An assembly for **Good Shepherd Sunday** which is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. The assembly will help children to **reflect on the gift of priests and sisters** and to **pray for vocations of all types**.

Sunday 7th **May** is Good Shepherd Sunday which is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. It is traditionally a day when the Church around the world prays for more vocations so that men and women can respond to God’s call to live life to the full.

Christ is described as ‘The Good Shepherd’ who leads his sheep with love, care and tenderness. Priests and sisters follow Christ’s example and also give their lives for us, the ‘sheep’ who need earthly shepherds to follow.

For children, priests and sisters can perhaps seem a bit removed from their own day to day lives and it can be hard to understand that they are ‘real’ people too who are a gift to each of us in the family of the Church.

This assembly seeks, through hearing first-hand from priests and sisters in a fun and relevant way, to help children understand the role of priests and sisters. It also helps children to know that God calls some people to these vocations. Children will be led to pray for priests and sisters, those who are training and those who God will call in the future.

Ten Ten Resources have collaborated with the National Office for Vocation (NOV) in the production of this assembly for Good Shepherd Sunday.
Gospel Reading

Sunday 7th May – Year A, Fourth Sunday of Easter Reading

John 10:27-30

Jesus said:
‘The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life;
they will never be lost
and no one will ever steal them from me.
The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,
and no one can steal from the Father.
The Father and I are one.’

Prayer of Preparation

Dear Lord,

Thank you for this opportunity to nurture the faith of the children in my care. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead and guide me as I prepare this assembly and bless each and every child with an open heart and mind to hear your Word.

In your name, Jesus, Amen.
## Overview

### Key Scripture:

“The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice”
John 10:2

### Learning Objective:

Children will learn that priests and sisters are a gift to us and will have the opportunity to pray for them and for more of these vocations.

### Success Criteria:

Children can explain how priests and sisters are a gift to them and will know how to pray for them and for more of these vocations.

### Resource Materials:

- Teacher’s script
- Laptop/ screen/ speakers
- Powerpoint presentation

### Overview & Timings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>2 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Priests and Sisters</td>
<td>4 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>The Good Shepherd</td>
<td>2 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>3 mins</td>
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</table>

**Total Time:** 11 mins
Teacher Script

1. Introduction
Timing: 2 mins
Introduce Good Shepherd Sunday and day of prayer for vocations

Slide 1

Invite children to:
- Close their eyes
- Picture a priest or sister that they know (name your parish priest, if known to the children)
- Ask what they think priests/sisters do all day
- Ask what they think is good about being a priest/sister
- Ask what they think would be difficult / challenging about being a priest or sister
- Open eyes

Today we are thinking about a special day called ‘Good Shepherd Sunday’ when we pray for priests and sisters.

Slide 2

Pose the following questions. Each question will appear with one click:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Question:</strong> What is a priest? What is a sister?</td>
<td><strong>Question:</strong> What do you think might be the best thing about being a priest or sister?</td>
<td><strong>Question:</strong> How do you think someone might know whether to be a priest or a sister?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Answers:</strong> A priest is someone who says Mass, a man who gives his life to God, he serves God in the Church, he helps us to know Jesus, he gives us holy</td>
<td><strong>Answers:</strong> Personal responses which might include: helping other people in the community, being close to God, celebrating/being at mass, being with</td>
<td><strong>Answers:</strong> God tells them, they want to serve God, they are encouraged by others, etc.</td>
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</table>
### 2. Priests and Sisters
**Timing: 4 mins**
This section gives children the opportunity to hear first-hand from priests and sisters so they can understand what they do and that some people are called to these vocations.

<table>
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<td><strong>Question:</strong> Can you think of some of the reasons that people become a priest or a sister?</td>
<td><strong>Question:</strong> What do you think might be difficult about being a priest or sister?</td>
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<td><strong>Answers:</strong> They enjoy the same food, hobbies and sport as everyone else, they come from</td>
<td><strong>Answers:</strong> You want to, God speaks in your heart, you want to help others, you</td>
<td><strong>Answers:</strong> Any personal response – not seeing your family as much, having to help a lot of others for important moments in life, praying for people, doing God’s will.</td>
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**Film: The Gift of Priests and Sisters**

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**Timing:**
- **Slide 3:** 4 mins
- **Slide 4:** 4 mins

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**Slide 3:**
- The film, *The Gift of Priests and Sisters*, will play automatically on the click.

