



## 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

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

*We praise you, O God, for the gift of creation  
and the surprise of re-creation. Open our eyes to  
see new things. Open our minds to think fresh  
thoughts. Open our communities to welcome  
new partners. Open our spirits to follow your  
Spirit. Amen.*



## Sentence & Prayer of the Day

**Sentence:** 'I give you a new commandment,' says the Lord, 'that you love one another. As I have loved you, you also should love one another.' John 13.34

**Prayer of the Day:** We behold your glory, O God, in the love shown by your Son, lifted up on the cross and exalted on high: be glorified anew in the love we have for one another as disciples of the risen Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Readings: This Sunday

Acts 11.1-18      Ps 148  
Revelation 21.1-6      John 13.31-35

## Next Sunday

Acts 16.9-15      Ps 67  
Rev. 21.10-14, 21.22-22.5      John 14.23-29

## 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 Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East*

**National:** *The Diocese of North West Australia*

**Our Diocese:** • *The Parish of Mt Gravatt* • *St John's Crisis Centre* • *The Springfield Anglican College, Springfield.*

## Local:

**Ministry:** *Parish Volunteers, gardening, silver & brass cleaners, hall cleaners*

**MU Ministry:** *Lord of all, may the Mothers Union members in Grahamstown and Christ the King in South Africa continue to have the strength to persevere and the grace to serve so that their lives may reflect your love and bring hope to many. We pray too for our members in Bunbury, Western Australia as they share a common bond of prayer, love and sharing, dedication and encouragement. Amen*

**In Need:** *Jim Alford; David Arthur; Azzrah; Nicholas Barrett; Bruce Barton; Eveline Crase & Family; Deans family; 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

*Jesus calls his disciples to love one another in the same way that he has loved them. How do we follow this new commandment? Do we embrace it, or do we leave it to others because we feel it's not really our thing? How can we break down our barriers so that love can radiate outwards from our hearts?*

- *Lord, help me to love others extravagantly, abundantly and lavishly, so that people may see you at work in my life.*
- *Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of Central Africa.*

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

## Fortnight Ahead

18/5 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	19/5 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	20/5 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	21/5 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	22/5 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	23/5 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday	24/5 4 <sup>th</sup> Sat
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 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	<b>Noon Service @ St P</b>  9.30 am Cooinda Aged Care  Evening Bible Study <i>Pls enquire</i>	<b>Noon Regional Deanery</b>  3.00 pm Bible Study @ St.P  5.30 pm Pitch-In Choir		1-4 pm Gympie Winter Shelter Training @ St Peter's
25/5 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	26/5 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	27/5 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	28/5 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	29/5 5 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	30/5 5 <sup>th</sup> Friday	31/5 5 <sup>th</sup> Sat
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 8.30 am St Peter's - SJ 9.30 am Rainbow Bch 5.30 pm St Peter's & Zoom	9.30-12 Mainly Music	9.30 am MU Service @ St. P  5.00 pm Meditation @ St. P 5.15 pm Community Action Board Meeting-SJ	<b>Noon Service @ St P</b>  Evening Bible Study <i>Pls enquire</i>	3.00 pm Bible Study @ St.P  5.30 pm Pitch-In Choir		1-4 pm Gympie Winter Shelter Training @ St Peter's

## First reading from Acts 11.1-18

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." <sup>8</sup>But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

*(Pause for reflection)*

Hear the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

## Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:

O praise him in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise him, all his angels:**

**O praise him, all his host.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon:

praise him, all you stars of light.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise him, you highest heaven:**

**and you waters that are above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord:

for he commanded and they were made.

<sup>6</sup> **He established them for ever and ever:**

**he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> O praise the Lord from the earth:  
praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **Fire and hail, mist and snow:  
and storm-wind fulfilling his command;**

<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills:  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:  
creeping things and winged birds;**

<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth, and all peoples:  
princes, and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup> **Young men and maidens:  
old folk and children together.**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord:  
for his name alone is exalted.

<sup>14</sup> **His glory is above earth and heaven:  
and he has lifted high the horn of his people.**

<sup>15</sup> Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:  
of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.

#### **A reading from Revelation 21.1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' <sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

*(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 13.31-35**

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come."

<sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

**(Pause for reflection)**

For the Gospel of the Lord

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

## Reflection

### Boundary Breaking

The Spirit breaks open the community of Christ to move in new ways. How and where we set boundaries in Christian community is always subject to the gracious nature of God's love. The texts this week offer a new vision for God's people and for all of creation. Where the Spirit leads, the church is called to follow in love.

