

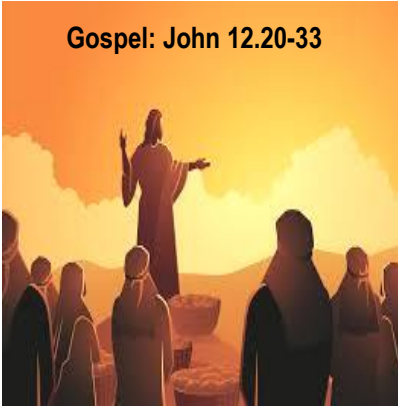
OUR MISSION:

*Living and telling the good news of Jesus Christ,
reaching out to all in love and service.*

OUR VISION:

To be an outward looking Church

Gospel: John 12.20-33



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

17th March 2024

*God of love, fill our hearts with your
spirit so we may draw closer to you.
May we follow in Jesus' way and be
inspired by our encounters with Christ
to share your love in the world. Amen.*

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: 'This is the covenant I will make with them,' says the Lord God: 'I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people.' Jeremiah 31.33

The Prayer of the day: O God, our Redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope: renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings: This Sunday

Jeremiah 31.31-34 Ps 119.9-16
Hebrews 5.5-14 John 12.20-33

Next Sunday

Isaiah 50.4-9a Ps 31.9-18
Philippians 2.5-11 Mark 11.1-11

Sunday Services in our Region

- **Gympie** - St Peter's ► 8.30 am ► 5.30 pm
- **Rainbow Beach** - Good Shepherd Church ► 9.30 am
- **Tin Can Bay** - St John Vianney's Catholic Church ► 7.30 am
(1st & 2nd Sunday's)

Prayers

Pray for the Church:

National: *The Diocese of the Northern Territory*

Our Diocese: ● *The Parish of Inala* ● *Congregations in communion with the Anglican Church* ● *The Southport School, Southport*

Local:

MU Prayer Point: *Gracious heavenly Father, we pray for members in Antsiranana in Madagascar as they cope with impact of floods and cyclones. We give thanks for their commitment to sharing God's love in families in their communities so that children might grow up knowing you. We also pray for Brisbane Diocese as they face challenges but continue to reach out to their communities in your name. Amen*

Ministry: *Parish Councillors*

In Need: *Azzrah; Nicholas Barrett; Bruce Barton; Gary Bowes; Northa Burnett; Val Deans; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Baby Louis; Jenny; Graham McClurg; Yvonne Nipperess; Shirley Summerville.*

Words of affirmation

O God, who makes all things new, new stars, new dust, new life; take my heart, every hardened edge and measured beat, and create something new in me.

I need your newness, God, the rough parts of me made smooth; the stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven.

And then, by the power of your Spirit,

I need to be turned toward Love again. Amen.

(Pamela C. Hawkins.)

Parish Calendar

17/3 3 rd Sunday	18/3 3 rd Mon	19/3 3 rd Tuesday	20/3 3 rd Wed	21/3 3 rd Thursday	22/3 4 th Friday	23/3 4 th Sat
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 8.30 am St Peter's 9.30 am Rainbow Bch: 5.30 pm St Peter's & Zoom	9.30-12 Mainly Music	5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P	9.30 am Coovinda Noon Service @ St P	10.00 Homeless Connect		
24/3 4 th Sunday	25/3 4 th Mon	26/3 4 th Tuesday	27/3 4 th Wed	28/3 4 th Thursday	29/3 5 th Friday	30/3 5 th Sat
PASSION/PALM SUNDAY 8.30 am St Peter's 9.30 am Rainbow Bch 4.00 pm MUSIC CONCERT AT ST PETER'S 5.30 pm St Peter's & Zoom-	9.30-12 Mainly Music	9.30 am MU Service at St Peter's 5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P 5.15 pm Community Action Board Meeting	Noon Service @ St P	Maundy Thursday Regional Deanery 5.00 pm Agape Meal	GOOD FRIDAY 9.00 am St Peter's 9.30 am Good Shepherd Rainbow Beach	



This Week's Readings

A reading from Jeremiah 31.31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord : I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord ', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord ; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 119.9-16

⁹ How shall the young keep their path pure:
unless they hold to your word?

¹⁰ **I have sought you with my whole heart:
let me not stray from your commandments.**

¹¹ I have treasured your words in my heart:
that I might not sin against you.

