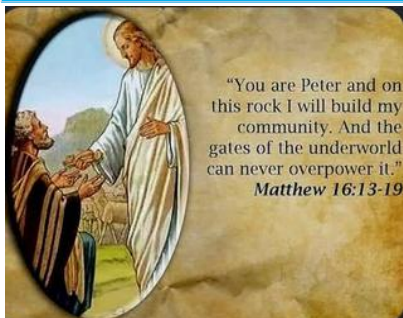


23rd August 2026



"You are Peter and on
this rock I will build my
community. And the
gates of the underworld
can never overpower it."
Matthew 16:13-19

*Lord Jesus, deepen our faith, renew our
minds, and help us to follow you with
courage and joy. May our lives always
reflect that you are the Messiah, the
Son of the living God. Amen.*

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

Jesus' question to the disciples echoes through every generation: "Who do you say that I am?" It is not a question about what others believe, but about our own relationship with him.

Peter's confession became the foundation for his mission, yet Peter himself was far from perfect. His faith would later falter, but Jesus continued to shape and strengthen him. That gives us hope. God does not call perfect people. He calls people who are willing to trust him.

This week, let your answer to Jesus' question be seen not only in your words but also in your kindness, forgiveness, generosity, and hope. Our daily lives become our clearest confession of faith.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: Jesus said to them, 'Who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' Matthew 16.15–16

Prayer of the Day: O God, fount of all wisdom, in the humble witness of the apostle Peter you have shown the foundation of our faith: give us the light of your Spirit, that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the living God, we may be living stones for the building up of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

First Reading from Exodus 1.8–2.10

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.'

¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. ¹⁵The king

of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶‘When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.’ ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, ‘Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?’ ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’ ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, ‘Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.’ ¹Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. ‘This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,’ she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?’ ⁸Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Yes.’ So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.’ So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, ‘because’, she said, ‘I drew him out of the water.’
Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical background: A new Pharaoh, who did not know Joseph, enslaved the Israelites and ordered that all Hebrew baby boys be killed. Moses was hidden by his mother, placed in a basket on the Nile, and was found and adopted by Pharaoh's daughter. God was already preparing the one who would later lead his people out of slavery.

Meaning and relevance today: Even in times of fear, injustice, and uncertainty, God is at work behind the scenes. Ordinary acts of courage and compassion can become part of God's saving plan.

Reflection question: *Where is God calling me to act with courage and trust, even when the future is uncertain?*

Psalm 124

¹ If the Lord had not been on our side, now may Israel say:
if the Lord had not been on our side, when our enemies rose against us,

² **Then they would have swallowed us alive:
when their anger was kindled against us.**

³ Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, and the torrent gone over us:
the raging waters would have gone clean over us.

⁴ **But praised be the Lord:
who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.**

⁵ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler:

the snare is broken, and we have gone free.

**⁶ Our help is in the name of the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.**

Second Reading from Romans 12.1–8

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Hear the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical background: Paul urges Christians to offer themselves as "living sacrifices" to God. Rather than conforming to the values of the world, believers are to be transformed by renewing their minds and using their different spiritual gifts to serve one another.

Meaning and relevance today: Following Christ shapes every part of life. Each person has unique gifts, and every gift is valuable in building God's Church and serving the community.

Reflection question: *What gifts has God given me, and how can I use them to bless others this week?*

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 16.13-20

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

¹⁵He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Biblical background: At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter boldly declares, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus blesses Peter and entrusts him with a special role in the life of the Church.

Meaning and relevance today: Christian faith is deeply personal. Each of us must answer Jesus' question for ourselves. Recognising Jesus as Lord calls us to live faithfully and to witness to him in our daily lives.

Reflection question: *If Jesus asked me today, "Who do you say that I am?" what would my life reveal about my answer?*

News & Notices

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. An Attendance List at the back of the Church.

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

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

GYMPIE CEMETERY TRUST FATHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE: **Friday 4th Sept 1.00 – 2.30 pm**. Gather at the new white octagonal Lakeside Gazebo (entrance via at 93 Cartwright Road).

PITCH IN CHOIR END OF YEAR CELEBRATION: Pitch In Choir invites you to join them for the end of year celebration at St Peter's on **Thursday, 10th Sept at 6.30 pm**. 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

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; Daniel Saunders; Shirley Summerville; Graham and Beris Trainer; Robyn Vagg; Melodie Zylstra.

Years Mind: Errol Doyle – Seven years dearly departed.

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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