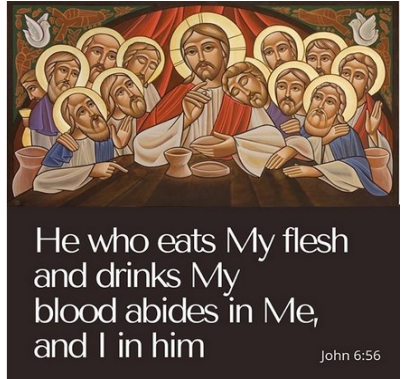


FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

18th August 2024

God, walking your way requires a particular kind of footwear – shoes in which we can march for justice, run faithfully, stride through rocky terrain, step tenderly, and dance joyfully. Guide us in our choice of shoes. Amen.



Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: Jesus said, 'It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.' John 6.63

Prayer of the Day: Everliving God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear the prayers we offer for all your faithful people, that in the ministry to which you have called them each may serve you in holiness and truth; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: This Sunday

1 Kings 8.22-30, 41-43
Ephesians 6.10-20

Ps 84
John 6.56-69

Next Sunday

Song of Songs 2.8-13
James 1.17-27

Ps 45.1-2, 6-9
Mark 7.1-8, 14-23

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: *La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico*

National: *The Diocese of The Murray:*

Our Diocese: ● *The Parish of Mudgeeraba* ● *Anglicare SQ Out of Home Care SE Region - Logan Residential* ● *All Anglican Schools Business managers/Bursars and Senior Leaders.*

Local:

MU Prayer Point: *Lord, we pray for our sisters in Harare Zimbabwe. Grant them wisdom as they cope with unemployment and poverty. May the hope of the gospel give them wisdom and courage as they help rebuild relationships, self esteem and belonging. We pray too for our members in Wangaratta that as they encourage prayer amongst members that they will know your hand of blessing upon them. Amen.*

Ministry: *Parish Choir and Musicians*

In Need: *Jim Alford; David and Paul Arthur; Azzrah; Kym; Nicholas Barrett; Bruce Barton; Val Deans; Pam Dorman; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Baby Louis; Jenny; Graham McClurg; Smith Family: Robbie, Lisa and children; Shirley Summerville; Graham and Beris Trainer*

ABM Reflection

People have often said to me, in the midst of sorrow and struggle – how do people get through this, without faith? As Peter says in today’s Gospel “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life”.

- We pray for faith to always turn to Jesus, everyday, in all things.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, remembering especially today the Bishop-Designate of Port Moresby, the Very Rev’d Wilfred Kekea, as well as the recently-appointed new Principal for the Bishop Newton School of Theology, the Rev’d Dr Ishaya Anthony, as well as the other staff and students.

Text: Pamela Davey and the Rev’d Sr Jan Crombie SSA (ABM Board) © Anglican Board of Mission, 2024

Parish Calendar

25/8 4 th Sunday	26/8 4 th Monday	27/8 4 th Tuesday	28/8 4 th Wednesday	29/8 5 th Thurs	30/8 5 th Fri	31/8 5 th Sat
14th AFTER PENTECOST 8.30 am St Peter’s Baptism-Tompkins x 2 9.30 am Rainbow Bch 5.30 pm St Peter’s & Zoom	9.30–12 Mainly Music	9.30 am MU Service @ St. P 5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P 5.15 pm Community Action Board Meeting	Noon Service @ St P Evening Bible Study <i>Pls Enquire</i>	2.30 pm Bible Study @ St Peter’s		
1/9 1 st Sunday	2/9 1 st Monday	3/9 1 st Tuesday	4/9 1 st Wednesday	5/9 1 st Thurs	6/9 1 st Fri	7/9 1 st Sat
15th AFTER PENTECOST 7.30 am Tin Can Bay 8.30 am St Peter’s-Kidz Church 9.30 am Rainbow Bch 4.00 pm Vivaldi’s Spring Concert @ St P	9.30–12 Mainly Music	9.00 am Warden’s Meeting 5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P	Noon Service @ St P Evening Bible Study <i>Pls Enquire</i>	2.30 pm Bible Study @ St Peter’s		



This Week's Readings

First reading from 1 Kings 8.22-30, 8.41-43

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³He said, 'O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me." ²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. ²⁷'But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there", that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive. ⁴¹Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴²—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays towards this house, ⁴³then hear in heaven your dwelling-place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 84

¹ How lovely is your dwelling-place:

O Lord God of hosts!

² **My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord:
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

³ The sparrow has found her a home,
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
even your altar, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴ **Blessed are those who dwell in your house:
they will always be praising you.**

⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you:
in whose heart are the highways to Zion;

⁶ **Who, going through the valley of dryness, find there a spring from which to drink:
till the autumn rain shall clothe it with blessings.**

⁷ They go from strength to strength:
they appear, every one of them, before the God of gods in Zion.

⁸ **O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer:**

give ear, O God of Jacob.

⁹ Behold, O God, him who reigns over us:
and look upon the face of your anointed.

¹⁰ **One day in your courts is better than a thousand:**

**I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.**

¹¹ For the Lord God is a light and a shield, the Lord gives favour and honour:
and no good thing will he withhold from those who walk in innocence.

¹² **O Lord God of hosts:**

blessed are those who put their trust in you.

Second Reading from Ephesians 6.10-20

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

(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 6.56-69

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' ⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' ⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you?' ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?

⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless.

The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.' ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

REFLECTION

Prayers and Protection

Call weaves through this week's scripture passages. The call to be faithful to the roots of Judaism, courageous in following Jesus, grounded in the love and presence of God, to live truth-telling lives, persevere and pray, even amid trying times.