¹² **Blessed are you, Lord God:
O teach me your statutes.**

¹³ With my lips I have been telling:
all the judgements of your mouth;

¹⁴ **And I find more joy in the way of your commands:
than in all manner of riches.**

¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts:
and give heed to your ways;

¹⁶ **For my delight is wholly in your statutes:
and I will not forget your word.**

A reading from Hebrews 5.5-14

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; ⁶as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.'

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. ¹¹About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become dull in understanding. ¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; ¹³for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 12.20-33

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. ²⁷Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' ³⁰Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

(Pause for reflection)

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Reflection

A Heart for God

This week's readings focus on God's desire for our hearts to be full of love. The prophet Jeremiah speaks God's words of forgiveness; God forgives the people's sins and seeks to fill their hearts with love. One psalmist seeks to be in right relationship with God, and another wonders how to keep God's word close to the heart. We hear how Jesus is in a loving relationship with us, a love shown through his way of being.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 brings us yet another covenant.

It is different from the covenant made with the people who had escaped slavery in Egypt and wandered in the wilderness. God's earlier covenant with the people had included the ten commandments – laws for living together in loving community. The people, however, struggled to keep these laws; they did not hold up their end of the covenantal relationship. But God remains faithful, forgives and gives a new way of living together. In forgiving the people for what happened in the past, God also commits to not bringing up past sins. That is, future generations will not be reminded of the sins of their ancestors. It is a new beginning.

This time, God's law will dwell in their very being. The heart, for the Hebrew people, was the place from which a person thought, felt, and acted.

Psalms 51:1–12 is from a person seeking to purify their heart. The writer is sorry for past sin, is upset about its effects, and feels inadequate. They beg God for mercy and compassion. The psalm notes the importance of naming one's guilt or sin and then seeking to be in right relationship.

Psalms 119:9–16 also notes the challenge of staying "pure" in the world and the challenge of following God's word. It, too, describes how to keep God's word close to one's heart. This psalmist seeks God with their whole heart as a part of committing to God to be in a deeper relationship.

Hebrews 5:5–10 focuses on Jesus' relationship with us, and casts Jesus as a high priest. The role of a high priest is to mediate and mend people's relationship with God. Jesus intercedes and mends our relationship with God, in part because of his actions on the cross. Melchizedek was a "priest of God most high," the king of Salem and a king of peace who blesses Abram (Genesis 14:17–24). Jesus, as Messiah or high priest, did not come from the tribe of Levi.

Knowing this, the author makes a comparison to an alternate priesthood, through Melchizedek. As a "priest," Jesus had empathy and shared experiences with people. He achieved this, in part, through suffering.

Caution is needed with this passage. Although Christ suffers and is named as perfect, this is not necessarily an obligation for Christians today. An emphasis on suffering to be made perfect may cause harm.

John 12:20–23 In this last public dialogue, Jesus speaks about his imminent suffering and death. He is at the Jewish religious festival, Passover. The reading begins with Greeks who ask to see Jesus. By now, many had heard of Jesus' miracles, and the Greeks wanted an encounter with him. In his response to their question, Jesus prepares his disciples for what is to come. He speaks about his death and what it means to follow. Talking about the hour that is coming, Jesus foreshadows both his death and resurrection.



As we near the end of this Lenten season, how might your heart be filled with love for God?

Connecting scripture and life

The words of Jeremiah are words of hope spoken to those in exile.

- **How might we speak words of hope to those in exile today?**
- **Who needs to hear the hope found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?**

NEWS AND NOTICES

ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

LENT AND GOOD FRIDAY 2024

Women and children in the Holy Land need life-changing health care. By supporting this appeal, your gift will provide care for malnourished children, children with hearing difficulties and enable mothers to gain new skills in this very challenging part of the world.

To make a donation, or read more about this appeal, please scan the QR code below.



DONATE ONLINE

www.abmission.org/Lent2024



PALM CROSSES: Join us in St Peter's on Saturday, 23rd March at 9 am to make palm crosses. All welcome



Maundy Thursday Agape Meal: Thursday, 28th March at 5 pm in St Peter's. We are holding it earlier so we can be home before dark. Join us for a meal of soup and bread and wine to commemorate the humility and selfless love of Jesus by washing of feet as he did with the Twelve Apostles. Meal and wine will be provided. Washing of the feet is optional and for those who wish to take part.

