; public opinion than Church teaching; personal preference than God's will.

We know what influencers are saying. We know what trending topics are. We know what people think. But do we know what God is saying?

The Good Shepherd is calling each of us. He calls us not to control us, but to lead us to life. He calls us by name... because He knows us...because He loves us... because He desires our good more than we do.

And so, the question becomes deeply personal: Whose voice will shape my life?

Let us not miss the voice that truly knows us. Let us not drown it out with the noise of the world. Instead, let us learn to listen again – through prayer, through silence, through the Word. And when we recognize His voice, may we have the courage to follow – without hesitation, without delay – because only His voice leads to the life our hearts are truly longing for.