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10–11), 22–30, 41–43 Solomon brings the Ark of the Covenant into the newly built temple, praising God for God's loyalty and God's faithfulness. A tension between sacred place and God's freedom emerges in this prayer, as Solomon acknowledges that the temple or anything in creation is unable to contain God. The Holy One remains free to move and free to love as God chooses. Reflecting that truth, Solomon asks God to hear prayers by those outside Israel in the midst of hearing of prayers by Israel.

In **Psalm 84**, we hear Pilgrims enter Jerusalem and the temple singing, "How lovely is your dwelling place." The temple has become the place in which even the sparrows and swallows come to dwell with God. As in Solomon's prayer, God makes room for stranger and foreigner as well as friend and kin.

Ephesians 6:10–20 This week, we come to the final verses of this letter to the Ephesians, which, we recall, likely was not written by Paul but rather a follower of Paul. The author draws on a picture of God from Isaiah 59, in which God appears as a divine warrior who will bring about justice. The "armour of God" includes "the breastplate of righteousness," and "the helmet of salvation." In Isaiah, we hear that God alone fights for justice; Ephesians describes how the new Christian community is to prepare for the struggles for justice, wholeness, harmony. The early church was a religious minority and suffered daily harassment and discrimination. With the picture of a Roman soldier ready for battle, sword in hand, standing firm, the message given in this reading takes up the countercultural narrative of the scriptures and strangely becomes the ultimate vision of pacifism. The nature of the violent, oppressive, and powerful Roman soldier is in contrast with the behaviour of the Christian community. The church is called to put on other clothing and practice a new reality based on the life of Christ who brings peace.

Once again, the verbs and pronouns in this passage are plural, "you" is the many, not the individual. The church stands together in love and reconciliation, by peace and righteousness she works in the world and seeks to put into practice all the instructions already extolled before: living in love and peace with one another, singing hymns to God, speaking truth, and forgiving one another. The message ends with the exhortation to pray. Prayer is seen as the means by which the community of faith can stand in the holy presence of God and find strength.

In **John 6:56–69**, Jesus' disciples seem to be offended by his teachings, yet Peter recognizes that in Jesus is the "Holy One of God."

In Christ, the dwelling place for God, they have found their hope and strength to go on when others have turned back.



Connecting scripture and life

At the time when this letter to the Ephesians was written, it was normal to see soldiers walking around in armoured uniform, and many were victims of the soldiers' violence. With the power of Rome at its height, those wearing this armour must have seemed the very essence of strength and protection against their foes.

- **Is there a correlation between our times and the times early Christians were living through as they faced violence and oppression?**

While military imagery may not serve us well as the 21st-century church, the image of putting on protective clothing is still current as people of faith continue to live the way of Christ.

- **Is the instruction to put on truth, righteousness, peace, and love any less relevant than it was in the first century?**
- **What practices will create within you a dwelling place for God?**

NEWS AND NOTICES

Welcome to the Tompkins Family

Today we have the pleasure of welcoming to St Peter's Church the Tompkins family, Anthony and Olivia with sons their sons Luke and Ryley who are to be baptised today. Welcome!



HOPE25

Easter to Pentecost in 2025

Imagine every Anglican Church, in every town and city, in every suburb and community, all working in the same season to proclaim hope in our uncertain world.

Remembering our Parish mission is **'Living and telling the good news of Jesus Christ, reaching out to all in love and service'**.

Together, let's embark on a journey of faith, reaching out to touch hearts, inspire minds, and illuminate lives with the boundless hope found in Jesus Christ.

Will you join us?

Fr Shaji will be talking about how we can participate in coming weeks.

Anglican Church presents
Gympie & Region

Gympie Strings
Plays

Vivaldi's Spring

Featuring, from Brisbane,
Aliona on violin and Maria on flute

Sunday, September 1st, 2024
4 pm- 5.30 pm

In St Peter's, Cnr Amy St & Lady Mary Tce,
Gympie

Light refreshments available after the concert
GOLD COIN DONATION TO BENEFIT GYMPIE STRINGS

Phn: 5482 2629 www.anglicangympie.org.au

We're collecting now for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox 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!

We're now collecting **STATIONERY**

suitable for children aged between 2 and 14 yrs of age.

Donations of: Pencils & sharpener / Pencil case / Erasers / Pens / Crayons / Markers / Notebooks / Calculator / Scissors / Small ruler / Glue stick / Small sticky tape.

Please Note: We are unable to accept liquid or lotions/cream type products.

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.

NOTE: SHOEBOXES AVAILABLE NOW If you'd like to pack your own.

NEXT FRIDAY

You are invited to a **Father's Day Remembrance Service**

**Friday, 30th August at 1 pm in the
Gympie Cemetery Cassia Gazebo,
93 Cartwright Road, Gympie.**

Fr Shaji will be leading the Service.

Bookings Essential. Please RSVP as soon as possible to:

supervisor@gympiecemeterytrust.com.au
Or Phn 5482 2199



NEW PARISH CENTRE -

Current Situation: The water supply upgrade in Lady Mary Tce is due to proceed (weather permitting) on Tuesday, 27th August.



'TAP, SWIPE, INSERT' for Sunday Giving: EFTPOS is now available at the back of the church for contactless giving. The Offertory Plate will not be passed around during the Service. Instead, there is a plate at the back of the church where you can give your Sunday Offering. Your support is appreciated!



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.

Fancy That Op Shop

204 Mary St, Gympie Phn: 0493 378 944

An outreach of

Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm

Saturday 9 am to 12 noon

Closed Public Holidays



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**

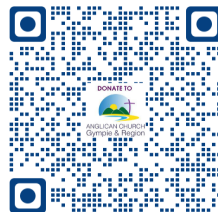
A) **If viewing on your computer or smart phone** - click on the QR Code and it will take you to the B-Point website to make a donation by credit card **OR**

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

