

21st June 2026



God of courage, when fear rises within us, steady our hearts. Teach us to trust you deeply and follow Christ without hesitation. Amen.

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

"Do not be afraid" is one of the most repeated commands in Scripture. Jesus knew his disciples would face uncertainty, criticism, and hardship. He knows the same about us. Fear often whispers that we are alone, forgotten, or incapable. Yet Jesus reminds us that even the sparrows are known to God and that we are precious in God's sight. Faith is not the absence of fear but the decision to trust God in the midst of it. Whatever challenges lie before you this week, remember that you are deeply loved, carefully held, and never beyond God's care.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for Jesus' sake will find it. Matthew 10.39

Prayer of the Day: Gracious God, we who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death: we pray that, as you raised him from death, so by the power of the Holy Spirit we may live the new life to your glory, knowing ourselves to be dead in sin but alive for you in Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

First Reading from Genesis 21.8-21

⁸The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' ¹¹The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. ¹³As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.' ¹⁴So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. ¹⁵When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way

off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, 'Do not let me look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.' ¹⁹Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. ²¹He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical Background Following Isaac's birth, tension develops between Sarah and Hagar. Hagar and her son Ishmael are sent away into the wilderness. When all seems lost, God hears their cries and provides water, protection, and a future.

Meaning and Relevance Today God sees those who feel abandoned, forgotten, or excluded. Even in life's wilderness experiences, God remains present and attentive to human suffering.

Reflection Question Where have I experienced God's care during a difficult or lonely season?

Psalm 86.1-10; 86.16-17

¹ Incline your ear to me, O God, and answer me:
for I am poor and in misery.

² **Preserve my life, for I am faithful:**

My God, save your servant who trusts in you.

³ Be merciful to me, O Lord:

for I call to you all the day long.

⁴ **O make glad the soul of your servant:**

for I put my hope in you, O Lord.

⁵ For you, Lord, are good and forgiving:

of great and continuing kindness to all who call upon you.

⁶ **Hear my prayer, O Lord:**

and give heed to the voice of my supplication.

⁷ In the day of my trouble I call upon you:

for you will surely answer.

⁸ **Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord:**

nor are there any deeds like yours.

⁹ All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you:

O Lord, they shall glorify your name.

¹⁰ **For you are great and do marvellous things:**

and you alone are God.

¹⁶ Turn to me and be merciful, give your strength to your servant:

and save the child of your handmaid.

¹⁷ **Show me some token of your goodness:**

that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed,

because you, Lord, are my helper and my comforter.

Second Reading from Romans 6.1-11

¹What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Hear the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical Background Paul teaches that through baptism believers are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. Christians are called to leave behind their old life and live in the freedom of new life.

Meaning and Relevance Today Faith is not merely believing something; it is becoming someone new. God's grace invites us to live transformed lives marked by hope and holiness.

Reflection Question What old habit, fear, or attitude might God be inviting me to leave behind?

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 10.24-39

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

²⁴A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ²⁶So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. ³⁴Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶and one's foes will be members of one's own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Biblical Background Jesus prepares his disciples for opposition and challenges. He encourages them not to fear but to trust God completely, even when following Christ is costly.

Meaning and Relevance Today Christian discipleship is not always comfortable. Jesus calls us to place our trust in God above all else, finding courage in God's faithful love.

Reflection Question What fear might be preventing me from fully trusting Christ?

News & Notices

Mother's Union Celebrates 150 years this Sunday: MU is a global ministry with over 4 million members in 84 countries. Started by Mary Sumner in 1876 to provide support and training in motherhood. The first meeting in Australia was in 1892 in Launceston, and 1956 in Gympie. Gympie MU meet every 4th Tuesday of the month for fellowship, prayer and morning tea. New participants welcome. A display table of MU information is at the back of the church.

You Are Invited

Join us for the
*Official Opening
and Blessing*
of the
**St Peter's
Parish Centre**
by The Most Reverend
Jeremy Greaves
Archbishop of Brisbane



Saturday, 25 July



3:00 pm



St Peter's Anglican Church,
Gympie

*Please join us as we celebrate and dedicate this new space
for the life and ministry of our parish and community.*

Refreshments to follow.

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; Doug Collins & Family; Pam Dorman;
Jill, Holly & Alby; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Glennys; Jenny; Lillian Lochel;
Marquita; Marnie Richards; Shirley Summerville; Graham and Beris Trainer;
Robyn Vagg; Rhonda Weller and Family; Melodie Zylstra.*

Thanksgiving for the life of: *Max Weller*

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

Physical & Postal Address: 15 Amy St, Gympie 4570

Phone: 07 5482 2629 **Mobile:** 0408 745 024

Email: gympie@anglicanchurchsq.org.au **Website:** www.anglicangympie.org.au

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