

## 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*

**1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**



*God of new beginnings,  
breathe your Spirit into us.  
Renew our hearts,  
and lead us deeper into your  
love.  
Amen.*

## Weekly Pastoral Reflection

Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night, cautious yet curious. Jesus does not shame him, but invites him into deeper life — a life shaped by Spirit, not certainty. Lent is like this quiet conversation. We come with questions, habits, and half-understood faith, and Jesus meets us with grace. New birth is not instant perfection, but a slow opening to God's love. As we journey through Lent, we are invited to trust that God is already at work within us, gently reshaping our hearts, renewing our vision, and drawing us toward the life that truly is life.

## Sentence & Prayer of the Day

**Sentence:** God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3.16

**Prayer of the Day:** God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive: grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ, that in every way we may prove to be your loving children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Readings

### First Reading from Genesis 12.1-4a

<sup>1</sup> Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' <sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

**Hear the Word of the Lord.**

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**Biblical background:** God calls Abram to leave everything familiar and trust a promise not yet seen. This moment marks the beginning of God's covenant journey with a people shaped by faith.

**Meaning & relevance today:** Faith often begins with a call to step forward without certainty. God invites us to trust his promise and move toward a future shaped by hope rather than fear.

**Reflect:** • What is God inviting me to leave behind? • Where am I being called to trust God more deeply?

### **Psalm 121**

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills:  
but where shall I find help?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the Lord:  
who has made heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> He will not suffer your foot to stumble:  
and he who watches over you will not sleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Be sure he who has charge of Israel:  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

<sup>5</sup> The Lord himself is your keeper:  
the Lord is your defence upon your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **The sun shall not strike you by day:  
nor shall the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will defend you from all evil:  
it is he who will guard your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord will defend your going out and your coming in:  
from this time forward for evermore.**

### **Second Reading from Romans 4.1-5; 4.13-17**

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?

<sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. <sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. <sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**Hear the Word of the Lord.**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**Biblical background:** Paul points to Abraham as one who was made righteous through faith, not by works. God's promise rests on grace and is open to all who believe.

**Meaning & relevance today:** Our relationship with God is a gift, not an achievement. We live by trust in God's grace rather than by proving our worth.

**Reflect:** • Where do I rely on effort instead of grace? • How does faith shape my daily living?

### The Holy Gospel

#### The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 3.1-17

##### Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

##### For the Gospel of the Lord

##### Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

**Biblical background:** Jesus speaks with Nicodemus about being "born from above." God's love is revealed in the gift of the Son, offered not to condemn the world, but to save it.

**Meaning & relevance today:** New life in Christ is not about starting over perfectly, but about opening ourselves to God's renewing love and Spirit.

**Reflect:** • What does new life in Christ look like for me today? • How open am I to being changed by God's love?

## News & Notices

**PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TODAY:** Immediately following this morning's service at St Peter's - all welcome and encouraged to participate. Copies of the Annual Report are available at the back of the church.

**We wish to thank to our 2025 Council:**

Wardens: Dr John Wright, Sue Topalov, Rene Dekker

Councillors: Christine & Peter Clifford; Gay Lohse, May Nash, Bronwyn Saunders (& Treasurer), Beris Trainer; Graham Ward, Maxine Wegner.

Synod Representatives: Dr John & Jennie Wright (continuing in 2026).

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> Mary at 10 am at St Peter's Gympie and Good Shepherd in Rainbow Beach.

**HOLY WEEK: Palm Sunday:** 8.30 am Gympie 9.30 am Rainbow Beach | **Wed:** 12 noon Gympie | **Maundy Thursday:** 5 pm Gympie | **Good Friday:** 9 am Gympie 9.30 am Rainbow Beach | **Easter Day:** 8.30 am Gympie 9.30 am Rainbow Beach

**THIS WEEK:**

**Sun:** 8.30 am Gympie 9.30 am AGM | 7.30 am Tin Can Bay | 9.30 am Rainbow Beach

**Mon:** 9.30 am Mainly Music | **Tue:** 5.00 pm Meditation | **Wed:** 12.00 noon Service

**Sunday's 5.30 pm ZOOM Link:** Zoom information is the same each week

**Web address:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7246788483> **Meeting ID:** 724 678 8483

**PARISH PANTRY - DONATIONS**



Non-perishable food items: canned foods, pasta & sauce, snack foods, long life milk, etc Please leave at St Peter's or church office (Tues-Fri).

*Thank you for your support of this community outreach.*

## Prayers for those in need

*Jim Alford; David Arthur; Azzrah; Nicholas Barrett; Pam Dorman; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Glennys; Louis Lochel; Jenny; Marnie Richards; Shirley Summerville; Graham and Beris Trainer; Robyn Vagg; Melodie Zylstra.*

## How to contribute to our Church financially

**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 **Acnt Number:** 0000 5910

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

## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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