



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 OF EASTER

27th April 2025

*Grant us a voice, O God, that breaks into all
silence and speaks out in your name. May we
find the gospel words that speak into poverty
and for justice, that proclaim heaven's
authority and love's agenda. When others wish
to silence the good news, may we shout it even
louder. Amen.*



Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: Jesus said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' John 20.27

Prayer of the Day: Living God, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked: draw us beyond our doubts, till we see your Christ and touch his wounds where they bleed in others. This we ask through Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings: This Sunday

Acts 5.27-32 Psalm 118.14-29
Revelation 1.4-8 John 20.19-31

Next Sunday

Acts 9.1-6 Psalm 30
Revelations 5.6-14 John 21.1-19

Sunday Services in our Region

- **Gympie:** St Peter's Church ▶ 8.30 am & 5.30 pm in person & via Zoom
(See pg 8)
- **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 the Indian Ocean*

National: *The Diocese of Willochra*

Our Diocese: • *The Parish of Ipswich* • *Roslyn Lodge Pastoral Visitation Program, Mt Tamborine.*

Local:

Ministry: *Children’s Ministry: Kidz Church*

MU Ministry: *Gracious Lord, we thank you for the partnership of the Diocese of Kigezi with the Diocese of Armidale as they equip, encourage and support gospel workers in North Kigezi. May members have the opportunity to share the hope of the gospel as they care for those in the community who need emergency relief and guidance in parenting. We pray too for members in the Northern Territory and President Pam Powell as they gather and pray for relationship with indigenous Australians. Amen.*

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

ABM Reflection

Today’s reading shows us how important doubt is to faith. It is ‘Doubting Thomas’ who is the first to proclaim that Jesus is God, not the others. It is Thomas, who having weighed things up in his mind, and presented with the truth, who comes to a spiritual breakthrough. May we embrace doubt as something good and necessary for a robust, lively faith.

- Pray for those who experience long periods of questioning and uncertainty as they work through their faith.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Amity Foundation, China

text: Robert McLean © Anglican Board of Mission, 2025

Fortnight Ahead

27/4 4 th Sunday	8/4 4 th Monday	29/4 5 th Tuesday	30/4 5 th Wednesday	1/5 1 st Thursday	2/5 1 st Friday	3/5 1 st Sat
2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER 8.30 am St Peter’s 9.30 am Rainbow Bch- 5.30 pm St Peter’s & Zoom	9.30–12 Mainly Music	5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P	Noon Service @ St P Evening Bible Study Pls enquire	3.00 pm Bible Study @ St.P 5.30 pm Pitch-In Choir		
4/5 1 st Sunday	5/5 1 st Monday	6/5 1 st Tuesday	7/5 1 st Wednesday	8/5 2 nd Thursday	9/5 2 nd Friday	10/5 2 nd Sat
3rd Sunday of Easter 7.30 am Tin Can Bay 8.30 am St Peter’s-Kidz Church <i>Baptism: Johnson</i> 9.30 am Rainbow Bch 5.30 pm St Peter’s & Zoom	Public holiday Labour Day	5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P	Noon Service @ St P Evening Bible Study Pls enquire	3.00 pm Bible Study @ St.P 5.30 pm Pitch-In Choir	OFFICE CLOSED Parish admin Training 9-5pm	



This Week's Readings

First reading from Acts 5.27-32

²⁷When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

(Pause for reflection)

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 118.14-29

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song:
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **The sounds of joy and deliverance:
are in the tents of the righteous.**

¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord does mighty things:
the right hand of the Lord raises up.

¹⁷ **I shall not die but live:
and proclaim the works of the Lord.**

¹⁸ The Lord has disciplined me hard:
but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open me the gates of righteousness:
and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.**

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord:
the righteous shall enter it.

²¹ **I will praise you, for you answered me:
and have become my salvation.**

²² The stone that the builders rejected:
has become the head of the corner.

²³ **This is the Lord's doing:
and it is marvellous in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made:
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ **O Lord, save us, we pray:
O Lord, send us prosperity.**

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes, in the name of the Lord:
from the house of the Lord we bless you.

²⁷ **The Lord is God, and he has given us light:
guide the festal throng up to the horns of the altar.**

²⁸ You are my God and I will praise you:

you are my God, I will exalt you.

²⁹ **O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
and his mercy endures for ever.**

A reading from 2nd Reading: Revelation 1.4-8

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

(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 20.19-31

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

(Pause for reflection)

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Resurrection Witness

The second Sunday of Easter is also known as Low Sunday, as it comes at the end of Easter week. Rather than a Sunday to retire from and fold away the alleluias, it is a Sunday that speaks of bolder confidence and assurance from the disciples. On Easter Day, the disciples are in the upper room, afraid and unsure. This week, we hear them proclaiming confidently the risen Christ.

Acts 5:27–32 is an interesting way to begin the Season of Easter, with Peter and the apostles brought to court for breaking the orders not to proclaim Jesus Christ risen. Acts 5:27–32 is a short moment in a much longer story of the early church growing, moving out, and spreading the news of Christ’s resurrection. Yet the author of Luke-Acts continues to slight the Jewish authorities who never seem to “get it”; they are portrayed as standing in the way of the gospel message.

