

2nd August 2026



Matthew 14.13-21

Compassionate Lord, You see our needs and the needs of the world around us. Take the gifts we offer, however small, and use them for Your purposes. Give us generous hearts, trusting faith, and eyes to recognise opportunities to serve others. May our lives become channels of Your love and compassion. Amen.

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

The feeding of the five thousand begins with a simple offering: five loaves and two fish. What seemed too small in human eyes became enough in the hands of Jesus. This miracle reminds us that God does not ask us for what we do not have; He asks us to offer what we do have with faith and generosity. Like the disciples, we may sometimes look at the needs around us and feel overwhelmed. Yet Christ invites us to participate in His work of compassion. This week, bring your gifts, time, kindness, and prayers to Jesus, trusting that He can multiply small acts of love into blessings for many.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: The Lord is near to all who call on him in truth. He fulfils the desire of all that fear him, hears their cry, and saves them. Psalm 145.18–19

Prayer of the Day: O God, with whom we wrestle until the break of day: make us long to seek your face beyond the limits of our strength, that in our wounds we may remember you, and in your blessing we may find ourselves; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Readings

First Reading from Genesis 32.22-31

²²The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' ²⁷So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' ²⁸Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.'

²⁹Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him.

³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical background: Jacob wrestles through the night with a mysterious divine figure before meeting his brother Esau. In this encounter, Jacob receives a new name, Israel, and a renewed identity from God.

Meaning and Relevance today: God transforms us through our struggles and invites us to trust Him more deeply. Our challenges can become moments where God shapes our character and strengthens our faith.

Reflection question: *What struggle in my life is God using to transform me?*

Psalm 17.1–7, 17.16

¹ Hear my just cause, O Lord, give heed to my cry:
listen to my prayer, that comes from no lying lips.

² **Let judgement for me come forth from your presence:
and let your eyes discern the right.**

³ Though you search my heart, and visit me in the night-time:
though you try me by fire, you will find no wickedness in me.

⁴ **My mouth does not transgress, like the mouth of others:
for I have kept the word of your lips.**

⁵ My steps have held firm in the way of your commands:
and my feet have not stumbled from your paths.

⁶ **I call upon you, O God, for you will surely answer:
incline your ear to me, and hear my words.**

⁷ Show me the wonders of your steadfast love,
O saviour of those who come to you for refuge:
who by your right hand deliver them from those that rise up against them.

¹⁶ **And I also shall see your face, because my cause is just:
when I awake and see you as you are, I shall be satisfied.**

Second Reading from Romans 9.1-8

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— ²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. ⁶It is not as though the word of God had failed. For not all Israelites truly belong to Israel, ⁷and not all of Abraham's children are his true descendants; but 'It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named after you.'

⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as descendants.

Hear the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical background: St Paul expresses his deep love and sorrow for his fellow Israelites who have not accepted Christ. He reminds them that God's promises and covenant remain faithful.

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Meaning and Relevance today: God's faithfulness does not depend on human response; His promises endure through every generation. We are called to trust God's faithfulness and share His love with compassion for others.

Reflection question: *How can I reflect God's faithful love to those around me?*

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 14.13-21

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' ¹⁶Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' ¹⁷They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' ¹⁸And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Biblical background: After hearing of John the Baptist's death, Jesus withdraws to a quiet place, but crowds follow Him. Moved with compassion, Jesus heals them and feeds over five thousand people with five loaves and two fish.

Meaning and Relevance today: Jesus is the compassionate Shepherd who sees human need and provides abundantly. God calls us to bring what we have, however small, and trust Him to use it for the good of others.

Reflection question: *What small gift or resource can I offer to Christ for His work in the world?*

Prayers for those in need

Jim Alford; David Arthur; Azzrah; Nicholas Barrett; Anne Brown; Pam Dorman; Jill, Holly & Alby; Christian Ford; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Glennys; Jenny; Lillian Lochel; Jeanette Penny; Daniel Saunders; Shirley Summerville; Graham and Beris Trainer; Robyn Vagg; Melodie Zylstra.

News & Notices

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

Mary Sumner Day 9th August: Retiring Collection in support of Anglicare Youth Homeless Accommodation Service in Logan that is nearing completion. This \$14 million dollar development will provide 30 units for young people aged 16 – 25, who are experiencing homelessness. They comprise 24 studio apartments for individuals and six (6) one bedroom apartments for couples or young families.

PARISH PANTRY: Non-perishable food supplies needed for our community assistance pantry. Small packets, rice, noodles, soups, Tins of tuna, chicken, beef, soups, vegetables. Snack items: Muesli bars, chips, biscuits etc.

SHOPPING BAGS WANTED: Please drop them into Fancy That Op Shop / Church Office or St Peter's.

PICTURES FROM THE PARISH CENTRE OPENING



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

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

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

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