

6th September 2026



Loving Shepherd, help us to care for others as you care for us. Fill our hearts with compassion, guide us in the way of peace, and make us instruments of your reconciling love. Amen.

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

The heart of this Gospel is God's relentless love for every person. Like a shepherd searching for one lost sheep, Jesus reminds us that no one is forgotten or beyond his care.

As Christians, we are called to reflect that same love. Sometimes this means reaching out to someone who has drifted away, offering forgiveness, or patiently rebuilding a damaged relationship. It is not always easy, but Christ promises to be present whenever his people gather in his name and seek peace together.

This week, ask yourself not only, "Am I following the Good Shepherd?" but also, "Who is God inviting me to seek, encourage, or welcome home?"

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: 'Where two or three are gathered in my name,' says the Lord, 'I am there among them.' Matthew 18-20

Prayer of the Day: Go before us, O Lord, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by the mercy, obtain everlasting life; 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 12.1-14

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical background: On the eve of Israel's deliverance from Egypt, God institutes the Passover. The blood of the lamb marks the homes of the Israelites, and they are spared from the final plague. The Passover becomes the central memorial of God's saving love and faithfulness.

Meaning and relevance today: God is a God of liberation and new beginnings. For Christians, the Passover points to Christ, the Lamb of God, whose sacrifice brings freedom from sin and new life.

Reflection question: *How have I experienced God's saving love, and how can I live more faithfully in response?*

Psalm 149

¹ O praise the Lord, and sing to the Lord a new song:

O praise him in the assembly of the faithful.

² **Let Israel rejoice in him that made him:**

let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

³ Let them praise him in the dance:

let them sing his praise with timbrel and with harp.

⁴ **For the Lord takes delight in his people:**

he adorns the meek with his salvation.

⁵ Let his faithful ones exult in his glory:

let them sing for joy upon their beds.

⁶ **Let the high praises of God be in their mouths:**

and a two-edged sword in their hands,

⁷ To execute vengeance on the nations:

and chastisement upon the peoples,

⁸ **To bind their kings in chains:**

and their nobles with fetters of iron,

⁹ To visit upon them the judgement that is decreed:

such honour belongs to all his faithful servants.

Second Reading from Romans 13.1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; ⁴for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Hear the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical background:

Paul encourages Christians to respect lawful authority and reminds them that the heart of God's law is love. Loving our neighbour fulfils the commandments.

Meaning and relevance today:

Christian discipleship is expressed through responsible citizenship, respect for others, and practical love. Love remains the greatest mark of a follower of Christ.

Reflection question:

How can I show Christ-like love in my family, workplace, or community this week?

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 18.10-20

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

¹⁰'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. ¹⁵'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of

you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Biblical background: Jesus speaks about the Father's care for every "little one," tells the parable of the lost sheep, teaches about restoring those who have gone astray, and promises his presence wherever two or three gather in his name.

Meaning and relevance today: Every person matters to God. The Church is called to seek the lost, restore broken relationships with compassion, and live as a caring community centred on Christ.

Reflection question: *Who in my life may need encouragement, forgiveness, or an invitation back into the community of faith?*

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

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY: We wish all our fathers a loving, happy and healthy Father's Day today.



Welcome to a special Father's Day Kidz Church. We are so happy you are here today to play, learn, and discover more about Jesus.

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 & 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 | **Thurs:** 1 – 2 pm Bible Study

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 **Acct Number:** 0000 5910

Please use all the four zeros when entering the Acct No..

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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