



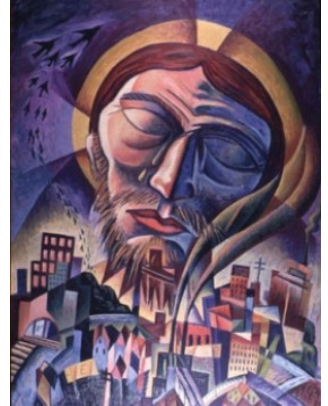
**OUR MISSION:**  
*Living and telling the good news of Jesus Christ,  
reaching out to all in love and service.*

**OUR VISION:**  
*To be an outward looking Church*

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

16th March 2025

*Covenant God, may we trust in you when the evidence says don't. May we follow you when the world says not to. May we live with the impossible when everything else says we can't. May we hear the promise in our souls, and live it in our world. Amen.*



## Sentence & Prayer of the Day

**Sentence:** Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3.20

**Prayer of the Day:** God of our ancestors, whose chosen servant Abraham was given faith to obey your call and go out into the unknown: endow your Church with such faith that we may follow you with courage; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Readings: This Sunday

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18 Ps 27  
Philippians 3.17-4.1 Luke 13.31-35

## Next Sunday

Isaiah 55.1-9 Ps 63.1-9  
1 Corinthians 10.1-13 Luke 13.1-9

## 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 the Province of Central Africa*

**National:** *The Diocese of Newcastle*

**Our Diocese:** • *The Parish of Bundaberg* • *Inala Careforce* • *The Glennie School, Toowoomba*

**Local:**

**Ministry:** *Fr Shaji, Frida and family*

**MU Ministry:** *Almighty God, we give thanks for the vibrant fellowship and encouragement in the Mothers Union in Tarime, Tanzania, and pray for the ongoing ministry and mission of the Mothers Union. May the Sewing Centre not only help those who come to acquire skills to provide an income for the future, but also be an encouragement to their faith in Jesus. Amen*

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

## ABM Reflection

In Luke's account, Jesus foretells his own death when warned about Herod by some Pharisees. He also tells them that despite being the 'holy city' Jerusalem is the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! Their city is a void. He prophesises that they will say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord' when he returns to Jerusalem.

- May we recognise who Jesus is and welcome him into our hearts with cries of acclamation.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

*text: Robert McLean © Anglican Board of Mission, 2025*

# Parish Calendar

16/3 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	17/3 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	18/3 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	19/3 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	20/3 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	21/3 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	22/3 4 <sup>th</sup> Sat
<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 8.30 am Gympie 9.30 am Rainbow Bch 5.30 pm Gympie & ZOOM	9.30-12 Mainly Music	5.00 pm Meditation @Anglicare Bldg	9.30 am Cooinda Aged Care-SJ	10.00 Homeless Connect 3.00 pm Bible Study @Anglicare Bldg		
23/3 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	24/3 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	25/3 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	26/3 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	27/3 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	28/3 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	29/3 5 <sup>th</sup> Sat
<b>THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 8.30 am Gympie 9.30 am Rainbow Bch 5.30 pm Gympie & 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-SJ	Evening Bible Study P/s enquire	Noon Regional Deanery 3.00 pm Bible Study @Anglicare Bldg		



# This Week's Readings

## First reading from Genesis 15.1-12; 15.17-18

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' <sup>8</sup> But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' <sup>9</sup> He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

*(Pause for reflection)*

Hear the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

## Psalm 27

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?:  
the Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> **When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, come upon me to devour me:  
they shall stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> If an army encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid:  
and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I have asked from the Lord, which I will require:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,**

<sup>5</sup> To see the fair beauty of the Lord:  
and to seek his will in his temple.

<sup>6</sup> **For he will hide me under his shelter in the day of trouble:  
and conceal me in the shadow of his tent, and set me high upon a rock.**

<sup>7</sup> And now he will lift up my head:  
above my enemies round about me.

<sup>8</sup> **And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary with exultation:  
I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.**

<sup>9</sup> O Lord, hear my voice when I cry:  
have mercy upon me and answer me.

<sup>10</sup> **My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face':  
your face, Lord, I will seek.**

<sup>11</sup> Do not hide your face from me:  
or thrust your servant aside in displeasure;

<sup>12</sup> **For you have been my helper:**

**do not cast me away or forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

<sup>13</sup> Though my father and my mother forsake me:

the Lord will take me up.

<sup>14</sup> **Teach me your way, O Lord:**

**and lead me in an even path, for they lie in wait for me.**

<sup>15</sup> Do not give me over to the will of my enemies:

for false witnesses have risen against me, and those who breathe out violence.

<sup>16</sup> **But I believe that I shall surely see the goodness of the Lord:**

**in the land of the living.**

<sup>17</sup> O wait for the Lord; stand firm and he will strengthen your heart:

and wait, I say, for the Lord.

**A reading from Philippians 3.17-4.1**

**3** <sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. **4** <sup>1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. *(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 13.31-35**

**GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST**

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' <sup>32</sup> He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem."

<sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

*(Pause for reflection)*

For the Gospel of the Lord

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**REFLECTION**

**Ritual of Promise**

When you find yourself in a space such as Lent, where life seems thinner than usual and the journey more focused than normal, what do you do to keep journeying on? In ancient times, rituals helped to remind the people of the promise, as yet unfulfilled, and gave reason to trust what seemed to be impossible.

**Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18** Abram finds himself living within a promise. This reading describes the ritual that establishes the covenant between Abram and God, which is meant to be enough for Abram and Sarai to trust God despite all the evidence to the contrary. Abram and Sarai have been promised children, but all Abram can see is that his line will be continued through his slave Eliezer of Damascus. You can hear the disappointment in the voice of Abram. Only later will he understand the truth; for now he must trust.

Which brings us to the great dramatic ritual of cutting the animals in half and laying them out with fire passing through them. This may have been an ancient ritual whereby two sides come together to form a treaty, dividing the riches equally. The fire stands as a symbol of cleansing and forging. Whatever its origins, this ritual is a means to establish a new relationship. Ritual is the visual sign of something that has been forged between two people or nations or, in this case, between God and Abram.

In our contemporary world, we see treaties being made regularly; forming new communities, establishing peace, symbolizing a new cooperation in economics or politics. Treaties are a symbol, and more importantly a concrete means, of preparing now for the future. Treaty making is work we do now in order that the future will be better. For Abram and Sarai, their work is simply to believe and trust, but it began with questions. While the oft quoted Genesis 15:6 suggests that this was easy for Abram, to believe and trust was not easy for him. Yet what else can he do? The covenant has been established and all there is to do is believe it and strive to live within that promise. The ritual that established the relationship between God and Abram began with questions, which expressed frustrations and doubts.

**Psalms 27** is an expression of trust, despite what the evidence seems to be saying. The promises of God are the foundations of the writer's faith, even when everything seems to be going in the opposite direction. Yet there are moments where desperation might be heard in the writer's voice: "I am believing you, God, with all my soul I believe your promises: show me some sign you are with me." Living in the promise offers hope for the future, but it is not always easy to hold on to in the present.

**Philippians 3:17–4:1** calls us to live beyond the present and into the future. These are bold words for those who live through present difficulties; hope lies in the future. Such rhetoric can be shallow. Many political leaders and autocrats have used the promise of the future to justify the present. The difference here is that the writer is living through the same difficulties as the Philippians, sharing in their struggles.

**Luke 13:31–35** speaks in this way, too. Hold to the promise to make sense of the present.

•••••

Perhaps it is true of God's covenant that God is living through the present and into the future as much as we are, toward a future still to take shape. This may be our experience as we move through the wilderness of Lent: We trust the future, but the present experiences count against that. What words and rituals do you hold on to that keep you on the journey of faith?

### **Connecting scripture and life**

With Abram and Sarai, we have questions and wonderings about what will come.

- **What makes it possible for you to live toward the promise of God's realm and its ultimate fulfillment, freed from fear and anchored in hope?**
- **Where or in what situations do you see a need for a ritual to help people through an event or moment?**
- **What rituals might you establish to assist the journey through the present and trust the future?**

# NEWS AND NOTICES



# CONNECT

Sunshine Coast  
Sunday 6 April 2025

Hear from



**Simon & Angela Owen**  
Life & Ministry in Cloncurry

**Richard Gibson**  
Principal, Brisbane School of Theology

**Mike Uptin**  
An update on BCA around the region



St Peter's Maroochydore  
2 pm – 5 pm

includes Afternoon Tea

Adults \$10\*, Children (under 12) free

**REGISTER NOW** [bushchurchaid.com.au/events](http://bushchurchaid.com.au/events)  
via the QR code or visit our website



## GATHERING

Whilst this Sunday our 8.30 am Service will be held at the Anglicare conference room, *from Sunday week*, 23rd March, we'll be back worshipping at St Peter's. We'd like to thank Anglicare Gympie for their generosity in allowing us the use of their space for the last seven weeks.

*Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.*

# HOPE<sup>25</sup>

*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

The study will be HOPE 25 suitable for self study or groups.

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.

## LENTEN BOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Copy(ies) may be obtained at the Sunday Service in Gympie (Anglicare Bldg) and Church Office.

Copies are free to all, though if you'd like to make a donation you are most welcome.

# HOLY WEEK SERVICES



13th April

## Palm Sunday

- 8.30 am St Peter's - Gympie
- 9.30 am Good Shepherd - Rainbow Beach
- 4pm Classical Music Concert in St Peter's

16th April

## Wednesday Service

12 noon  
St Peter's

A short service followed by light refreshment

17th April

## Maunday Thursday

5 pm  
St Peter's

Agape Meal

18th April

## Good Friday

- 9.00 am St Peter's - Gympie
- 9.30 am Good Shepherd Rainbow Beach

20th April

## Easter Day

- 8.30 am St Peter's - Gympie
- 9.30 am Good Shepherd - Rainbow Beach

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Sunday, 13th April @ 4 pm**

Gympie Strings  
 Concert  
 playing  
 classical and  
 light  
 entertainment  
 music.

# LENT APPEAL 2025

175 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1850 - 2025



Please put your donation in an envelope marked "Lent appeal" and place in the offering bowl.



*Helping women break free from violence, injustice and oppression*

### NEW PARISH CENTRE - Current Situation:

Tenders have been received and are currently under review



**'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!



# Fancy That Op Shop

204 Mary St, Gympie Phn: 0493 378 944

Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm

Saturday 9 am to 12 noon

Closed Public Holidays

An outreach of



## 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:** [gympie@anglicanchurchsq.org.au](mailto:gympie@anglicanchurchsq.org.au)

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

**Facebook:** [Anglican Church Gympie](#)

*Mainly music Gympie Anglican*

*Fancy That Op Shop-Gympie*

