

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

3rd March 2024

Creator God, you have given us guidelines of how we can be in community together. Help us to follow your loving laws, praise you more faithfully and live more justly, so we might be more faithful disciples living in a deeper relationship with you. Amen.



Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: God spoke these words and said, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.'

Exodus 20.1

Prayer of the Day: Lord our God, by your Holy Spirit write your commandments upon our hearts and grant us the wisdom and power of the cross, so that, cleansed from greed and selfishness, we may become a living temple of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings: This Sunday

Exodus 20.1-17 Ps 17
1 Corinthians 1.18-25 John 2.13-22

Next Sunday

Numbers 21.4-9 Ps 107.1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2.1-10 John 3.14-21

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:

Worldwide: *The Church of the Province of Uganda*

National: *The Diocese of Armidale*

Our Diocese: • *The Parish of Gatton with Ma Ma Creek* • *Brisbane hospital chaplaincy,*
• *Cannon Hill Anglican College, Cannon Hill.*

Local:

MU Prayer Point: *Almighty God, we bring before you members in Bujumbura, Burundi as they seek your heavenly wisdom as to how to address domestic violence and other family issues. May peace and reconciliation be at the heart of what they do and may they know the peace which passes all understanding. We pray for our members in Grafton Diocese NSW as they serve you and do the good work you've prepared for them to walk in. Amen.*

Ministry: *Parish Choir and Musicians*

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

Thanksgiving for the life of: *Merv Betts, Walter Allen*

Words of affirmation

Most High and Holy Lord, thank You for greeting me with love and faithfulness every morning and night. Help me to bend, not break, in the winds of all I've got happening with my life, heart and home right now. Please give me a fresh strength and vitality today to walk in Your ways and thrive in Your grace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Parish Calendar

3/3 1 st Sunday	4/3 1 st Monday	5/3 1 st Tuesday	6/3 1 st Wednesday	7/3 1 st Thursday	8/3 2 nd Friday	9/3 2 nd Saturday
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 7.30 am Tin Can Bay 8.30 am St Peter's-Kidz Church 9.30 am Rainbow Bch 5.30 pm St Peter's & Zoom	9.30-12 Mainly Music	10.00 am Funeral: <i>St Peter's</i> 5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P	Noon Service @ St P			
10/3 2 nd Sunday	11/3 2 nd Monday	12/3 2 nd Tuesday	13/3 2 nd Wednesday	14/3 2 nd Thursday	15/3 3 rd Friday	16/3 3 rd Saturday
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT Mothering Sunday 7.30 am Tin Can Bay 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	Noon Gypie Minister's Network meeting Noon Service @ St P			9.00 am Parish Council @ St P



This Week's Readings

First reading from Exodus 20.1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 19

1 The heavens declare the glory of God:
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;

**2 One day tells it to another:
and night to night communicates knowledge.**

3 There is no speech or language:
nor are their voices heard;

**4 Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:
and their words to the ends of the earth.**

5 There he has pitched a tent for the sun:
which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.

**6 Its rising is at one end of the heavens, and its circuit to their farthest bound:
and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:
the command of the Lord is true, and makes wise the simple.

**8 The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart:
the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the eyes.**

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:
the judgements of the Lord are unchanging, and righteous every one.

**10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold:
sweeter also than honey, than the honey that drips from the comb.**

11 Moreover, by them is your servant taught:
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**12 Who can know their own unwitting sins?:
O cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the mastery over me:
so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.
14 **May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight:**
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

A reading from 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

(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 2.13-22

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle.

He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

(Pause for reflection)

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Reflection

Faithful Living Together

Creator God, you have given us guidelines of how we can be in community together. Help us to follow your loving laws, praise you more faithfully and live more justly, so we might be more faithful disciples living in a deeper relationship with you. Amen.

This week, we receive ten rules for living in a loving community, and a psalmist notes that God's law is for people's well-being. Conventional wisdom and power structures are challenged, and Jesus turns over tables inviting people to consider a different way of faithfully relating to God.

Exodus 20:1–17 The community who receive these words are a once enslaved people now wandering in the wilderness.

The commandments are a covenant within the already-existing covenant made with Abraham and Sarah and are written for a particular time, context, and people. For example, later, Moses (in Deuteronomy 5) names the ten commandments again with one noticeable difference. In Exodus, keeping the Sabbath as holy and a day of rest is a blessing; in Deuteronomy, keeping the Sabbath is a reminder that the people were enslaved and keeping the Sabbath is a justice issue, offering rest for workers.

