



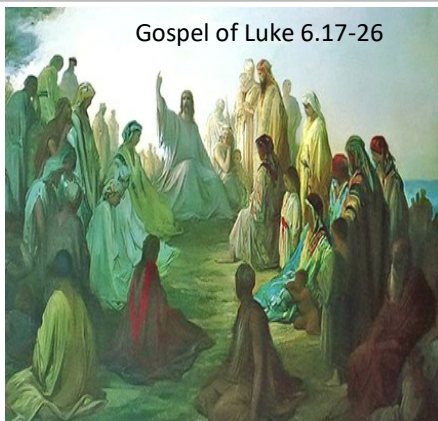
OUR MISSION:
*Living and telling the good news of Jesus Christ,
reaching out to all in love and service.*

OUR VISION:
To be an outward looking Church

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

16th February 2025

*O God, nourish us in life so that
we, your people, may bear the
fruits of justice and peace to our
communities and our world.
Amen.*



Gospel of Luke 6.17-26

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: Blessed are you when people hate you on account of the Son of man. Rejoice and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. Luke 6.23

Prayer of the Day: Righteous God, you challenge the powers that rule this world and you show favour to the oppressed: instil in us a true sense of justice, that we may discern the signs of your kingdom and strive for right to prevail; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings: This Sunday

Jeremiah 17.5-10 Ps 1
1 Corinthians 15.12-20 Luke 6.17-26

Next Sunday

Genesis 45.3-11, 15 Ps 37.1-11, 40-41
1 Corinthians 15.35-50 Luke 6.27-38

Sunday Services in our Region

- **Gympie:** Anglicare Conference Room ► 8.30 am & 5.30 pm (see Notices)
- **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 Bangladesh*

National: *The Diocese of Newcastle*

Our Diocese: ● *The Parish of Torres Strait Islander Parish* ● *CMS*
● *The Glennie School, Toowoomba*

Local:

Ministry: *Parish Choir and Musicians*

MU Ministry: *Almighty God, we bring the nation of South Sudan before you as it still struggles with conflict and the growing influence of Islam. We pray for the diocese of Bentiu and for MU members as they support and encourage each other in these difficult times. May they remain steadfast in their faith in you as they care for those in need. Amen*

In Need: *Jim Alford; David Arthur; Azzrah; Nicholas Barrett; Bruce Barton; Val Deans; Pam Dorman; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Baby Louis; Jenny; Graham & Val McClurg; Shirley Summerville; Graham and Beris Trainer; Melodie Zylstra.*

ABM Reflection

St Luke reports to us today that Jesus announces what appears to be a topsy-turvy world, one where the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful and the hated will be blessed by God – unlike the rich, the ones with full bellies, the ones who now laugh, and the well-regarded. This explanation of how God wants the world to work should cause us all to ask ourselves how we, individually and corporately, can create space for the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful and the hated to be welcomed among us.

- Pray that we can become ever more inclusive, both personally and as a Church.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

text: Robert McLean © Anglican Board of Mission, 2025

Parish Calendar

16/2 3 rd Sunday	17/2 3 rd Mon	18/2 3 rd Tuesday	19/2 3 rd Wed	20/2 3 rd Thurs	21/2 3 rd Fri	22/2 4 th Sat
6 th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 8.30 am Gympie 9.30 am Rainbow Beach 5.30 pm St Peter's & Zoom	9.30-12 Mainly Music	5.00 pm Meditation @ Anglicare Bldg	9.30 am Cooinda Aged Care Evening Bible Study <i>Pls enquire</i>	10.00 Homeless Connect 2.30 pm Bible Study @ Anglicare Bldg		
23/2 4 th Sunday	24/2 4 th Mon	25/2 4 th Tuesday	26/2 4 th Wed	27/2 4 th Thurs	28/2 4 th Fri	1/3 1 st Sat
7 th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Parish AGM 8.30 am Gympie 9.30 am Rainbow Bch 5.30 pm St Peter's & Zoom	9.30-12 Mainly Music	9.30 am MU Service @ Anglicare Bldg 5.00 pm Meditation @ Anglicare Bldg 5.15 pm Community Action Board Meeting	Evening Bible Study <i>Pls enquire</i>	Noon Regional Deanery 2.30 pm Bible Study @ Anglicare Bldg		



This Week's Readings

First reading from the Prophet Jeremiah 17.5-10

⁵Thus says the Lord : Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. ⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. ⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? ¹⁰I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 1

¹ Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly: nor followed the way of sinners, nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.

