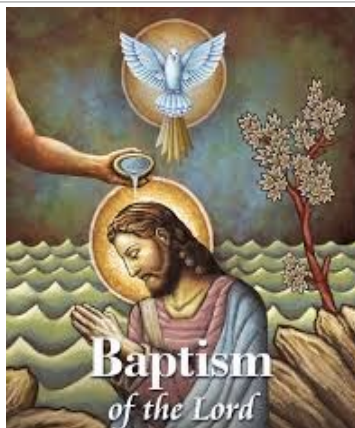


## BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

12th January 2025

*Holy Spirit, call us tender words of  
mercy that remind us we belong to  
you, and embrace us with your love.  
Amen*



## Sentence & Prayer of the Day

**Sentence:** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Isaiah 60.1

**Prayer of the Day:** Lord God of the nations, we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendour: may the brightness of your incarnate Word pierce the night that covers the earth, signal the dawn of justice and peace, and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen.

### Readings: This Sunday

Isaiah 43.1-7

Ps 29

Acts 8.14-17

Luke 3.15-22

### Next Sunday

Isaiah 62.15

Ps 36.5-10

1 Corinthians 12.1-11

John 2.1-11

## Sunday Services in our Region

- **Gympie** - Anglicare Building ► 8.30 am (see page 7 for location details)
- **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 West Africa*

**National:** *The Diocese of Grafton*

- Our Diocese:** ● *The Parish of Noosa*, ● *Bribie Anglican Cancer Support Group*  
● *St John's Anglican College, Forest Lake*

## **Local**

**Ministry:** *Fancy That Op Shop Volunteers*

**MU Ministry:** *Although its membership is small, at just over 250, members Mothers Union Mauritius are very engaged in their communities reaching out to the vulnerable and those in need. We pray as members support prison ministry, counselling centre, parenting skills programs, marriage preparation and care for the elderly that they will share God's love with those they contact. Amen.*

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

## **ABM Reflection**

Isaiah's words are a wonderful encouragement in a time of distress and a reminder that God's people have nothing to fear since God has redeemed them. They can pass through fire and water without harm. The psalmist also talks of the powers of destruction, and yet the people will be saved and blessed. Images which are present as we read of the baptism of Jesus who entered the waters of baptism that we too may know him as God's beloved Son.

- We pray for all preparing for baptism; and for those of us already baptised, we give thanks for those who led us to putting on Christ in the waters of baptism.
- Give thanks for the Church of Ceylon, which covers most of Sri Lanka, remembering their ministry in a multi-religious context.

*Text: Brother Christopher John SSF © Anglican Board of Mission, 2024*

# Parish Calendar

12/1 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

7.30 am Tin Can Bay

8.30 am St Peter's @ Anglicare

9.30 am Rainbow Bch

**BAPTISM x 2**

19/1 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8.30 am St Peter's @ Anglicare

9.30 am Rainbow Bch



## This Week's Readings

### First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 43.1-7

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup> For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth' <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

*(Pause for reflection)*

Hear the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

### Psalm 29

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:  
ascribe to the Lord glory and might.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:  
the God of glory thunders, the Lord upon the great waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:  
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:  
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> **He makes them skip like a calf:  
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:  
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,  
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.

**<sup>8</sup> The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,  
and strips bare the forests:  
in his temple all cry 'Glory.'**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:  
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.

**<sup>10</sup> The Lord will give strength to his people:  
the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.**

### **Second Reading from Acts 8.14-17**

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

*(Pause for reflection)*

Hear the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 3.15-22**

#### **GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST**

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' <sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. <sup>19</sup> But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup> added to them all by shutting up John in prison. <sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

*(Pause for reflection)*

For the Gospel of the Lord,

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

## REFLECTION

### **Beloved**

As we begin the Season after the Epiphany, we rejoice that God's word continues to hold promise and power in our lives, calling each of us by name through living waters. The voice from heaven blesses: "You are my [child], the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." After John immerses Jesus in baptism, God draws near and rejoices in him. In today's readings we are reminded to listen for God in words of hope and encouragement, and in the Holy Spirit's work in our communities.

**Isaiah 43:1–7** Often, it is easy to feel alone and forgotten in life's inevitable difficult and trying times. These words were given to God's people in just such a time. And the prophet proclaims that God is present "because you are precious in my sight and honoured and I love you" (43:4).

**Psalms 29** In this psalm, God's voice is heard in the glory of thunder, in the mighty waters, and in the flashing flame. The voice of God calls into our lives too, strong with promise.

