

26th July 2026



Loving God, open our eyes to recognise the treasure of Your Kingdom. Give us hearts that value Your love above all else and the courage to follow Christ with joy. May our lives reflect the beauty of Your Kingdom each day. Amen.

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

The Kingdom of God is life's greatest treasure, yet it is often hidden beneath the routines and distractions of daily living. Jesus invites us to recognise its priceless value and to respond with joy, commitment, and trust. The people of Nazareth failed to see the extraordinary because it came wrapped in the ordinary. We can make the same mistake. This week, ask God for eyes that recognise His presence in everyday moments, in the people around you, and in opportunities to love and serve. When Christ becomes our greatest treasure, everything else finds its proper place.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8.38–39

Prayer of the Day: O God, the fount of wisdom, you have revealed to us in Christ the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price: grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment, that, in the midst of the things of this world, we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom, and be ready to renounce all else for the sake of the precious gift you offer. We ask this 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 from Genesis 29.15 - 28

¹⁵Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' ¹⁶Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' ¹⁹Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' ²⁰So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. ²¹Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' ²²So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³But in the evening he took his daughter Leah

and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' ²⁶Laban said, 'This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.' ²⁸Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife. Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical background: Jacob works seven years to marry Rachel, but her father Laban deceives him by giving Leah instead. Jacob's perseverance and love lead him to work another seven years for Rachel.

Meaning and Relevance today: God continues to work through human weakness, disappointment, and even deception to fulfil His purposes. Life does not always unfold as planned, but God remains faithful and calls us to persevere with trust.

Reflection question: *How is God inviting me to remain faithful through disappointment or unexpected change?*

Psalm 105.1-11

¹ O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.

² **Sing to him, O sing praises:**

and be telling of all his marvellous works.

³ Exult in his holy name:

and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.

⁴ **Seek the Lord and his strength:**

O seek his face continually.

⁵ Call to mind what wonders he has done:

his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,

⁶ **O seed of Abraham his servant:**

O children of Jacob his chosen one.

⁷ For he is the Lord our God:

and his judgements are in all the earth.

⁸ **He has remembered his covenant for ever:**

the word that he ordained for a thousand generations,

⁹ The covenant that he made with Abraham:

the oath that he swore to Isaac,

¹⁰ **And confirmed it to Jacob as a statute:**

to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

¹¹ Saying 'I will give you the land of Canaan:

to be the portion of your inheritance',

Second Reading from Romans 8.26-39

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes

for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical background: St Paul assures the Christians in Rome that the Holy Spirit prays for us in our weakness and that nothing can separate us from the love of God revealed in Christ.

Meaning and Relevance today: God's love is constant, powerful, and greater than every fear, struggle, or hardship. Whatever we face, we can live with confidence because God's love never abandons us.

Reflection question: *Do I truly trust that nothing can separate me from God's love?*

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 13.44-58

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

⁴⁴'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵²And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' ⁵³When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. ⁵⁴He came to his home town and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these

deeds of power? ⁵⁵Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?' ⁵⁷And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.' ⁵⁸And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Biblical background: Jesus tells the parables of the hidden treasure, the pearl of great price, and the fishing net, revealing the incomparable value of God's Kingdom. He then returns to Nazareth, where many reject Him because they think they already know Him.

Meaning and Relevance today: The Kingdom of God is worth giving everything for, but faith requires an open heart that recognises Christ. We are invited to place God above every other priority and remain open to His presence in ordinary people and everyday life.

Reflection question: *What is keeping me from fully embracing the treasure of God's Kingdom?*

News & Notices

OUR PARISH CENTRE WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED YESTERDAY

The Centre was opened by Archbishop Jeremey with a large gathering of dignitaries, parishioners, neighbours and community groups witnessing the milestone. Thank you to all who attended and helped make it a special day for our parish and wider community.

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; Anne Brown; Pam Dorman; Jill, Holly & Alby; Christian Ford; Daniel Saunders; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Glennys; Jenny; Lillian Lochel; Val McClurg; 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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