This story is about Jews speaking to Jews; no one has called anyone “Christian” yet. The struggle is between one part of a movement and another. What moved for or in the apostles that drove them from the uncertainty of the upper room to the confidence of preaching the risen Christ against the Sanhedrin’s orders? The whole context of Acts, the steady growth through the retelling of the story of Jesus, is perhaps a reason for their increased confidence. The story is attractive and powerful; as confidence builds through its retelling and growing familiarity, the apostles trust it more and more, which leads them to stand against the authorities.

This story is repeated around the world as persecuted believers speak out about their faith. It offers an account of real boldness that also speaks into situations of our time: taboo issues, abuse, secrets that authorities have been frightened to name. In many ways, it is a story of an ideal where the faithful few find they have a new authority to speak out on the side of truth and faith and justice. For the faith community today, where does that boldness come from? The passage perhaps can be summed up in one phrase: What would you say if the tape came away from your mouth? The confidence found in **Psalm 118:14–29** can encourage us. Here, the writer has found the strength to give witness to the deeds of God. Perhaps this is where the confidence comes, for it is not about self but about the acts of God.

Revelation 1:4–8 offers us a formulaic piece that proclaims a God of past, present, and future. It calls us to trust this God, who was faithful in the past and will be faithful in the future. Therefore, we should be bold and live out our faith today, as those who were faithful in the past lived out their faith. However, the present can be the more difficult time to believe, especially after a very intense set of stories of God who seems to have gone quiet, as Thomas finds in **John 20:19–31**. It is as if Thomas is saying: I know the past stories, but what about today? How can I believe today? Thomas needs to witness something in order to witness, and Jesus meets him in that need.



Our call as a faith community is to grow in the story and to witness to what we know. In the repeated retelling of the Resurrection, there is a time when the fear moves over and confidence begins. May we be sent out in that confidence, where we rest on the authority of the faith rather than of the world, and become “witnesses to these things.”

Connecting scripture and life

In many ways, Acts 5:27–32 is the story of an ideal where the faithful few find they have a new authority to speak on the side of truth and faith and justice.

- To what extent or in what ways does Christian witness today contradict and challenge the world powers?
- What message seems most important for the church to proclaim at this time?

NEWS AND NOTICES



Baptism:

On Sunday, 4th May we'll welcome Braden and Kelsey to St Peter's for the baptism of baby Daisy. Kelsey is the great granddaughter of Val and Bill Deans.

On this day we will also welcome the extended Deans family to St Peter's, and as we were unable to hold Val's funeral here due to repairs, we will hold Val in our prayers on this day as well.

Winter Shelter update

Overview. Utilising Church spaces to sleep homeless during winter based on the Stable One model. Subject to meeting criteria (for both persons seeking shelter and Churches offering their space and volunteers), it is hopeful that this initiative will be running in August for that month only and if successful will be rolled out for winter 2026.

Thank you to the 12 people (and to the other seven who were interested but unable to attend) who attended our meeting last Wednesday. It was terrific to hear all your ideas, concerns and thoughts about this wonderful initiative in our community. If there is anyone interested in finding out more about Winter Shelter please do not hesitate to contact the office or Fr Shaji for more information.



Mainly Music recommences this Monday, 28th April at St John's Place.



ST PETER'S MIDDAY WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We're Back! St Peter's Wednesday Service

Join us at 12 noon this coming **Wednesday**, for a short service followed by light refreshment.

We look forward to seeing familiar and new faces joining us for this short service. Light refreshment and fellowship follow.

St Peter's Sunday 5.30 pm Service

The 5.30 pm Service recommences this Sunday, 27th April. All welcome to join us for this contemplative evening service.



Episcopal Visit & Confirmations



We are pleased to announce that the Bishop for the Northern Region, the Right Reverend Sarah Plowman, will be visiting St Peter's on Sunday, 31st August 2025. If you would like to be Confirmed or Baptised and Confirmed please speak with Fr Shaji or contact the Church office.



THE LENT / EASTER APPEAL WILL BE CLOSING SOON.
PLEASE HAVE YOUR DONATIONS IN BY 30th APRIL

LENT APPEAL 2025

175 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY
1850 - 2025



Please put your donation in an envelope marked "Lent appeal" and place in the offering bowl or donate online - see pg 8



Helping women break free from violence, injustice and oppression

CONCERT AT ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Keep the date. Gympie....
Sunday, 4th May at 2pm
A Celebration of Song

Showcasing the choral talents of local choirs in an iconic venue with superb acoustics and natural light

...presented by...

Helping women to heal their hearts & restore their lives
for women communities in South Africa

**St Patrick's Church,
Gympie**

Entry \$20

Ph 0488774950

NEW PARISH CENTRE - Current Situation:

A contract is likely to be signed in the next month after Diocesan approval.



'TAP, SWIPE, INSERT' for Sunday Giving: EFTPOS is now available at the back of the church for contactless giving. The Offering 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 Ex: "Giving", "... Appeal".

- 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

Website: www.anglicangympie.org.au

Facebook: [Anglican Church Gympie](#)

Mainly music Gympie Anglican

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