These are laws of love, given for the well-being of the community.

Psalms 19 states that God's law can help people to live well. The psalm speaks to how God is revealed and offers an understanding of human life in God's creation. The psalm divides into three sections. Verses 1 – 6 are a creation hymn of praise. Here, the psalmist uses metaphors, phrases, and imagery to describe creation. Singing with creation, the psalmist declares that all creation praises God's glory.

The second section of the psalm (vv. 7–10) speaks of God's law, names a love for the law, and that people have responsibilities under the law. It notes that God is revealed in both the scriptures and the law.

The psalm's third section (vv. 11–14) is more of a prayer that speaks to God the Creator. Verse 14, in particular, is often recited before a sermon.

At the time this psalm was written, the sun was worshipped as a god by some religious groups. The psalmist challenges conventional wisdom of the time by saying that the sun is a part of God's creation and order and that the sun joins with the rest of creation in praising God. In weaving creation and the law together, Psalm 19 may be evidence that ancient Israelites understood God's teachings in nature and law as one and the same.

1 Corinthians 1:18–25 also challenges conventional wisdom. Paul writes about what will "save" people: being foolish, not wise; being weak, not strong; being low and despised, not of means. God challenges the status quo and the power of empire by turning conventions upside down.

Jesus turns things upside down in John 2:13–22. The temple had a marketplace where the sale of animals was for the offering of animal sacrifices. It was also a place when currency could be exchanged into a standard coinage to purchase animals for sacrifice and the temple tax. Jesus, filled with righteous anger, turns over the marketplace tables and critiques the market system. He calls for a dismantling of unjust systems. Jesus challenges the way of empire and invites people into a different way of faithful living.



The Season of Lent is an opportunity to continue to reflect on what it means to live faithfully together. God calls us to respond in faith in our daily lives. Knowing that God has offered loving rules, an invitation to praise, challenges to the status quo, and is committed to justice: how then shall we live?

Connecting with life

New Year's resolutions are often commitments to change behaviours, work towards a goal, or change how we live.

- How do you go about sustaining New Year resolutions?
- Consider other commitments you have made to change how you live.
- What prompted the commitment for change?
- Lent is also a time when people make commitments: to give something up or take something on.
- What Lenten commitments are you putting into practice?

John 2:13–22 Jesus turns over tables and calls for a dismantling of an unjust system.

- How might Christians today also challenge systems or structures and work towards justice?

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NEWS AND NOTICES

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2024 AS ELECTED 25 FEBRUARY 2024

Rector's Warden: Dr John Wright

People's Wardens: Sue Topalov, Rene Dekker

Nominators: Sue Topalov, Rene Dekker, Dr John Wright

Parish Councilors: Bronwyn Saunders, Graham Ward,
Maxine Wegner, May Nash, Gay Lohse.

Synod Representatives: Jennie Wright, Dr John Wright.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on
Saturday, 16th March at 9 am in St Peter's Church.



HAPPENING TODAY - SUNDAY

(3rd March)

During the 8.30 - 9.30 am Service

We're glad you're here.



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.

MU RETIRING COLLECTION:

On **Sunday, 10th March**, MU will hold a retiring collection for their 2024 Project *Disaster and Climate Change Management in the Pacific*.

The project specifically aims to build disaster resilience for people with disabilities in Solomon Islands. Due to the increasing impacts of climate change, families living in the Pacific are facing regular events of cyclones and flooding. People living with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups in such emergencies.



SAVE THE DATE:

When:

Sunday, 24th March at
4 pm - Palm Sunday


Why:

CLASSICAL MUSIC
CONCERT
IN ST PETER'S
More details to come



ANGLICAN CHURCH GYMPIE & REGION

Holy Week Services



PALM SUNDAY - 24 March

- St Peter's - 8.30 am & 5.30 pm
- Good Shepherd - 9.30 am

WEDNESDAY - 27 March

- St Peter's - 12 Noon

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 28 March

- St Peter's - 5.30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY - 29 March

- St Peter's - 9.00 am
- Good Shepherd - 9.30 am

EASTER - SUNDAY - 31 March

- St Peter's - 8.30 am & 5.30 pm
- 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

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