

3rd May 2026



*Lord Jesus,
when our hearts are troubled, speak your
peace to us.
Guide us in your way, root us in your truth,
and fill us with your life.
Help us to trust you in times of
uncertainty, and to rest in the promise of
your presence.
Lead us always closer to the Father
through you. Amen.*

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

Stephen's vision of Christ standing in glory, even as he faces death, reveals the enduring presence of the risen Lord in moments of greatest trial. Easter is not removed from suffering; rather, it transforms it. In Christ, even hardship becomes a place where grace can be witnessed. Jesus' words to his disciples speak into this reality with gentle reassurance: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." He does not remove uncertainty, but he offers himself as the way through it. In him, we find direction, truth, and life. The Christian journey is not without challenges, yet it is never without Christ. He walks with us, holds us steady, and leads us forward into hope that is grounded in his risen life.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, being dead to sin, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2.24

Prayer of the Day: Everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings

First Reading Acts 7.55-60

⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical Background: This passage recounts the martyrdom of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen sees a vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Even as he is being stoned, he prays for his persecutors.

Meaning & Relevance Today: Faith in the risen Christ can lead to costly witness. Stephen's response reflects the heart of Jesus himself, showing forgiveness and trust in God even in suffering. Easter hope empowers believers to face hardship with courage, grace, and a spirit of forgiveness.

Reflection Question: How can I respond with faith and forgiveness in situations where I feel wronged or challenged?

Psalm 31.1-5; 31.17-18

¹ To you, Lord, have I come for shelter:
let me never be put to shame.

² **O deliver me in your righteousness:
incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.**

³ Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me:
for you are my high rock and my stronghold.

⁴ **Lead me and guide me for your name's sake:
bring me out of the net that they have secretly laid for me,
for you are my strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commit my spirit:
you will redeem me, O Lord God of truth.

¹⁷ **All my days are in your hand:
O deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors.**

¹⁸ Make your face to shine upon your servant:
and save me for your mercy's sake.

Second Reading from 1 Peter 2.11-25

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. ¹²Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge. ¹³For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. ¹⁵For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. ¹⁶As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. ¹⁷Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor. ¹⁸Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. ¹⁹For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical Background: Peter addresses Christians as “aliens and exiles,” encouraging them to live honourably among others and to follow Christ’s example of suffering with patience and righteousness.

Meaning & Relevance Today: Believers are called to live distinctively in the world, not withdrawing from it but witnessing through integrity, humility, and Christ-like conduct. Jesus’ example of enduring suffering without retaliation becomes the pattern for Christian living.

Reflection Question: In what ways can I more closely follow Christ’s example in how I respond to challenges and relationships?

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 14.1-14

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

¹Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ ⁵Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ ⁶Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’ ⁸Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ ⁹Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”?’ ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Biblical Background: Jesus comforts his disciples before his passion, urging them not to be troubled.

He speaks of preparing a place for them and reveals himself as “the way, the truth, and the life,” assuring them of access to the Father through him.

Meaning & Relevance Today: In times of uncertainty or anxiety, Jesus offers reassurance and direction. He is both the path and the destination, guiding believers into relationship with God. Easter affirms that in Christ we have both presence now and promise for the future.

Reflection Question: Where do I need to trust Jesus more deeply as the way, the truth, and the life in my current circumstances?

News & Notices

DV Aware Sunday, an initiative of the Anglican Church of Australia’s Families & Culture Commission, will be held on Sunday 3 May 2026. Our church is taking part to raise awareness of domestic and family violence and its impact within our communities. On this day, we will join Anglican churches across the country in affirming that violence has no place in our homes, relationships, or communities, and in giving thanks to God who sees and cares for those who suffer. We will point out where people can find help. We will also invite members of our church to support the churches work through a small one-off gift, helping to resource prevention, training, and care for those affected, as we seek to be a community where all are safe, respected, and able to flourish.

NAME BADGES: We’re ordering name badges. If you’d like one, please write your name on the list at the back of the church or contact the office. They’re magnet type (no holes in clothing). Cost will be under. \$15 each.

HYMNFEEST is on Sunday 17th May @ 2.30 pm at Uniting 4570, Red Hill Rd, Gympie.

THIS WEEK: **Sun:** 7.30 am Tin Can Bay; 8.30 am Gympie; 9.30 am Rainbow Beach; 5.30 pm Gympie | **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

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