



30th August 2026

*Lord Jesus, give us the courage to follow
you each day. Help us to carry our cross
with faith, to love with generous hearts, and
to trust that your way always leads to life.
Amen.*

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

Peter had just declared Jesus to be the Messiah, yet he struggled to accept that the Messiah would suffer. Like Peter, we often want God's blessings without the cost of discipleship. Jesus gently but firmly reminds us that following him means putting God's purposes ahead of our own comfort.

Taking up our cross does not simply mean enduring hardship. It means choosing love over resentment, forgiveness over revenge, service over self-interest, and faith over fear. These daily choices shape us into the people Christ calls us to be.

As we begin this week, remember that Jesus never asks us to carry the cross alone. He walks beside us, strengthens us by his Spirit, and leads us towards the hope of resurrection.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow him. Matthew 16.24–25

Prayer of the Day: O God, whose Son has shown the way of the cross to be the way of life: transform and renew our minds that we may not be conformed to this world but may offer ourselves wholly to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

First Reading from Exodus 3.1-15

¹Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' ⁵Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from

your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’ ⁶He said further, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷Then the Lord said, ‘I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.’ ¹¹But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ ¹²He said, ‘I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.’ ¹³But Moses said to God, ‘If I come to the Israelites and say to them, “The God of your ancestors has sent me to you”, and they ask me, “What is his name?” what shall I say to them?’ ¹⁴God said to Moses, ‘I am who I am.’ He said further, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “I am has sent me to you.”’ ¹⁵God also said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you”: This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical background: While tending sheep in the wilderness, Moses encounters God in the burning bush. God calls him to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and reveals his holy name: "I AM WHO I AM." This marks the beginning of Israel's journey to freedom.

Meaning and relevance today: God often calls ordinary people in ordinary places to extraordinary tasks. He knows our fears but promises to be with us. God's presence gives us the courage to respond to his call.

Reflection question: *Where might God be calling me to step out in faith and trust his presence?*

Psalm 105.1-6, 23-26

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.**

²³ Then Israel came into Egypt:
and Jacob dwelt in the land of Ham.

²⁴ There the Lord made his people fruitful:

too numerous for their enemies,

²⁵ Whose hearts he turned to hate his people:
and to deal deceitfully with his servants.

²⁶ Then he sent Moses his servant:

And Aaron whom he had chosen.

Second Reading from Romans 12.9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' ²⁰No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Hear the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical background: Paul describes what genuine Christian living looks like. He encourages believers to love sincerely, serve faithfully, rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, forgive their enemies, and overcome evil with good.

Meaning and relevance today: Christian faith is shown in everyday actions. Love, forgiveness, hospitality, and compassion are powerful witnesses to Christ in a divided world.

Reflection question: *How can I overcome evil with good in one relationship or situation this week?*

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 16.21-28

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' ²³But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Biblical background: After Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus begins to reveal that he must suffer, die, and rise again. Peter objects, but Jesus teaches that true discipleship means taking up the cross, denying oneself, and following him.

Meaning and relevance today: Following Jesus is not always easy. Discipleship involves sacrifice, faithfulness, and putting God's will before our own desires. Yet the way of the cross is also the way to true life and lasting hope.

Reflection question: *What is one cross I need to carry faithfully as I follow Jesus today?*

News & Notices

COOKED BREAKFAST - After the 8.30 am combined service this morning.

Note: there will not be a service at 5.30 pm this evening.

BIBLE STUDY AT ST PETER'S: Starting this 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. \$10 in support of Pitch In.

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 Gympie; 9.30 am Rainbow Beach | **Mon:** 9.30 am Mainly Music | **Tue:** 5.00 pm Meditation | **Wed:** 12.00 noon Service.

NEXT SUNDAY: Father's Day Kidz Church during the 8.30 am Service.

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.

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

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