**Acts 11:1–18** The story of Acts has steadily moved to the church becoming more inclusive. Pentecost was a prelude to the welcome of Samaritan believers, of the Ethiopian official, and now of the "God-fearing," gentile Cornelius and his household. Peter reports to the Jerusalem elders that this is the work of the Spirit. Criticism of Peter gives way to praise of God.

The dietary codes set out in Leviticus 14 had defined what could and could not be eaten by followers of Judaism. In verse 6, Peter describes the animals he saw in his vision, coupled with the command to "kill and eat." The animals listed by Peter are not all "unclean." There is no distinction made between those that are "clean" and those that are not. Peter's naming of these animals parallels lists in Genesis 1:24 and 1:26. The summaries of God's creatures are followed closely by the declaration that all are "very good." That goodness of all creation is also a key element of this passage in Acts.

"Profane" is the centrepiece of Peter's initial objection to the vision. It is a word with various meanings. Peter uses it in the sense of something that is not holy. The more general meaning of the Greek word used here, *koinos*, is "common." This same word is the root of *koinonia*. As used in Acts and the epistles, *koinonia* serves as a synonym for the Christian community. *Koinonia* refers to the "common life" shared by those who follow the way of Jesus. Peter thought there was something wrong with things that are "common," yet our life within the Body of Christ is "common." Peter appears before the Jerusalem believers, some of whom have taken exception to the mission to the Gentiles. It is not the first time, nor will it be the last, that witnesses to Jesus find themselves questioned. Earlier, it had been by the Sanhedrin. Here and in Acts 15, it is by a council of Christian leaders. Later, it will be by local magistrates and Roman officials. Whatever the context, one central issue remains the same. How will those in authority balance commitment to tradition with openness to hearing a new word?

**Psalms 148** and **Revelation 21:1–6** share the theme of new ways of seeing and praising God.

In the psalm, all creation has a part in God's praise. Even unclean things, as in Peter's vision, are given a voice and place. The author of Revelation celebrates God's working of a new creation. A new heaven and new earth invite a fresh perspective and bring hope.

Love as the touchstone of God's nature and activity stands at the core of **John 13:31–35**. On the cusp of betrayal by one of his disciples, Jesus gives a new commandment, "love one another" (v. 34). The term "commandant" recalls God's covenant with Moses.

The new world – the new covenant – that Jesus ushers in is marked by love and serving rather than by betrayal and violence.

Revelation 21:4 gives witness to such love. In tenderness, God's love wipes away our tears. In power, God's love destroys death. Such love returns us to Acts, where all find a place in community by the grace of God's love.



God has done, and still does, new things in our midst. God seeks individuals and communities willing to risk new ways of seeing and receiving. How can we open ourselves to welcome the still emerging and unfolding story of God's gracious actions in our time? In what new ways might Jesus' command to love take shape for you and your faith community?

### **Connecting scripture and life**

- What are the divisions that still abide in the church?
- How might we learn to be a community that exists to build bridges, not barriers?

*Seasons of the Spirit™ SeasonsFUSION Lent • Easter 2022*

# News & Notices



## 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.



## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Join us in St Peter's each Tuesday at 5 pm for a quiet, reflective session of Christian Meditation. All welcome.

## Wednesday's Midday Service (Lunch-time friendly)

Come join us for this peaceful, reflective 20-minute service held in St Peter's Lady Chapel at 12 pm sharp. All welcome  
Light refreshment and chat follows.



mainly music est. 1990

## *Mainly Music is taking a short break....*

Due to construction of a new kitchen at St John's Place we'll not be holding Mainly Music on **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June**. Work should be completed that week and we'll be back on the 'carpet' on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> June at 9.30 am.



## NEW PARISH CENTRE – Current Situation

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

**'TAP, SWIPE, INSERT' for Sunday Giving:** EFTPOS is now available at the back of the church for contactless giving



# Fancy That Op Shop

Est. 1994

204 Mary St, Gympie  
Phn: 0493 378 944

9-3 Weekdays; 9-12 Sat

An outreach of



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**FROM KITCHENWARE, GARDEN**  
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**ACCESSORIES, PLANTS AND MUCH**  
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## 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 **Acct Number:** 0000 5910

**Please use all the four zeros when entering the Acct No.**

- 2) **Using the QR Code to donate via Commonwealth Bank BPoint Credit Card website**

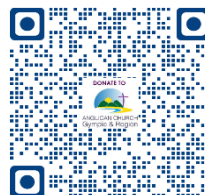
A) **If viewing on your computer or smart phone** - click on the QR Code and it will take you to the B-Point website to make a donation by credit card **OR**

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: E.g. "Giving General" "... Appeal" "Giving Tree". etc**

- 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](https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanChurchGympie)

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