

**5th July 2026**



*Gentle Jesus, we come with weary hearts. Speak your invitation of rest over us again, and draw us into your peace. Amen.*

### Weekly Pastoral Reflection

Many people today carry invisible burdens. Stress, grief, uncertainty, exhaustion, and disappointment can slowly weigh down the soul. Into this reality Jesus speaks words of extraordinary comfort: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Jesus does not promise a life without challenges. Instead, he offers his presence, strength, and peace within them. The invitation remains open today. Bring your worries, your questions, your failures, and your hopes to Christ. Allow his grace to lift what feels too heavy and discover again the rest that only he can give.

### Sentence & Prayer of the Day

**Sentence:** 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest,' says the Lord. 'Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart.' Matthew 11.28–29

**Prayer of the Day:** Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of his brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us; yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Readings

#### **First Reading from Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67**

<sup>34</sup>So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. <sup>35</sup>The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. <sup>36</sup>And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. <sup>37</sup>My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; <sup>38</sup>but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son." <sup>42</sup>I came today to the spring, and said, "O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! <sup>43</sup>I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw,

to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,'<sup>44</sup> and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son."<sup>45</sup> Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink."<sup>46</sup> She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels.<sup>47</sup> Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms.<sup>48</sup> Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.<sup>49</sup> Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.<sup>58</sup> And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.'<sup>59</sup> So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men.<sup>60</sup> And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.'<sup>61</sup> Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.<sup>62</sup> Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb.<sup>63</sup> Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming.<sup>64</sup> And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel,<sup>65</sup> and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself.<sup>66</sup> And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.<sup>67</sup> Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**Biblical Background** Abraham's servant seeks a wife for Isaac and finds Rebekah.

Through prayer, discernment, and faith, God's guidance becomes clear.

**Meaning and Relevance Today** God often guides us through ordinary decisions, faithful prayer, and the willingness to trust his leading.

**Reflection Question** How attentive am I to God's guidance in my daily life?

### **Psalm 45.10-17**

<sup>10</sup> Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear:  
forget your own people and your father's house.

<sup>11</sup> **The king desires your beauty:**

**he is your lord, therefore bow down before him.**

<sup>12</sup> The richest among the people, O daughter of Tyre:  
shall entreat your favour with gifts.

<sup>13</sup> **The king's daughter is all glorious within:**

**her clothing is embroidered cloth-of-gold.**

<sup>14</sup> In robes of many colours she is led to you, O king:  
and, after her, the virgins that are with her.

**<sup>15</sup> They are led with gladness and rejoicing:  
they enter the palace of the king.**

<sup>16</sup> In place of your fathers you shall have sons:  
and make them princes over all the land.

**<sup>17</sup> And I will make known your name to every generation:  
therefore the peoples shall give you praise for ever.**

### **Second Reading from Romans 7.14-25**

<sup>14</sup>For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. <sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**Biblical Background** Paul describes the inner struggle between wanting to do good and failing to do so. He points ultimately to Christ as the source of deliverance.

**Meaning and Relevance Today** All people experience inner conflict. God's grace meets us in our weakness and continues to transform us.

**Reflection Question** Where do I most need God's grace and strength today?

### **The Holy Gospel**

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 11.15-19; 11.25-30**

**GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST**

<sup>15</sup>Let anyone with ears listen! <sup>16</sup>But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup>"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn." <sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.' <sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

<sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and

you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**Biblical Background** Jesus criticises those who refuse God's invitation and then offers one of the Bible's most comforting promises: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened."

**Meaning and Relevance Today** Christ invites weary people to find rest in him. His yoke is not a burden but a relationship that brings peace and purpose.

**Reflection Question** What burden do I need to place into Christ's hands today?

## 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.*

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

**Physical & Postal Address:** 15 Amy St, Gympie 4570

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

**Email:** [gympie@anglicanchurchsq.org.au](mailto:gympie@anglicanchurchsq.org.au) **Website:** [www.anglicangympie.org.au](http://www.anglicangympie.org.au)

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