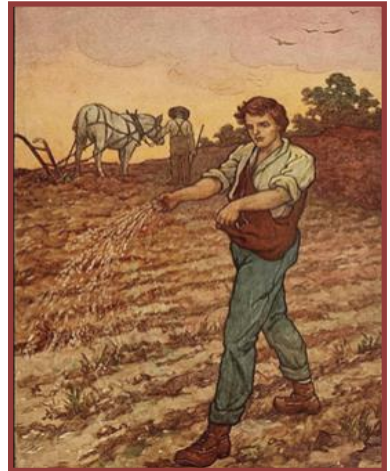


FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

16th June 2024

*Yes, no, maybe, not now, who – me?
How will we answer when you call us to
leadership, Holy One? Whatever our
answer may be, may we come to it
knowing you will equip us and guide us
through every step of the journey.
Amen.*



Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

2 Corinthians 5.19

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, without you we are unable to please you: mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings: This Sunday

1 Samuel 15.34-16.13 Ps 20
2 Corinthians 5.6-10, 14-17 Mark 4.26-34

Next Sunday

1 Samuel 17.32-49 Ps 9.9-20
2 Corinthians 6.1-13 Mark 4.35-41

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: Iglesia Anglicana de Chilee

National: The Diocese of Newcastle

Our Diocese: ● The Parish of Bramble Bay ● SAILS Anglican Sailing Adventures in Life Skills Ministry - Gold Coast, Bayside, Sunshine Coast ● The Glennie School, Toowoomba:
● Assistant Bishop elect - The Rev'd Canon Sarah Plowman & family

Local:

MU Prayer Point: Almighty God we celebrate our global family of Mothers Union. We celebrate our precious fellowship in Christ. We bring before you our members in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Help them as they reach out to families in their many programs and point them to knowing you through your word. Amen.

Ministry: Fr Shaji, Frida and family

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

ABM Reflection

St Mark tells begins to tell us about the parables Jesus used to talk about the kingdom of God. We see that the kingdom is mysterious in that growth happens because of complex and unseen forces. Growth is organic rather than programmatic.

The kingdom begins in a very small-scale way, but flourishes with the right kind of care.

- What small-scale can I do this week to begin something that may eventually flourish for the sake of the kingdom of God?
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of South-East Asia.

Text: Robert McLean© Anglican Board of Mission, 2024

Parish Calendar

16/6 3 rd Sunday	17/6 3 rd Monday	18/6 3 rd Tuesday	19/6 3 rd Wednesday	20/6 3 rd Thursday	21/6 3 rd Fri	22/6 4 th Sat
4th AFTER PENTECOST 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 Service @ St P	10.00 Homeless Connect	SYNOD Consecration of new Northern Region Bishop, the Rev'd Canon Sarah Plowman - 7 pm	SYNOD
23/6 4 th Sunday	24/6 4 th Monday	25/6 4 th Tuesday	26/6 4 th Wednesday	27/6 4 th Thursday	28/6 4 th Fri	29/6 5 th Sat
SYNOD 5th AFTER PENTECOST 8.30 am St Peter's 9.30 am Rainbow Bch 5.30 pm St Peter's & Zoom	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Until 7/7/24 incl	9.30 am MU Service @ St. P 5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P 5.15 pm Community Action Board Meeting-SJ	Noon Service @ St P	Noon Regional Deanery		



A reading from 1 Samuel 15.34-16.13

15 ³⁴Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeath of Saul. ³⁵Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. **16** ¹The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' ²Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord ." ' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' ⁵He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord ; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord 's anointed is now before the Lord .' ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 20

¹ May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble:
the God of Jacob lift you up to safety.

² **May he send you his help from the sanctuary:
and be your strong support from Zion.**

³ May he remember all your offerings:
and accept with favour your burnt sacrifices,

⁴ **Grant you your heart's desire:**

and fulfil all your purposes.

⁵ May we also rejoice in your victory and triumph in the name of our God:
the Lord perform all your petitions.

⁶ **Now I know that the Lord will save his anointed:
that he will answer him from his holy heaven
with the victorious strength of his right hand.**

⁷ Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses:
but we will trust in the name of the Lord our God.

⁸ **They are brought down and fallen:
but we are made strong and stand upright.**

⁹ O Lord, save the king:
and hear us when we call upon you.

A reading from 2 Corinthians 5.6-10, 5.14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

(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 Mark 4.26-34

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

²⁶He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.' ³⁰He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' ³³With many such parables ³³he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Reflection

Unexpected Leadership

Changes in leadership can be accompanied by anxiety and uncertainty, both in public life and church life. Saul, Israel's own choice for king, ultimately disobeyed God. Change in leadership was needed. Israel's next king would be one of God's choosing, and God's choice would surprise everyone. God, we are told, looks to the content of the heart, not external qualities. Are we willing to embrace unlikely leaders? Can we worship an unpredictable God?

1 Samuel 15:34—16:13 God regrets allowing Saul to become Israel's first king and solves the problem by providing for a new king. This time, the people would not get a vote. The process for selecting as well as the result would surprise everyone. God looks beyond superficial attributes and sees deep into the heart.

That God had regrets about allowing Saul to become king is surprising in and of itself. Surprising, too, that God provides a pretext for Samuel's visit with the people of Bethlehem so as not to arouse Saul's anger or suspicion. A pattern emerges: God is always faithful and remains engaged with God's people, but not always in predictable ways.

One by one, God evaluates seven of Jesse's sons in search of Israel's next king and rejects them all. The exterior – skin colour, ethnicity, age, gender – can sway decisions when we hire people or invite others to join our cause. God does not use physical characteristics, birth order, or other standard criteria. The core of one's character and intentions is what matters to God. Samuel anoints the almost overlooked young person, David.

