

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5th May 2024

*God who does marvellous things,
we praise you. We lift our voices in
a joyful noise, joining our song to
that of creation. We give thanks for
your righteousness, your steadfast
love, your faithfulness, your justice.
Amen.*



Gospel: John 15.9-17

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: Jesus said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit.' John 15.16

Prayer of the Day: Loving God, your Son has chosen us and called us to be his friends: give us grace to keep his commandments, to love one another, and to bear fruit which will abide; through him who is the true vine, the source of all our life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings: This Sunday

Acts 10.44-48

Ps 98

1 John 5.1-12

John 15.9-17

Next Sunday

Acts 1.15-17, 21-26

Ps 1

1 John 5.9-13

John 17.6-19

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 Anglican Church of Australia*

National: *The Diocese of Riverina*

Our Diocese: • *The Parish of Oakley* • *St John's Home for Aged Men* • *All Saints Anglican School, Merrimac*

New Bishop : *The Reverend Canon Sarah Plowman and her family as they prepare for her instalment as Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Brisbane and to serve as Bishop for the Northern Region.*

MU Prayer Point: *Almighty God, we give you thanks for the many members in Tanzania and particularly in the Diocese of Victoria Nyanza and for the opportunities they have to share Christ's teaching on marriage and family life. May they trust in you as they cope with unemployment and poverty. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Ministry: *Mainly Music volunteers*

In Need: *Azzrah; Nicholas Barrett; Bruce Barton; Northa Burnett; Val Deans; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Baby Louis; Jenny; Graham McClurg; Smith Family; Robbie, Lisa and children; Shirley Summerville*

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Lamentations 3:25-16

Parish Calendar

5/5 1 st Sunday	6/5 1 st Monday	7/5 1 st Tuesday	8/5 2 nd Wednesday	9/5 2 nd Thursday	10/5 2 nd Fri	11/5 2 nd Sat
<p><i>6th Sunday of Easter</i> 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</p>	<p>LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</p>	<p>5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P</p>	<p><i>Noon Gympie Minister's Network meeting</i> Noon Service @ St P</p>	<p>RB School for Mainly Music session</p>		
12/5 2 nd Sunday	13/5 2 nd Monday	14/5 2 nd Tuesday	15/5 3 rd Wednesday	16/5 3 rd Thursday	17/5 3 rd Fri	18/5 3 rd Sat
<p><i>7th Sunday of Easter</i> MOTHER'S DAY 7.30 am Tin Can Bay 8.30 am St Peter's 9.30 am Rainbow Bch 5.30 pm St Peter's & Zoom</p>	<p>9.30-12 Mainly Music 6 pm Christian RI Dinner @ Kingston House</p>	<p>5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P</p>	<p>Noon Service @ St P 9.30 am Cooina Aged Care</p>	<p>10.00 Homeless Connect</p>	<p>GYMPIE SHOW DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</p>	<p><i>9.00 am Parish Council @ St P</i></p>



This Week's Readings

A reading from Acts 10.44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 98

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song:
for he has done marvellous things;

² **His right hand and his holy arm:
they have got him the victory.**

³ The Lord has made known his salvation:
he has revealed his just deliverance in the sight of the nations.

⁴ **He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
towards the house of Israel:
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

⁵ Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth:
break into singing and make melody.

⁶ **Make melody to the Lord upon the harp:
upon the harp and with the sounds of praise.**

⁷ With trumpets and with horns:
cry out in triumph before the Lord, the king.

⁸ **Let the sea roar, and all that fills it:
the good earth and those who live upon it.**

⁹ Let the rivers clap their hands:
and let the mountains ring out together before the Lord;

¹⁰ **For he comes to judge the earth:
he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

A reading from 1 John 5.1-12

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child.

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴ for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.

⁵ Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ There are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree. ⁹ If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰ Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

(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 15.9-17

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹² 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Gospel the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Reflection

The Joy of Love

God's command is clear: love one another as God in Christ has loved us. This steadfast love requires much of us, even as far as laying down our lives for another; yet, this love gives much: joy, inclusion, divine and human friendship, security, deliverance, equity, justice. How can we help but make a joyful noise to God?

Acts 10:44–48 is the concluding episode in the story of Cornelius, which has unfolded in chapter 10. Peter preaches to Cornelius's friends and family whom Cornelius has gathered. Essentially repeating the Ethiopian official's question from last week (Acts 8:36), using the same verb, hinder, Peter, asks, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these

people...?” The boundaries continue to be pushed outwards in the movement of the Spirit of God.

Psalm 98 is an explosion of extravagant praise. It is joyful and wild. The imagery is beautifully vivid. Humanity and creation play their instruments and sing their song in celebration of God’s deliverance, God’s salvation (described as God’s victory in NRSV).

This psalm has in view both the particular relationship between Israel and the Lord (English translations use “Lord” in either caps or small caps to indicate a reference specifically to the Israelite deity, a name often rendered as “Yahweh”) and this same God as being universally sovereign over “the nations.” Thus, a more layered, nuanced understanding of God’s marvellous, saving acts is required, as “victory” becomes perspectival. When Israel prevails, another suffers defeat. The implications of this duality must not be lost on contemporary interpreters.

