



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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1st September 2024

*Holy One, may the light of your love
shine in me that I might be a lamp
of compassion, illuminating the
way of justice and peace. Amen*



Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1.17

Prayer of the Day: Cleanse our consciences, O Lord, and enlighten our hearts through the daily presence of your Son Jesus Christ, that when he comes in glory to be our judge we may be found undefiled and acceptable in his sight; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: This Sunday

Song of Songs 2.8-13 Ps 45.1-2, 6-9
James 1.17-27 Mark 7.1-8, 14-23

Next Sunday

Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Ps 125
James 2.1-10, 14-17 Mark 7.24-37

Sunday Services in our Region

- **Gympie** - St Peter's ► 8.30 am ► 4 pm Gympie Strings Concert
- **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: Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola

Nationally: The Anglican Church of Australia

Our Diocese: ● The Parish of North Pine ● Staff of the Archbishop's Office
● State Chaplaincy Board

Local:

MU Prayer Point: Adult literacy is a key focus of Mothers' Union in the Solomon Islands. With literacy comes the tools to think and reflect on discipleship. We thank God for the skills of teachers, the eagerness of those who learn and the deepening of faith of all members.

Ministry: Bible Study Groups

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

How do we keep ourselves "unstained by the world"? Through prayer and listening to Christ's voice above all others, especially the voices of the world that tempt us away from the voice of our Lord.

Make clean our hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us that we may seek to serve you in joy and gladness.

- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of South-East Asia.

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

Parish Calendar

1/9 1 st Sunday	2/9 1 st Monday	3/9 1 st Tuesday	4/9 1 st Wednesday	5/9 1 st Thursday	6/9 1 st Fri	7/9 1 st Sat
<p>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</p>	<p>9.30-12 Mainly Music</p>	<p>5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P</p>	<p>Noon Service @ St P Evening Bible Study <i>Pls enquire</i></p>	<p>2.30 pm Bible Study @ St.P</p>		
8/9 2 nd Sunday	9/9 2 nd Monday	10/9 2 nd Tuesday	11/9 2 nd Wednesday	12/9 2 nd Thursday	13/9 2 nd Fri	14/9 2 nd Sat
<p>ANGLICARE 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</p>	<p>9.30-12 Mainly Music</p>	<p>5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P</p>	<p>Noon Gympie Minister's Network meeting Noon Service @ St P Evening Bible Study <i>Pls enquire</i></p>	<p>2.30 pm Bible Study @ St.P</p>		



This Week's Readings

First reading from Song of Songs 2.8-13

⁸The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. ⁹My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. ¹⁰My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; ¹¹for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. ¹²The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land. ¹³The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 45.1-2, 45.6-9

¹ My heart is astir with fine phrases, I make my song for a king:
my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

² **You are the fairest of men, grace flows from your lips:
therefore has God blessed you for ever and ever.**

⁶ Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever:
and the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre.

⁷ **You have loved righteousness and hated evil:
therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.**

⁸ All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes and cassia:
music from ivory palaces makes you glad.

⁹ **Kings' daughters are among your noble women:
the queen is at your right hand in gold of Ophir.**

Second Reading from James 1.17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

¹⁸In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.

²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

(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 7.1-8, 7.14-23

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?’ ⁶He said to them, ‘Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.” ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’ ¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’ ¹⁷When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸He said to them, ‘Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, ¹⁹since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?’ (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And he said, ‘It is what comes out of a person that defiles. ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

REFLECTION

Live Love

What do we believe about God, and how do we act on it? The readings for this week challenge us to find connections between what we believe and say about God and the actions we take each day. God acts in our lives with generosity and love.

When lovers respond to one another in **Song of Solomon 2:8–13**, they act on their words. The Song of Solomon is a book of poetry celebrating love. The world in which we live is as bountiful and full of love as this scene, thanks to God, the giver of every perfect fit. We are called to respond in faithful living, confident that this is most certainly true.