**Acts 8:14–17** The Holy Spirit descends upon the believers in Samaria through prayer and the laying on of hands. These Samaritans had been baptized, but for a reason that is not given in the text, had not received the Holy Spirit. Peter and John are sent to these believers to pray, lay their hands upon them, and offer the Spirit. The writer of Acts is reminding readers that baptism and blessing belong together. The Holy Spirit, which descends upon Jesus at baptism, is now present and active in the early church. The voice of God is carried on in the disciples and brings identity and authority to all.

**Luke 3:15–17, 21–22** The culture into which Jesus was born had rigid social customs. People behaved in accordance with their status given at birth, never presuming more or less. Little would be expected of the son of a manual labourer from out-of-the-way Nazareth. For a person like Jesus, the right to speak in public or to interpret the Torah would need to be established and demonstrated. It is not surprising then that when Jesus spoke and taught, people would wonder at his boldness and question the source of his authority. Luke tells readers that Jesus receives this authority directly from God at his baptism. God comes to Jesus through the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, identifying Jesus as the "Beloved." The readers of Luke would interpret and understand this voice from heaven as giving both authenticity and authority to Jesus' ministry.

The love that Jesus later proclaims in his ministry is first extended to him now. We, too, are given the promise that identity and authority are ours as we recognize God's presence in our lives and set out to begin God's work. Only four weeks ago, we read these verses with expectation and hope as we prepared for Jesus' coming. Repeated here, we experience them with new eyes and live them out a bit differently too. The expectation is being fulfilled, and in this Season after the Epiphany, we continue to look for and seek out signs of Jesus' reign in our world. This text asks us to make space to hear God's voice in our life – a voice we share with those around us, and that tells us that we, too, are God's beloved.



The voice of God, which spoke from the clouds at Jesus' baptism, still speaks in lives today. It speaks a word of love and promise to all who are baptized, offering identity and belonging. In the form of the Holy Spirit, God's voice also speaks to us in prayer, in ritual and tradition, in loving actions, and in all who thirst for justice. Where do you hear God's voice in your life?

### **Connecting scripture and life**

- How is the Holy Spirit moving in your community? Where does the spirit move for justice?
- How might God be speaking to you/your faith community about ways to care for those affected by the pandemic, economic distress, hunger, climate change?

## **NEWS AND NOTICES**



### **Baptism Welcome**

Today we welcome to Good Shepherd Church, the Killalea family, Craig and Shirley with children Hailey and Connor. We are delighted for Hailey and Connor as they begin a new life in Christ through Baptism. May God bless them with peace and joy

## FANCY THAT OP SHOP

204 Mary St

We're re-opening on Monday, 13th January at 9 am.

Pop in and have a look at the amazing array of bric-a-brac, clothes and many other items we have.

We're open each weekday from 9 am to 3 pm and Saturday mornings 9 -12 noon.

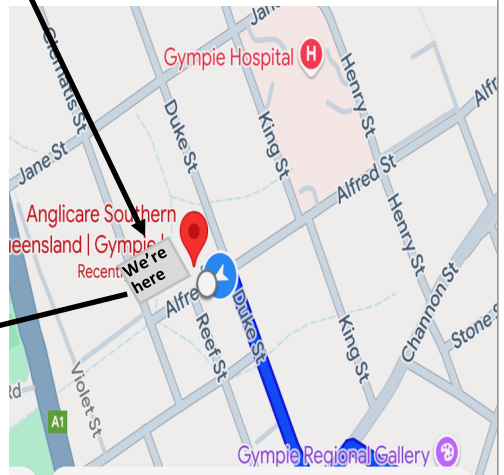
We look forward to seeing you soon.



Each Sunday for the next weeks we'll be worshipping at the **ANGLICARE BUILDING** Conference Room in Alfred St.

There's plenty of parking near the conference room entry door & in the street.

While St Peter's Church undergoes repairs to its roof from storm damage, we'll be holding services at the Anglicare building (44 Duke St -the old Dept of Transport/Vehicle Registration Building) Conference room located on the bottom floor which is accessed from Alfred St.



### NEW PARISH CENTRE - Current Situation:

Tenders for the building have been sent to the following builders: Carfax Commercial; Manage Design Build (MDB) & Sutton Building Solutions.



**'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!



### 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**

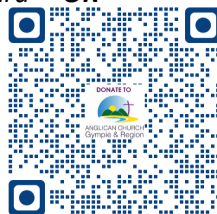
**A) If viewing on your computer or smart phone - click on the QR Code and it will take you to the B-Point website to make a donation by credit card** **OR**

**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.



## 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](mailto:anglican.gympie@bigpond.com)

**Website:** [www.anglicangympie.org.au](http://www.anglicangympie.org.au)

**Facebook:** *Anglican Church Gympie*

*Mainly music Gympie Anglican*

*Fancy That Op Shop-Gympie*