**Slide 4:**
- After the film, invite children to respond to the quotes from priests and sisters by asking the following questions:

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In a lot of ways, priests and sisters are like Jesus – they dedicate their whole lives to serving people and helping them to know God the Father.

Sometimes Jesus is compared to a shepherd looking after his sheep. Priests and sisters are also like shepherds looking after their sheep – us!

We are the sheep and they are the shepherds.

The Gospel on Sunday talked about Jesus being the Good Shepherd. Let’s listen to it now.

Like sheep need a shepherd, we also need priests and sisters.

We should pray for priests and sisters. They lead very challenging lives and they need God’s support to help them.
Everyone is called by God to be close to him, to live a wonderful way of life and work. This is called a vocation. Let us also pray that more men and women will follow God’s call to become priests and sisters.

Maybe even some people in this room have a vocation to become a priest or sister one day.

So let’s pray.

**Slide 8**

Fr Frankie gave this ‘tip’ for praying.

“Our hearts are the same size as a clenched fist, so we can either pray with our hearts tight shut (like a closed fist/hand) or we can pray with our hearts wide open (opening up the fist to receive something beautiful.) Receiving all that God wants to give us.”

- Invite children to clench their fist;
- Then invite them to open their hearts and not keep them clenched up tight. At the same time, ask them to open their hands as a symbol of this;
- Close eyes, palms open;
- Invite them to ask God to speak to them in their hearts;
- Allow for a short period of silence for children to listen to God speaking;
- Invite children to say a prayer in their hearts for priests and sisters;
- Short period of silence;
- Invite children to pray that more people would listen to God’s call and become priests and sisters;
- Short period of silence.

**Slide 9**

Open eyes. Look at the two words on the screen.

Together, let us say ‘Thank you’ to God for the gift of priests.
and sisters.

All: Thank you!

Conclude with Sign of the Cross.

**The Gift of Priests and Sisters**

To accompany this assembly, we have provided an appendix document titled ‘The Gift of Priests and Sisters’ for teachers. This document contains many more comments from our research and provides a rich insight into the lives of priests and sisters. You may choose to highlight different quotations not used in this assembly script, or simply read the document for your own interest.
# One-page Summary

1. **Introduction (2 mins)**  
   - Slide 1: Picture in your mind a priest or sister you know  
   - Slide 2: Differentiated questions

2. **Priests and Sisters (4 mins)**  
   - Slide 3: Film: The Gift of Priests and Sisters  
   - Slide 4: Differentiated questions

3. **The Good Shepherd (2 mins)**  
   - Slide 5: Priests and sisters are like Jesus, The Good Shepherd  
   - Slide 6: The Sunday Gospel – voiceover on PowerPoint

4. **Prayer (3 mins)**  
   - Slide 7: Priests and sisters need our prayers. We also need to pray that more men and women will follow God’s call to become a priest or sister.  
   - Slide 8: Clenched fist reflection  
   - Slide 9: “Thank you” for priests and sisters
List of Contributors

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Our heartfelt thanks to all the priests, sisters and deacons who responded so generously

National Office for Vocation

This assembly has been produced in collaboration with the National Office for Vocation. Their mission is to:

• Build a culture of vocation in the Church in England and Wales
• Promote the calls to specific vocations, including priesthood, the diaconate, marriage, the religious life and all other forms of consecrated life
• Offer a vision of the Church as a community of the called whose task is to call others.

For further information, visit: www.ukvocation.org

Ten Ten Resources

Ten Ten Resources is an online resource for Catholic schools and parishes throughout the UK. It is part of Ten Ten, a charitable organisation dedicated to bringing matters of faith to a wider public sphere by inspiring audiences to examine aspects of spirituality and life through drama and storytelling.

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