That God chooses unexpected leaders says as much about the nature of God as it does about the qualifications of the people God calls. Who might we overlook when choosing leaders because we stereotype and prejudge?

Are we willing to *be* the unexpected leader to answer an unexpected call? Though often frightening, we need not fear. **Psalms 20** affirms that God is with us. Those who trust in God's provision live strong and joyful lives.

2 Corinthians 5:6–10, (11–13), 14–17 reminds us that we live with confidence, trusting that Christ's death and resurrection assure us a purpose higher than that of our own limited capabilities – we are made new in Christ. Old ways of understanding are gone. We live not just for ourselves, but for Christ; Christ's love urges us on.

Mark 4:26–34 Jesus tells the parable of the tiny mustard seed to reveal God's surprising, unexpected plan to use even small communities of faith to accomplish God's will.

Similarly, God used David, the youngest in his family, to accomplish God's will. God's realm may seem unattainable at times, but Jesus assures us that it is alive – growing and spreading even from small acts of faith until everyone finds a home in it.

.....

Leadership is not an end unto itself. If it is, then we need to carefully examine our motivation for wanting it or running from it, especially if we see that God is the one calling us to lead. When unexpected authority is given to us or placed into our midst, what can we do to understand better how this might be part of God's plan?

Connecting scripture and life

- How is this a parable for today, individually and the church?
- What qualities are most needed for leadership in the church? Are they the same qualities needed in the secular world? What qualities might be over-rated?

David's anointing at such a young age has a powerful effect on his youth and development.

- How might the talents and potential of young people today, and any whose gifts and potential seem hidden or not noticed, be affirmed and nurtured?
- How do you respond to leaders that do not "fit" your criteria of good leadership?

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NEWS AND NOTICES

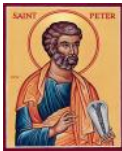
We're collecting now for the Christmas Shoeboxes Appeal



The joy and wonder on a child's face when they open an Operation Christmas Child shoebox is a beautiful sight to behold. Every Child who receives a shoebox is invited to take part in The Greatest Journey, a 12-lesson discipleship program where they learn more about the Gospel. The impact of this program is truly remarkable. Last year, an astounding 55% of the children who attended made decisions for Christ!



This month we're collecting **new clothing** items for children aged between 2 and 14 yrs of age. Please leave at the back of the Church; alternatively you may like to make a monetary donation towards the appeal by direct bank transfer (see page 8 of this bulletin) and use the reference "Shoebox" or via donation box at the back of the church.



Join us in celebrating St. Peter's Patronal Feast Day of our parish on June 30th (5th Sunday).



Saint Peter, originally named Simon, was one of Jesus Christ's twelve apostles and is revered as the first pope by the Roman Catholic Church.

A Galilean fisherman, Peter was called by Jesus to be a "fisher of men." He emerged as the leader among the apostles and played a crucial role in the early Christian Church. Jesus entrusted Peter with the "keys of the kingdom of heaven," symbolizing authority and the power to bind and loose on earth and in heaven (Matthew 16:19). This imagery underscores Peter's role as a foundational figure in Christianity.

According to tradition, Peter was martyred in Rome under Emperor Nero around 64 AD. He requested to be crucified upside down, believing himself unworthy to die in the same manner as Jesus. This act of humility further cements his legacy of faith and devotion. The upside-down cross, or "St. Peter's Cross," remains a symbol of his unique martyrdom.

We will have a combined service at 8.30 am followed by a hot breakfast. All are invited to this special event to celebrate the patron saint of our church.

THANK YOU!

Peter Patrick's family wish to offer you all a big "THANK YOU" for his funeral yesterday; your support and preparations/arrangements for the day are appreciated. Thanks again.

COMBINED CHURCHES MARY VALLEY

You're invited to join the people of the Mary Valley in a worship and fellowship gathering on the 5th Sunday (30th June) at Imbil, RSL Hall at 2.30 pm Please bring a plate of food to share for afternoon tea. They will be gathering every 5th Sunday at the Hall.

Peace that the world cannot give
NORTHERN REGION LAY RETREAT

(This will be a silent retreat)

Friday November 29th 6.00 pm until after lunch Sunday 1st December 2024
(Option to attend Saturday 30th November only from 9am – 5pm)

To be held at: *Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre 267 Wellington St, Ormiston Qld*

Facilitator: **Kathryn Houston** / Introduction on Friday night by Archbishop Jeremy Greaves

For further details & booking please contact **Nerida Murray** on Mobile **0411 052 292** or
neridamurray@me.com Flyer, registration forms are at the back of the church.



In the Anglican Church, a diocese is governed by a Synod, that is, a bishop acting with the advice and consent of representatives of the clergy and laity of the diocese.

In the Diocese of Brisbane, the Archbishop calls the Synod to meet at least once in every year, to discuss, debate and decide on various matters of business such as the Diocesan budget, legislation governing the Church (i.e. 'Canon law'), and other issues that concern the Church.

The Synod also elects people to various committees and boards in the Diocese, as well as choosing General Synod representatives (ie diocesan reps in the nation Synod held at least once every four years, which brings together all the diocese of the Anglican Church of Australia)

Our Synod Representatives, Jack and Jennie, along with Fr Shaji will be attending. We look forward to their report when they return.

NEW PARISH CENTRE - UPDATE JUNE 2024

Following our gathering in May, to look over the plans for the kitchen, we have this week received a couple of revised layout options from the building designer. These options will be discussed at a further gathering - date to be advised.

We are pleased with the progress to date and still hopeful for the first sod to be turned in the next few months.



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



Let Fr Shaji know if you are celebrating a special day -
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](#)