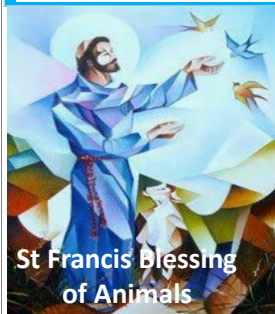


OUR MISSION:
*Living and telling the good news of Jesus Christ,
reaching out to all in love and service.*

OUR VISION: *To be an outward looking Church*



4th October 2026

***Generous God,**
thank you for the vineyard of life
you have entrusted to us.
Help us not to possess your gifts selfishly, but to
cultivate them with love, justice and generosity.
May our lives bear good fruit for you and for others.
Amen.*

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

Jesus' parable of the vineyard asks a confronting question: **What are we doing with what God has entrusted to us?** The tenants gradually forget that the vineyard is not theirs. They take possession, protect their interests and reject the owner. It is easy for us to do something similar. We can begin to think that our time, possessions, abilities, relationships, even the Church itself, belong entirely to us. Yet everything is gift. God entrusts the vineyard to our care and looks for fruit: compassion, justice, generosity, forgiveness and love. The question is not simply, "What do I have?" but, **"What am I giving back?"** This week, may we see our lives not as possessions to control, but as a vineyard entrusted to us for God's purposes.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: 'But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ...and the fish of the sea will declare to you. In his hand is the life of very living thing...' (Job 12: 7, 8b, 10a) Amen

Prayer of the Day: We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the companionship of animals. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for those who come after us. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honour and glory of your Name, now and for ever. Amen

Readings

First Reading from Exodus 20.1-4, 7-9, 12-20

¹ Then God spoke all these words: ² I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ For six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹² Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³ You shall not murder. ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ You shall not steal. ¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. ¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

¹⁸ When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, ¹⁹ and said to Moses, 'You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.' ²⁰ Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.'

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical background: This passage records the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. Israel, newly freed from slavery, is learning how to live as a community shaped by God's covenant.

Meaning & relevance today: The commandments are not merely restrictions. They provide a framework for a life marked by respect, faithfulness, honesty, contentment and love of neighbour. In a world of competing voices, they remind us that freedom also carries responsibility.

Reflection question: *Which of God's commandments challenges the way I am living or relating to others today?*

Psalm 19

1 The heavens declare the glory of God:
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;

**2 One day tells it to another:
and night to night communicates knowledge.**

3 There is no speech or language:
nor are their voices heard;

**4 Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:
and their words to the ends of the earth.**

5 There he has pitched a tent for the sun:
which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.

**6 Its rising is at one end of the heavens, and its circuit to their farthest bound:
and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:
the command of the Lord is true, and makes wise the simple.

**8 The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart:
the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the eyes.**

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:
the judgements of the Lord are unchanging, and righteous every one.

**10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold:
sweeter also than honey, than the honey that drips from the comb.**

11 Moreover, by them is your servant taught:
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**12 Who can know their own unwitting sins?:
O cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the mastery over me:
so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.

**14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight:
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

Second Reading from Philippians 3.4b-14

⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hear the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical background: Paul lists the religious credentials he once considered valuable, but says he now regards them as nothing compared with knowing Christ. His goal is to keep moving forward in faith.

Meaning & relevance today: Our identity is not ultimately found in achievements, reputation, status or the past. Following Christ is a lifelong journey of letting go, growing and becoming more like Jesus.

Reflection question: *What am I holding onto from my past that may be preventing me from moving forward with Christ?*

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 21.33-46

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

³³ 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' ⁴¹ They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.' ⁴² Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"? ⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.' ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Biblical background: Jesus tells the parable of a landowner whose tenants refuse to give him the fruits of his vineyard and ultimately kill his son. The story speaks of Israel's rejection of God's messengers and points towards Jesus himself.

Meaning & relevance today: The vineyard represents something entrusted to us, not something we own absolutely. Our lives, relationships, resources and communities are gifts placed in our care. God asks not simply what we possess, but what fruit our lives are producing.

Reflection question: *What has God entrusted to me, and what kind of fruit is my life producing?*

News & Notices

Today we are pleased to welcome our creature companions to offer blessings for the joy and comfort they bring to our lives.

Pets will be blessed during the Service with personal pet blessings after at 9.30 am in the church grounds.

ALL SOULS DAY: 1st Nov 2026. Names of loved ones passed may be added to the list at the back of the Church to commemorate those who have gone before us to their eternal rest. You may also contact the office to leave names- Office details below.

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON: Tues, 3rd Nov, starting 11 am, for a delicious lunch and watch the race on a big screen. Come dressed up, enjoy a Fashion Parade by Fancy That Op Shop, Sweeps. \$25 per person. Bookings call Church Office details below. A List is also at the back of the church.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: Shirley Doyle Happy Birthday for last Wednesday 🎂

PARISH PANTRY: Thank you for your continued donations of non-perishable food supplies for our community assistance pantry.

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

Tue: 5.00 pm Meditation | **Wed:** 12.00 noon Service. | **Thurs:** 1 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**

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; 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 **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

Find us on Facebook: [Anglican Church Gympie](#) / [Mainly music](#) / [Fancy That Op Shop](#)