Psalm 45:1–2, 6–9 describes God as generous and lov-ing. The psalmist applauds how the ruler’s relationship with God shapes how this earthly leader lives and governs. As the ruler responds in faithfulness, the entire nation is blessed.

James 1:17–27 The book of James is a bit of an outlier in the New Testament, as it is commonly considered part of the Bible’s Wisdom literature. It is attributed to James, the broth-er of Jesus, who is portrayed in the gospels as not believ-ing in Jesus and his mission when Jesus was alive. Having experienced the resurrected Christ, he became a prominent leader of the church in Jerusalem.

Some consider this letter is the earliest Christian writing, apart from Galatians. It was written at a time when the new church was undergoing persecution and penned for “the twelve tribes in the dispersion” (James 1:1), Jewish Christians living outside of Jerusalem. There is an in-built understanding that the recipients of the letter know Jewish traditions and teaching. God is given the title “the God of lights.” In this, we hear the echo of the creation story in which God creates light. James calls the recipients of the letter “the first fruits of his creatures.” In Jewish tradition, the first fruits of any harvest were significant. The Israelites were required to bring these as an offering to God. It seems James conveys to his readers their significance as participants in God’s great harvest.

It exhorts the importance of listening over speaking, patience over anger, meekness over brashness, and action over inaction. James leaves no doubt about what true faith looks like – care for the vulnerable (widows and orphans) and ethical living that is un beholden to the status quo but based on the goodness of God.

We find a similar appeal as to how to live our faith in **Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23**. In a dispute between Jesus and some religious leaders who are fretting about lack of ritual observances, Jesus points to matters of the heart that spill out into acts as redefining covenant.



As God’s beloved, we are called to focus our attention on God as the giver of good gifts and to make these gifts and God’s goodness known to all people throughout all the earth, particularly the poor and vulnerable toward whom God has always had a particular interest and passion. If the church’s light is truly to shine, it means standing alongside the vulnerable and being doers and not just listeners. How are we doing?

Connecting scripture and life

In her book *A Small Illustrated Guide to the Universe* (535, Bonnier Books UK, 2019), Ella Frances Sanders writes that “Your luminosity is intrinsic, but your brightness will depend on who is looking at you,” and goes on to explain how the luminosity of an object like a star depends on the amount of energy it emits across all wavelengths, measured over time, and on how far away it is from where it is being observed. As children of the “God of lights” we have an intrinsic luminosity and called to be light to the world.

The letter of James says that our actions are the measure of how brightly God’s light burns. We are to be doers, not just observers and hearers.

In reality, the only measure of the influence we have in the world is found in the observations of others.

How are we, individually and as the church, illuminating the world with our actions? Are people noticing?

- **When and in what ways do we shine most brightly?**
- **In what circumstances is our light dimming?**
- **What is stopping us from being our most luminous?**
- **Where might the church's talk be getting in the way of people seeing the many good works the church does?**

NEWS AND NOTICES

HAPPY FATHERS DAY: On this day we celebrate the gift of our father, those here with us and those dearly departed.

"Heavenly Father, bless all Fathers as they care for their families. Grant them the courage to lead with love and to inspire their children with faith and kindness. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience. May Your grace support them in every challenge they face. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen. "

"Happy Father's Day!"



THIS SUNDAY AFTERNOON!



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

HOPE 25

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.

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.

Combined Service and Breakfast Invitation

We're inviting you to join us for our "5th Sunday Combined Service & Breakfast" to be held on **29th Sept at 8.30 am** at St Peter's. We're hoping for a glorious spring morning.



NEW PARISH CENTRE -

Current Situation: The water supply (hydrant) upgrade occurred last Tuesday. We are hopeful the next steps in our project can now be expedited.



'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!

Shirley Summerville 90 years

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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**

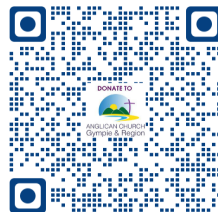
A) **If viewing on your computer or smart phone - click on the QR Code and it will take you to the B-Point website to make a donation by credit card** **OR**

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