² **But their delight is in the law of the Lord:**

and on that law will they ponder day and night.

³ They are like trees planted beside streams of water: that yield their fruit in due season.

⁴ **Their leaves also shall not wither:**

and look, whatever they do, it shall prosper.

⁵ As for the ungodly, it is not so with them:

they are like the chaff which the wind scatters.

⁶ **Therefore the ungodly shall not stand up at the judgement:**

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

⁷ For the Lord cares for the way of the righteous:

but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Second reading from 1 Corinthians 15.12-20

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

(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 Luke 6.17-26

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

¹⁷He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said: ‘Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹‘Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. ‘Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²²‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴‘But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵‘Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. ‘Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶‘Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

(Pause for reflection)

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

REFLECTION

Blessings and Woes

Life that is grounded in God brings blessing. Like trees nourished by streams of water, we grow in faith as we join others who seek justice and live into the fullness of God’s reign.

Jeremiah 17:5–10 Plant a rosebush in the desert and leave it for a few days, then plant another one in the garden where it is well-tended and watered. What happens to each? Jeremiah uses this imagery to describe both the people who fail to trust God and those who do.

Psalms 1 begins with the words, “Happy are those...,” and is closely tied to themes found in the book of Proverbs and the Wisdom tradition. The feminine and creative spirit of Wisdom provides teachings that bring depth and meaning to the law and offers listeners a way of life that is full of justice and righteousness. Using the image of trees planted near streams of water, we are encouraged to bear good fruit.

Paul proclaims in **1 Corinthians 15:12–20** that we can bear the fruit of God’s righteousness in our lives because of the resurrection of Christ. Since Christ has been

raised from the dead, those grounded in Christ's promise can celebrate a new life. To Paul, there is strength for today in this future hope.

Luke 6:17–26 Imagine the scene: Jesus goes up a mountain to pray and stays all night. The next morning, he calls the disciples together and chooses twelve to be apostles (Luke 6:12–16). As they come down the mountain, an enormous healing-seeking crowd is waiting for them. In this group, there are other disciples, Jews (those noted as coming from Judea and Jerusalem), and Gentiles (those noted as coming from Tyre and Sidon). Jesus turns to the disciples and says, “Blessed are you.”

In this way, the gospel of Luke begins Jesus' teaching with what is commonly called the Beatitudes. These sayings are also recorded in Matthew 5:1–12. While Matthew has nine Beatitudes, Luke's four are followed by four corresponding woes. Poor/rich, hungry/full, weeping/ laughing, and rejected/accepted form parallel pairings. Jesus' use of the word “you” in each statement suggests that the crowd included individuals living in each of these situations.

In Luke, these sayings of Jesus mark the beginning of a lengthy period of instruction for the disciples before Jesus sends them out on their own (9:6).

As named in Deuteronomy 11:26–28, Jesus' hearers would have considered blessing to be a sign of God's favour and woe a sign of God's disapproval or judgment. The ways that Bible translators have rendered these phrases offer additional insight for us. The phrase “blessed are” (NRSV) is translated in other Bible versions as “God will bless,” “Happy are,” and “You're blessed when.” The phrase “woe to” (NRSV) is translated as “You're in for trouble,” “How terrible for you,” and “It's trouble ahead.”

Jesus' message to those who would follow as disciples is one of astounding promise.

For many in that crowd, these words may have seemed full of justice and mercy. For others, they may have seemed a harsh judgment. Jesus speaks prophetically of the great reversal of human understanding that we encounter in the reign of God. As Jesus continues to be revealed as a great teacher, his message continues to reveal the surprising way of God. The good news is not always easy to embrace and follow.



