

10th May 2026

**I will not leave you
orphaned;
I am coming to you**

John 14:18

Living God,
you are closer to us than our own breath.
Open our eyes to see you, our hearts to trust you,
and our lives to reflect your love.
Through your Spirit, guide us in truth and courage,
that we may live as your people in the world.
Amen.

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

There is a quiet promise woven through this Gospel: *you are not abandoned*. Not in uncertainty, not in grief, not even in the silence when God feels distant. The world often teaches us to rely on what we can see and control. Yet Jesus speaks of another kind of presence, one that does not shout but gently abides. The Spirit comes not as spectacle, but as steady companionship, like a flame that refuses to go out. To love Christ is to lean into this unseen reality. It is to trust that even in ordinary days, in conversations, decisions, and small acts of kindness, God is already there. We are not asked to manufacture faith, but to notice presence. Not to strive endlessly, but to remain open. And in that openness, we discover something astonishing: Christ is not far away. He lives in us, and we in him.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: ‘Those who love me will keep my word,’ Jesus promises, ‘and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.’ John 14.23

Prayer of the Day: O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond our understanding: pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain your promises that exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

First Reading Acts 17.22-31

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.” ²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical Background: In Athens, the intellectual heart of the ancient world, Paul the Apostle speaks at the Areopagus. Surrounded by altars to many gods, he proclaims the “unknown God” as the one true Creator who gives life to all.

Meaning & Relevance Today: God is not distant or confined to religious spaces. God is already present in every culture, every searching heart. This passage invites us to recognise God at work beyond our boundaries and to speak faith in ways others can understand.

Reflection Questions: How can I share faith in a language others can hear?

Psalm 66.7-19

⁷ O bless our God, you peoples:

and cause his praises to resound,

⁸ **Who has held our souls in life:**

who has not suffered our feet to slip.

⁹ For you have proved us, O God:

you have tried us as silver is tried.

¹⁰ **You brought us into the net:**

you laid sharp torment on our loins.

¹¹ You let our enemies ride over our heads, we went through fire and water:

but you brought us out into a place of liberty.

¹² **I will come into your house with burnt-offerings:**

and I will pay you my vows,

¹³ The vows that opened my lips:

that my mouth uttered when I was in trouble.

¹⁴ **I will offer you burnt-offerings of fattened beasts, with the sweet smoke of rams:**

I will sacrifice a bull and the flesh of goats.

¹⁵ Come then and hear, all you that fear God:

and I will tell what he has done for me.

¹⁶ **I called to him with my mouth:**

and his praise was on my tongue.

¹⁷ If I had cherished wickedness in my heart:

the Lord would not have heard me.

18 But God has heard me:

he has heeded the voice of my prayer.

19 Praise be to God:

who has not turned back my prayer, or his steadfast love from me.

Second Reading from 1 Peter 3.8–22

8Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. **9**Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. **10**For ‘Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; **11**let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. **12**For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’ **13**Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? **14**But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, **15**but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; **16**yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. **17**For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. **18**For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, **19**in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, **20**who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. **21**And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **22**who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical Background: Written to early Christians facing hardship, Saint Peter calls believers to unity, humility, and gentleness, even in suffering. Christ’s own suffering becomes the pattern for faithful living.

Meaning & Relevance Today: Faith is not proven in comfort but in how we respond to difficulty. We are called to bless rather than retaliate, to live with integrity, and to gently explain the hope we carry.

Reflection Questions: How do I respond when treated unfairly?

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 14.15–21

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

15If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16**And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. **17**This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Biblical Background: In this farewell discourse, Jesus Christ promises the coming of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will remain with the disciples after his departure.
Meaning & Relevance Today: Love for Christ is not just emotion but lived obedience. We are not left alone; the Spirit dwells within us, guiding, comforting, and revealing Christ's presence in everyday life.

Reflection Questions: Where do I need to trust that I am not alone?

News & Notices



We send blessings a wish all our mothers, of every generation, a loving, happy and healthy Mother's Day today.

GYMPIE WINTER SHELTER: Volunteer training on 23rd & 24th May from 2 to 5 pm (one day only needed) at St Peter's Church. Volunteers needed for, cooking meals, drivers, overnight support shifts, welcoming etc. Training will cover all aspects of the Shelter. Applications to volunteer available on the training day or by visiting the [Gympie Winter Shelter Facebook page](#).

THIS WEEK: **Sun:** 7.30 am Tin Can Bay; 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

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

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

Prayers for those in need

Jim Alford; David Arthur; Azzrah; Nicholas Barrett; Pam Dorman; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Glennys; Jenny; Marquita, Sammy & Roman; Marnie Richards; Shirley Summerville; Graham and Beris Trainer; Robyn Vagg; Melodie Zylstra.

Vale Margaret Cudahy. Margaret passed on 9th April 2026, and the Internment of her Ashes will be held at Cooloola cemetery at 1 pm 14th May, Fr Shaji presiding.

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: **Account Name:** Anglican Parish Gympie

BSB: 704-901 **Acct Number:** 0000 5910 (Please use all the four zeros when entering the Acct No..)

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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