However, two important words, justice and righteousness, further shape interpretation of this psalm. God’s steadfast love and faithfulness ensure that God’s justice (undifferentiated in Hebrew from “judgment”) will be applied universally and equitably. The promise of this justice is a re-ordering in which both the oppressors and oppressed receive what they deserve. Furthermore, in Hebrew understanding, righteousness is not an attribute, but an act. It is to “do the right thing by” another. God, as judge, will bring justice to the marginalized and do right by those who have been abused and defeated. This is good news, indeed.

1 John 5:1–6 affirms the interrelationship between love of God, love of others, and obedience to God’s commandments.

In a subversion of the world’s structures, that which is “victorious” in the world is not to be power or wealth or might or privilege. The victory comes via our faith, our belief.

John 15:9–17 follows last week’s “I am the true vine” passage and continues to expand on the character of Christian love. This love is a joy (v. 11), not a burden. However, it is not “easy” or sentimental: it requires nothing less than a willingness to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. To become a friend of Jesus carries a commitment, obedience to the commandment to love one another sacrificially, as Jesus has loved us (see also John 13:34). In this friendship, we make ourselves vulnerable in making ourselves known to others, as did Jesus. This vulnerability brings risk, but it also brings the promise of abiding together, of deepening our relationships. Self-revelation, in this sense, can be a form of laying down one’s life for others. •••••

The command to love as God loves, as Jesus Christ loves, is multi-layered in its interpretation and asks so very much of us in its application in daily life. The psalmist, however, is undaunted and sings mightily and joyfully in celebration of the enacted love of God. In our singing and praying, individually and communally, what are ways in which we can weave together exuberant expressions of praise with calls for justice and righteousness?

Connecting scripture and life

Share stories of those who embody sacrificial love, including accounts those who have laid down their lives for another.

NEWS AND NOTICES

BAPTISM WELCOME

Today we have the pleasure of welcoming Tammy and Daniel with baby Nova for her baptism, along with Nova's big sister Taylim-Jayde and big brother Brydon. Welcome too to their family and friends who have joined us today.



MAINLY MUSIC ANNUAL TRIP

Next Thursday, 9th May at 9.30 am the wonderful team from Rainbow Beach Christian community will be reaching out to the State Primary School there and will have some short *mainly music session for the kids*. Please join us for this annual morning tea *Mother's day get together*. All are welcome.



Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the gift of mothers, for their love, care, and sacrifices. On this Mother's Day, we lift up all mothers to you, asking for your blessings and strength. Grant them wisdom in their daily tasks, patience in their trials, and joy in their journey of motherhood. May they feel appreciated and cherished not just today, but every day. Bless them with health, happiness, and abundant grace. Help us, as their children, to honor and respect them, and to show our gratitude for all they do. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Wednesday's Midday Service Lunch-time friendly

Come join us for this peaceful, reflective 20 minute service held in St Peter's Lady Chapel at 12 pm sharp. All welcome
Light refreshment follows.

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.



CHRISTIAN RI ALLIANCE FUNDRAISING DINNER

It is our privilege to invite you and additional guests, who are interested in financially supporting the work of the Alliance for Christian Religious Education (ACRE), to our Fundraising Dinner at **Kingston House Impressions, 11 Channon Street, Gympie 4570, on Monday 13th May, 2024 at 6:30 pm (Arrival time from 6:15 pm)**. ACRE exists to help support and champion the local out-working of Christian RI in local state schools, so that every child may have the opportunity to question, explore and discover the Christian faith.

Our aim is to raise funds for the much-needed activities of ACRE and to employ a local Christian RI instructor in the Gympie area. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. You and your guests will be treated to a delicious two course meal and a presentation on the work of the Alliance for Christian Religious Education. To book a seat/Rsvp follow the link <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christian-ri-alliance-fundraising-dinner-tickets-880604430557>

For any questions or enquiries please email anita.searle@christianri.org.au

The dress code for the dinner is business attire.

NEW BISHOP FOR THE NORTHERN REGION ANNOUNCED

The Most Reverend Jeremy Greaves, Archbishop of Brisbane will consecrate Reverend Canon Sarah Plowman as a Bishop in the Church of God at the opening Eucharist of the Diocesan Synod **on Friday 21 June 2024, at 7.00 pm**. We will observe the Feast of St Alban (22 June) at that Synod Eucharist. Please pray for Sarah and her family as she prepares for this important new ministry in the life of the Diocese.

The Ad Clerum is on the notice board for perusal



NEW PARISH CENTRE - UPDATE MAY 2024 from Levi McLaren ((Architect and Project Manager)

Plans and reports (*Architectural, Civil, Structural, Hydraulic, Electrical, Mechanical and Landscape*) – each with their respective consultants are progressing well with some very close to final completion. Once this occurs a builder can be appointed and hopefully work will commence shortly thereafter.



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



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

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Website: www.anglicangympie.org.au

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[Mainly music Gympie Anglican](#)

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