There are blessings and woes in life, and God's people are not exempt. Trusting in God, we are blessed to bring healing and blessing to others, inviting them to participate in the vision offered in Jesus' teaching. What strengthens you to continue bearing such fruit?

Connecting scripture and life

Most of the world continues to live in great poverty. The Beatitudes carry with them the message of both blessing and call to action as powerfully today as they did over 2000 years ago.

- Where and how might you, individually and as a church, participate in the vision Jesus offers of a world of abundance, joy, and mercy for all?

NEWS AND NOTICES



NEXT Sunday, 23rd February at 9.30 am.

Immediately following our 8.30 am Service

Please join us for this important milestone in our Parish year.

Nomination forms for Wardens, Parish Councilors and Nominators are located at the back of the conference room. Completed forms to be placed in the *Nominations* box.

We look forward to your nominations either as a returning officer or new nominee.

Copies of the 2024 Annual Report are available this Sunday. You are welcome to request an emailed copy.

We wish to thank the members of our 2024 Parish Council who have ably served the Parish this past year:

Wardens & Nominators: Dr John Wright, Sue Topalov, Rene Dekker

Councilors: Gay Lohse, May Nash, Bronwyn Saunders (& Treasurer),
Graham Ward, Maxine Wegner

Synod Representatives: Dr John & Jennie Wright-continuing in 2025



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, 5th March 2025

SERVICES AT: ● Rainbow Beach Good Shepherd Church at 9.30 am &

● Gympie (Anglicare Bldg - see below) at 5 pm

ALL WELCOME



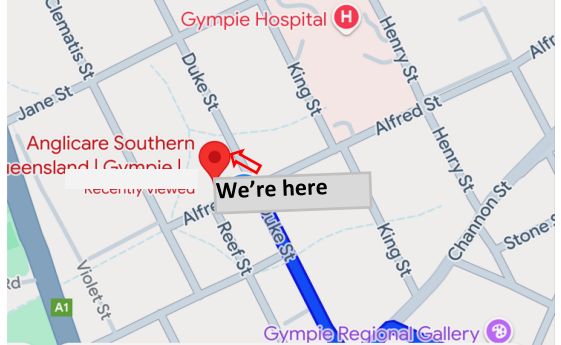
We're now gathering at the ANGLICARE IN THEIR DOWNSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM
From and including 2nd February until further notice.

Ministry Groups gathering at Anglicare are:

- Bible Study - 2.30 pm Thursday's until further notice
- Christian Meditation - Tuesday's, at 5 pm

Please speak with your ministry leader if you have any questions.

Conference Room Entry Door



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

Community
Prayer Breakfast
2025

Friday, 28 Feb at 6.30 am
Memorial Park, Gympie
Breakfast \$10 pp
or \$40 Family

Use your device to scan the QR
Code go straight to the booking
office and purchase your tickets
on line OR



For more information & tickets
please contact Gympie
Wesleyan Methodist Church on
54823618

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.

LENTEN STUDY

Ash Wednesday (5th March) is fast approaching meaning Lenten Studies starts soon after. We ask you to think about whether you'd like to study alone or in a group - perhaps hosting a Lenten study group of your own - either in your home or another suitable venue. St Peter's will still be undergoing repairs but we'll advise as the time gets closer where we'll gather. The study will be HOPE 25 suitable for self study or groups. Books will be available shortly cost \$10 per copy.



TODAY AT 2.30 pm in the Uniting Church on Red Hill Road.

Uniting Church HymnFest/Favourite Hymns Afternoon

Please bring a small plate of food to share for afternoon tea afterwards.

Songs are chosen by the people and we sing from Mission Praise which

has a lovely selection of hymns and choruses. We sing for about an hour then enjoy fellowship over a cuppa. *Inquiries: Narelle 0418 729 268.*

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

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.

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

Website: www.anglicangympie.org.au

Facebook: [Anglican Church Gympie](#)

Mainly music Gympie Anglican

Fancy That Op Shop-Gympie