

24th May 2026



*Come, Holy Spirit,
like breath upon dry bones,
like fire within our hearts.
Quiet our fears,
soften our resistance,
and awaken us to your presence.
Breathe in us again, O God,
and make us new.
Amen.*

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

The doors are locked. The air is heavy with fear. The disciples are not bold witnesses yet, just a small group trying to make sense of everything. And then, without warning, Jesus stands among them. No rebuke. No disappointment. Just a gift: *“Peace be with you.”* It is the kind of peace that does not ignore fear but settles right in the middle of it. And then comes something even more intimate. He breathes on them. Not a distant miracle, but a close, personal act. Breath to breath. Life shared. Pentecost is not only wind and fire rushing through crowds. It is also this quiet moment, where Christ meets us behind our closed doors and breathes new life into weary hearts. Christ comes. Christ speaks peace. Christ breathes. And we are changed.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,’ says the Lord; ‘and let the one who believes in me drink. For out of your heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ John 7.38

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, at the feast of Pentecost you sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: empower us with that same Spirit to witness to your redeeming love and draw all people to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

First Reading Acts 2.1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?’

⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ ¹³But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’ ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical Background: During the Jewish festival of Pentecost, the disciples are gathered when the Holy Spirit descends like wind and fire. Peter the Apostle proclaims that this is the fulfilment of God’s promise spoken through the prophets.

Meaning & Relevance Today: Pentecost is the birth of the Church, where fear is transformed into boldness. The Spirit breaks barriers of language and culture, drawing people together. Today, the same Spirit empowers us to speak, live, and embody God’s love in a divided world.

Reflection Question: Where is the Spirit inviting me to move from fear to courage?

Psalm 104.26-36

²⁶ Lord, how various are your works:

in wisdom you have made them all, and the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁷ **There is the wide, immeasurable sea:**

there move living things without number, great and small;

²⁸ There go the ships, to and fro:

and there is that Leviathan whom you formed to sport in the deep.

²⁹ **These all look to you:**

to give them their food in due season.

³⁰ When you give it to them, they gather it:

when you open your hand they are satisfied with good things.

³¹ **When you hide your face, they are troubled:**

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³² When you send forth your spirit they are created:

and you renew the face of the earth.

³³ **May the glory of the Lord endure for ever:**

may the Lord rejoice in his works.

³⁴ If he look upon the earth, it shall tremble:
if he but touch the mountains, they shall smoke.

³⁵ **I will sing to the Lord as long as I live:**

I will praise my God while I have any being.

³⁶ May my meditation be pleasing to him:
for my joy shall be in the Lord.

Second Reading from 1 Corinthians 12.1-13

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. ¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical Background: Writing to a diverse and sometimes divided church, Paul the Apostle teaches that the many spiritual gifts all come from the same Spirit and are given for the common good.

Meaning & Relevance Today: The Church is like a living body, richly diverse yet deeply united. No gift is insignificant. Each person has a place and purpose.

This calls us to honour one another and to use our gifts in service, not comparison.

Reflection Question: How am I using my gifts to build up others?

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 20.19-23

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.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Biblical Background: After the resurrection, Jesus Christ appears to the disciples who are hiding in fear. He speaks peace, breathes on them, and gives them the Holy Spirit.

Meaning & Relevance Today: The Spirit comes not into perfection, but into fear and uncertainty. Jesus meets us where we are, offering peace and sending us out with purpose. The gift of the Spirit is also a call to reconciliation and forgiveness.

Reflection Question: Where do I need to receive Christ's peace and share it with others?

News & Notices

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 by visiting the [Gympie Winter Shelter Facebook page](#).

GYMPIE WINTER SHELTER COMMISSIONING SERVICE: Sunday 31st May at 5.30 pm St Peter's. Please join us as we bless the program and volunteers for this year's outreach starting on 1st June.

FANCY THAT OP SHOP WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP: We're asking for volunteers to help with washing and ironing of clothes. We sort items suitable for re-use and sale but some require a freshen up. If you can help, please contact Maxine on 0419 779 863.

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
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

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.

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 **Acct Number:** 0000 5910
Please use all the four zeros when entering the Acct No..

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Physical & Postal Address: 15 Amy St, Gympie 4570

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