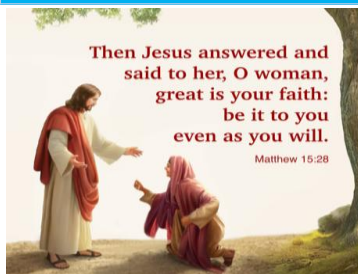


16th August 2026



*Gracious Lord, give us the faith to trust
you, the courage to persevere in prayer,
and hearts that reflect your mercy to
everyone we meet. Through Christ our
Lord. Amen.*

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

The Canaanite woman refused to give up. She loved her daughter deeply and believed that Jesus could bring healing. Even when the conversation became difficult, she stayed humble, persistent, and hopeful. Jesus honoured her faith and answered her prayer.

There are times when we wonder whether God is listening. We may pray for healing, reconciliation, guidance, or peace, yet the answer seems slow in coming. This Gospel encourages us not to lose heart. Faith is not simply believing when everything goes well. Faith is continuing to trust when the way ahead is unclear.

This week, bring your deepest needs before Christ with confidence. His timing may not always match ours, but his love never fails.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: Thus says the Lord, 'Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.' Isaiah 56.1

Prayer of the Day: God of freedom, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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 45.1–15

¹Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus

says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.’ ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical background: After many years in Egypt, Joseph reveals his identity to the brothers who had sold him into slavery. Rather than seeking revenge, Joseph forgives them, recognising that God had used even their wrongdoing to save many lives during the famine.

Meaning and relevance today: Forgiveness has the power to heal broken relationships. God can bring hope and new beginnings even from painful experiences. We are invited to trust God's greater purpose when life does not go as planned.

Reflection question: *Is there someone I need to forgive, or a painful experience that I need to entrust to God?*

Psalm 133

¹ Behold how good and how lovely it is:
when families live together in unity.

² **It is fragrant as oil upon the head, that runs down over the beard:
fragrant as oil upon the beard of Aaron, that ran down over the collar of his robe.**

³ It is like a dew of Hermon:
like the dew that falls upon the hill of Zion.

⁴ **For there the Lord has commanded his blessing:
which is life for evermore.**

Second Reading from Romans 11.13–32

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I glorify my ministry ¹⁴in order to make my own people jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead! ¹⁶If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; and if the root is holy, then the branches also are holy. ¹⁷But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place to share the rich root of the olive tree, ¹⁸do not vaunt yourselves over the branches. If you do vaunt yourselves, remember that it is not you that support the root, but the root that supports you. ¹⁹You will say, ‘Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.’ ²⁰That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand only through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. ²¹For if God did not spare the natural branches, perhaps he will not spare you. ²²Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity towards those who have fallen, but God's kindness towards you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. ²³And even those of Israel, if they do not persist in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. ²⁴For if you have been cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature,

into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree. ²⁵So that you may not claim to be wiser than you are, brothers and sisters, I want you to understand this mystery: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶And so all Israel will be saved; as it is written, 'Out of Zion will come the Deliverer; he will banish ungodliness from Jacob.' ²⁷'And this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.' ²⁸As regards the gospel they are enemies of God for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved, for the sake of their ancestors; ²⁹for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Hear the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical background: Paul reflects on God's plan for both Jews and Gentiles. He reminds believers that God's mercy extends to all and that no one should become proud or exclude others from God's love.

Meaning and relevance today: God's mercy is wider than our expectations. Christians are called to humility, gratitude, and openness, recognising that we all depend on God's grace.

Reflection question: *How can I reflect God's mercy and welcome those who may feel excluded or forgotten?*

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 15.21-28

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.'

²⁸Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Biblical background: A Canaanite woman persistently asks Jesus to heal her daughter. Although Jesus' initial response appears challenging, her deep faith and perseverance are revealed, and Jesus heals her daughter, praising her great faith.

Meaning and relevance today: This Gospel teaches perseverance in prayer and reminds us that God's love reaches beyond every barrier of race, culture, or background. Genuine faith trusts God even when answers seem delayed.

Reflection question: *Where is Jesus inviting me to persevere in faith and trust his timing?*

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; Val McClurg; Jeanette Penny; Daniel Saunders; Shirley Summerville; Graham and Beris Trainer; Robyn Vagg; Melodie Zylstra.

News & Notices

CLERGY CONFERENCE: Fr Shaji will be joining priests from both the northern and southern regions of the Diocese for the Annual Clergy Conference in Noosa this week. Please keep Fr Shaji and other attendees in your prayers.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY SERVICE AT RAINBOW BEACH: Fr Shaji will lead the prayers at the Cenotaph at 11 am on Tuesday, 18th August 2026.

WINE & CHEESE EVENING: You are warmly invited to an Anglican & Catholic Evening Prayer at St Peter's Parish Centre on **Monday, 24 August, commencing at 5.30 pm**. Following Evening Prayer, we are delighted to welcome Fr Adrian Farrelly as our guest speaker, who will offer a reflection on our shared Christian faith and journey. The evening will conclude with wine and cheese, providing an opportunity for fellowship and conversation.

Donations of wine and cheese to assist with hospitality would be greatly appreciated.

30th AUGUST (5th SUNDAY) HOT COOKED BREAKFAST AFTER THE 8.30 am SERVICE

BIBLE STUDY AT ST PETER'S: Starting Thursday, 3rd September 1-2 pm. All welcome

PITCH IN CHOIR END OF YEAR CELEBRATION: Pitch In Choir invites you to join them for the end of year celebration to be held at St Peter's on Thursday, 10th September. Joyful songs and fun guaranteed with refreshments to follow. All welcome.

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

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

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 **Website:** www.anglicangympie.org.au

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