An *Attendance Sheet* is at the back of the church or contact the church office. SOUP MAKERS welcome - please contact May if you can help. All welcome.



MU CARDS GREETING CARDS:

MU have a lovely selection of cards, for all occasions, on display at the back of St Peter's. Each Card is 50 cents. Thank you for your support.

EASTER FLOWERS

Donations towards **Memorial Flowers for Easter** may be made in memory of a loved ones passed. Place your donation in an envelope, marking it clearly with the name of the person(s) you wish remembered (Please also write your name as the donor and your telephone number in case we need to contact you). Place the envelope in the collection plate or deliver to the Church Office.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER EVENTS

ALL WELCOME

CLASSICAL MUSIC AFTERNOON

with Gympie Strings
Featuring Soprano Claire Adamik
and Franki Andersen on keyboard

Sunday, 24th MARCH 2024

IN ST PETER'S CHURCH
Cnr Amy St & Lady Mary Terrace, Gympie

START AT 4.00 pm

Music from Composers:
BACH
GRIEG
OFFENBACH
and more

Gold coin donation appreciated in support of Gympie Strings
Light refreshments to follow

PALM SUNDAY - 24 March

- St Peter's - 8.30 am
- Good Shepherd - 9.30 am
- **Classical Music Concert**
in St Peter's - 4 pm

WEDNESDAY - 27 March

- **St Peter's - 12 Noon**

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 28 March

- **St Peter's - 5.00 pm**

GOOD FRIDAY - 29 March

- St Peter's - 9.00 am
Followed by Stations of the Cross
- Good Shepherd - 9.30 am

EASTER - SUNDAY - 31 March

- St Peter's - 8.30 am
- Good Shepherd - 9.30 am

Planned Giving envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who wish to give by this method.

For alternative giving options please see page 8 of this bulletin.

'TAP, SWIPE, INSERT' for Sunday Giving: EFTPOS is now available at the back of the church for contactless giving



Let's **Celebrate!**

Pls let us know if you have a birthday or special day you're celebrating - we'd love to celebrate with you.

PARISH PANTRY - DONATIONS



Non-perishable food items: canned foods, pasta & sauce, snack foods, long life milk, cereals, rice, tea, coffee, tuna snacks, muesli bars, 2-Minute noodles & toiletries etc. Please leave at St Peter's or church office (Tues-Fri).

Thank you for your support of this community outreach

How to contribute financially to our Church

For those who would like to contribute, please see the options below.

- 1) **Deposits may be made by internet transfer from your bank direct to our Church Bank Account using the following information:**

Account Name: Anglican Parish Gympie **BSB:** 704-901 **Account Number:** 0000 5910

Please use all the four zeros when entering the Account No. & Reference your donation

E.g. "Giving General" "..... Appeal" "Giving Tree", "Shoe Box" etc

- 2) **Using the QR Code to donate via Commonwealth Bank BPoint Credit Card website**

A) If viewing on your computer or smart phone - click on the QR Code and it will take you to the B-Point website to make a donation by credit card **OR**

B) If reading a printed copy of pew sheet - hover your smart phone over the QR Code to link you to the BPoint website →

Our bank details are already linked so you only need to add your details, credit card number & reference:



- 3) **Parish Direct via ANFIN** - An easy way of giving regularly:

Forms are available at the back of the Church or Church Office.

Sunday's ZOOM information

Topic: St Peter's Sunday Evening Service **Time:** Each Sunday @ 05:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting via computer or mobile device (Click or type link into your web browser) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7246788483> **Meeting ID:** 724 678 8483:

No password required

Please note ZOOM connection information does not change each week

Parish Contacts

RECTOR: The Rev'd Shaji Joseph

Wardens: Priest's:

Dr John ('Jack') Wright

People's: Rene Dekker

Sue Topalov

Treasurer: Bronwyn Saunders

CHURCH OFFICE: 15 Amy Street, Gympie

Office Hours: 9 am to 3 pm Tuesday to Friday

Church Office Phone: 5482 2629 / 0408 745 024

Church Email: anglican.gympie@bigpond.com

Website: www.anglicangympie.org.au

Facebook: [Anglican Church Gympie](#)

[Mainly music Gympie Anglican](#)

[Fancy That Op Shop-Gympie](#)