

**12th July 2026**

Loving God, you are the generous Sower who never tires of planting Your Word within us. Break up the hardened places in our hearts, remove the weeds of worry and distraction, and deepen our roots in Your love. Amen.



Parable  
of the  
Sower

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

## Weekly Pastoral Reflection

Every day, God quietly sows seeds into our lives through Scripture, worship, conversations, acts of kindness, and moments of silence. Yet the harvest depends not on the generosity of the Sower but on the openness of our hearts. Sometimes our hearts become hardened by disappointment, crowded by anxiety, or distracted by the endless demands of life. Jesus gently invites us to prepare the soil again through prayer, forgiveness, humility, and trust. No matter where we are on our journey, God has not stopped sowing. This week, make space for His Word. Read a few verses of Scripture each day, pause to listen, and allow His Spirit to cultivate a heart that bears fruit in compassion, hope, generosity, and love.

## Sentence & Prayer of the Day

**Sentence:** The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life. John 6.63, 68

**Prayer of the Day:** O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Readings

### First Reading from Genesis 25.19-34

<sup>19</sup>These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, <sup>20</sup>and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. <sup>21</sup>Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. <sup>22</sup>The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the Lord. <sup>23</sup>And the Lord said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.' <sup>24</sup>When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup>The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. <sup>26</sup>Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. <sup>27</sup>When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. <sup>28</sup>Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. <sup>29</sup>Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from

the field, and he was famished. <sup>30</sup>Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) <sup>31</sup>Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' <sup>32</sup>Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' <sup>33</sup>Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup>Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright. Hear the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**Biblical background and meaning:** This passage tells the story of the birth of Jacob and Esau, twin brothers who struggle even before birth. Esau, the elder, impulsively sells his birthright for a bowl of stew, valuing immediate satisfaction over God's long term blessing.

**Relevance for today:** Our world encourages instant gratification. This reading invites us to value what is lasting over what is temporary, choosing faithfulness, integrity, and God's promises above short lived pleasures.

**Reflection question:** *What lasting blessing might I be trading away for a moment of comfort or convenience?*

### **Psalm 119.105–112**

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lantern to my feet:  
and a light to my path.

<sup>106</sup> **I have vowed and sworn an oath:  
to keep your righteous judgements.**

<sup>107</sup> I have been afflicted beyond measure:  
Lord, give me life according to your word.

<sup>108</sup> **Accept, O Lord, the freewill offerings of my mouth:  
and teach me your judgements.**

<sup>109</sup> I take my life in my hands continually:  
yet I do not forget your law.

<sup>110</sup> **The wicked have laid a snare for me:  
but I have not strayed from your precepts.**

<sup>111</sup> Your commands are my inheritance for ever:  
they are the joy of my heart.

<sup>112</sup> **I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes:  
always, even to the end.**

### **Second Reading from Romans 8.1–11**

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

<sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**Hear the Word of the Lord**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**Biblical background** St Paul proclaims one of the greatest promises of the Christian faith: "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Through the Holy Spirit, believers are freed from the power of sin and given new life. The Spirit enables us to live according to God's will rather than being controlled by selfish desires.

**Relevance for today** Many people carry guilt, fear, or regret. Paul reminds us that Christ offers forgiveness, freedom, and a new beginning every day through the Holy Spirit.

**Reflection question** *Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to guide my daily decisions, or am I still held captive by old habits and fears?*

### The Holy Gospel

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23**

**GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST**

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!' <sup>18</sup>'Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**Biblical background and meaning** Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower. The seed is God's Word, generously scattered everywhere. The different soils represent different responses of the human heart. Some reject the Word, some receive it only briefly, others allow worries and wealth to choke it, while good soil bears abundant fruit.

**Relevance for today** God continues to sow His Word through Scripture, worship, prayer, and everyday experiences. The question is not whether God is speaking, but whether our hearts are open enough to listen.

**Reflection question** *Which kind of soil best describes my heart today, and what can I do this week to become more like the good soil that bears fruit?*

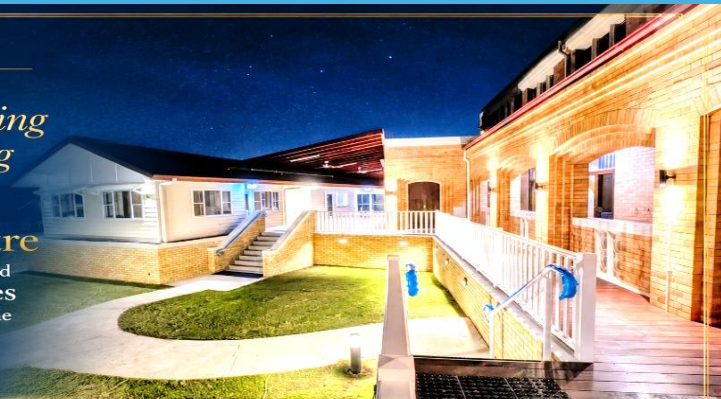
# News & Notices

*You Are Invited*

Join us for the  
*Official Opening  
and Blessing*

of the  
**St Peter's  
Parish Centre**

by The Right 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.*

**VALE RANDALL BROWN.** Randall passed away on Friday morning. Our prayers and thoughts are with Anne and family.

**PARISH PANTRY:** Donations of non-perishable food such as snack bars, biscuits, tin soups, long life milk, tea, small packets of sugar, 2-minute noodles appreciated.

**WANTED: SHOPPING BAGS.** Please leave at St Peter's – in Pantry basket or at the church office.

**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 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; Anne Brown & 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; 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..**

## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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