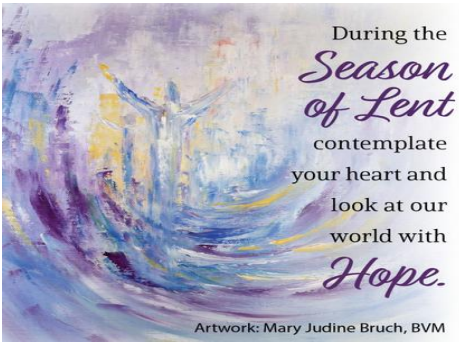
OUR MISSION:
Living and telling the good news of Jesus Christ, reaching out to all in love and service.

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



15th March 2026

Loving God,
You see beyond appearances and know our hearts.
Open our eyes to your truth and your presence in our lives.
Lead us from darkness into your light.
Through Jesus, the light of the world.
Amen.

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

In this week's Gospel, Jesus opens the eyes of a man born blind. Yet the deeper message is about **spiritual sight**. The man who receives his sight gradually comes to recognise Jesus, while others who believe they see clearly remain blind to God's work.
During Lent, we are invited to let Christ open our eyes, so that we may see God's presence, one another, and our own lives more clearly in the light of his love.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: 'I am the light of the world,' says the Lord; 'those who follow me will have the light of life.' John 8.12
Prayer of the Day: Gracious God, in order that we children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world: as the light of Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in truth and goodness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

First Reading 1 Samuel 16.1-13

1 The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being
king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite,
for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' 2 Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul
hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to
sacrifice to the Lord ." 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and
you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' 4 Samuel did what the Lord
commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling,
and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' 5 He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord;
sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons
and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely
the Lord 's anointed is now before the Lord .' 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on
his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does
not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the
heart.' 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has
the Lord chosen this one.' 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the
Lord chosen this one.' 10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to
Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' 11 Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?'

And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' **12** He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' **13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Hear the Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**.

Biblical Background After King Saul fails to remain faithful to God, the prophet Samuel is sent to Bethlehem to anoint a new king from the family of Jesse. While the elder sons appear strong and impressive, God chooses the youngest, David, a shepherd boy. This moment marks the beginning of David's journey and reveals a key biblical truth: God looks beyond outward appearance and sees the heart.

Meaning and Relevance Today God's choices often overturn human expectations. In a world that values appearance, success, and status, this passage reminds us that God values inner character, faithfulness, and humility. God continues to call ordinary people for extraordinary purposes.

Questions for Reflection: Where might I be judging by outward appearance rather than the heart?

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
2 He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.
3 He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.
4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.
5 You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me:
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
6 Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Reading from Ephesians 5.8-14

8 For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— 9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; 13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Hear the Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

Biblical Background Paul writes to the Christian community in Ephesus encouraging them to live according to their new identity in Christ. Once they lived in darkness, but now they are called to live as "children of light," reflecting goodness, truth, and righteousness in their daily lives. **Meaning and Relevance Today** Faith is not only something we believe but something we live. Followers of Christ are called to bring light into places of darkness through integrity, compassion, and justice. Our lives become a witness to God's transforming grace.

Questions for Reflection: In what ways can I bring Christ's light into my home, workplace, or community?

The Holy Gospel
The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 9.1-41

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

1 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who
sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' 3 Jesus answered, 'Neither this man
nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. 4 We
must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.
5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' 6 When he had said this, he spat on
the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to
him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came
back able to see. 8 The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to
ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' 9 Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were
saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' 10 But they kept asking
him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' 11 He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud,
spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and
received my sight.' 12 They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' 13 They brought
to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus
made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had
received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' 16
Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.'
But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided.
17 So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.'
He said, 'He is a prophet.' 18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received
his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them,
'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' 20 His parents
answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 but we do not know
how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will
speak for himself.' 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews
had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of
the synagogue. 23 Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' 24 So for the second time
they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know
that this man is a sinner.' 25 He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do
know, that though I was blind, now I see.' 34 They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins,
and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had driven
him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 36 He answered,
'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' 37 Jesus said to him, 'You have seen
him, and the one speaking with you is he.' 38 He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him.
39 Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and
those who do see may become blind.' 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to
him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' 41 Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not
have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

For the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Biblical Background: In this powerful story, Jesus heals a man who has been blind since birth. While the miracle reveals Jesus as the light of the world, the deeper focus of the passage is spiritual sight. The man gradually comes to recognise Jesus, while some religious leaders remain spiritually blind despite their knowledge.

Meaning and Relevance Today: This story invites us to reflect on how we see. Physical sight is not the same as spiritual understanding. Jesus opens our eyes to God's truth, compassion, and presence. Sometimes those who seem most certain may be blind to God's work, while those who are open and humble begin to see clearly.

Questions for Reflection: Where might God be opening my eyes to something new in my life or faith?

News & Notices

MOTHERING SUNDAY RETIRING COLLECTION: This Sunday and next (22nd March).

CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT AT ST PETER'S: Sunday, 29th March at 4 pm. Gold coin donation.

THIS WEEK: Sun: 8.30 am & 5.30 pm Gympie | 9.30 am Rainbow Beach
Mon: 9.30 am Mainly Music | **Tue:** 5.00 pm Meditation | **Wed:** 12.00 noon Service

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* ***Accnt Number****: 0000 5910*

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

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

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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