

**Liturgy of the Word—Third Sunday of Advent**

**First Reading:**

*Isaiah 35:1-6, 10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy on their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:**  
*Ps 145:6-10*

**R.** Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

**Second Reading:**  
James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James  
**You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming  
will be soon.**

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer:  
how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground  
until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too  
have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming  
will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another,  
brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the  
Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your  
example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the  
prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
*Isaiah 61:1*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:**  
*Matthew 11:2-11*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he  
sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come,  
or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go  
back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again,  
and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and  
the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to  
the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the  
people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to  
see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go  
out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear  
fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go  
out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than  
a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am  
going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your  
way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of  
women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen;  
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



*14 Church Street, Gympie*

# *St Patrick's Parish*

## *Gympie and Surrounds*

*Embracing the communities of Gunalda, Gympie, Kandanga,  
Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay & Widgee*

*Ph: 07 5490 6880*

*Email: [gympie@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:gympie@bne.catholic.net.au)*

### **3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Year A**

**14 December 2025**

#### **REFLECTION by Nick Brodie**

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‘A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight but only men and women to love, is the Church that the world needs today’, says Pope Leo.

The Pope is very concerned to bring us back to the essentials of our Faith. He speaks of ‘caring for the poor’, for instance, as ‘a beacon as it were of evangelical light.’

Similarly, he speaks of how ‘love for the poor – whatever the form their poverty may take – is the evangelical hallmark of a Church faithful to the heart of God.’

In short, the Pope is reminding us that we proclaim Christ most effectively when we are Christ-like in our attitudes and actions towards others. This is most especially true when we are dealing with those in need or otherwise on the margins of society.

‘The dominant culture’, the Pope suggests, ‘would have us abandon the poor to their fate and consider them unworthy of attention, much less our respect.’ But, through our faith we see them differently. In the poor, we see the suffering of Our Lord himself. This is a message worth proclaiming to the world.

‘For Christians,’ the Pope affirms, ‘the poor are not a sociological category, but the very “flesh” of Christ.’ In that sense, we are always challenged to prepare for our Lord by being open to encountering him anywhere there is need.

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

#### **Wednesday 24th December 2025 Vigil**

4:00pm St Peter the Fisherman – Rainbow Beach  
6:30pm St Patrick's – Gympie  
Youth Play from 6:00pm

#### **Thursday 25th December 2025**

7:00am Sacred Heart Church – Kandanga  
9:00am St Patrick's – Gympie  
Carols will be played 30 minutes  
prior to Mass.

#### **No Mass 26th December 2025**

#### **Contact Information**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Rafal Rucinski 0410 887 476

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Brianna Bridges

**Parish Associate:** Mr Tom Bushell

**Youth Group Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Elizabeth Taylor

**Safeguarding Officer:** Mr Ian Laherty [lsr.gympie@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:lsr.gympie@bne.catholic.net.au) 0460 573 349

**Parish Office Hours:** Monday to Friday 8:30am to 1:00pm

**Parish Website:** [stpatsgympie.net.au](http://stpatsgympie.net.au)

**Facebook:** St Patrick's Catholic Parish Gympie

**Finance Council:** Ken Garner

**Community Council:** Maureen Rush

#### **St Patrick's School Details:**

**St Patrick's College** Mr Mark Newton 5482 0600

Website: <https://www.spcgympie.qld.edu.au>

**St Patrick's Primary** Mrs Petrea Hass 5489 3200

Website: <https://www.stpatrickspsgympie.qld.edu.au>

#### **St Vincent de Paul Family Assistance:**

Phone: 5481 1525

Email: [sp4570@svdpqld.org.au](mailto:sp4570@svdpqld.org.au)

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*We acknowledge the Gubbi Gubbi People, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.*



**Monday:** 7:30am  
**Tuesday:** 9:00am  
**Thursday:** 7:00am  
**Friday:** 5:30pm  
**Sunday:** 9:00am(Live-streamed)  
 5:30pm  
**Reconciliation:** Friday 4:45pm or on request

## Liturgy Roster for 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00am Morning Mass

**Welcomer:** M Green  
**Reader 1:** A Calvert  
**Reader 2:** J Newey  
**POF:** K Cartwright  
**Altar Servers:** Chris, Christes & Chrisetta  
**Communion Ministers:**  
**Bread:** M Calvert, D Liedel, A Towner  
**Wine:** L Newey, E Saunders, J Babu, I Laherty  
**Power Point:** A Jomy  
**Piety Store:** K Taylor  
**Morning Tea:** Servant Community

**5:30pm Evening Mass**

**Welcomer:** S & H Skuse  
**Reader 1:** T Tierney  
**Reader 2:** M Norris  
**POF:** **Volunteer**  
**Communion Ministers:** C Johnston, E Shields, L Collins  
**Power Point:** N Guar

**Saturday**  
St Vincent de Paul Church – Widgee 5:00pm

**Sunday**  
St John Vianney – Tin Can Bay 7:00am

**Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion**

**Sunday**  
St Therese Church – Gunalda 7:00am

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-14  
**2nd Reading:** Romans 1:1-7  
**Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-24

If you are in year 6 to year 10 and are interested in joining in the free afternoon fun activities of our youth group on Friday afternoons please come along. Afternoon tea is provided.

**19th December** 3:00pm till 5:00pm - Play Rehearsal

**24th December** 6:00pm start —Play prior to Mass. Please arrive **30 minutes prior** so play starts at 6pm sharp.

Our Christmas party will be held on

Friday 19th December  
after the 5:30pm Mass  
Parish Centre.

Please join us to celebrate and bring a small dinner plate to share.

Brianna will also be taking holidays from the 15th December until the 12th January. Tom will be in the office on Tuesdays after 10:30am until 1:00pm and Thursdays from 8:30am until 1:00pm. If you require anything during this time.

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas from the  
**24th December until the 5th January.**  
 If an emergency during this time please call  
 Fr Rafal on his mobile 0410 887 476.

Monday 15th December	6:30am—7:30am
Tuesday 16th December	8:00am—9:00am
Thursday 18th December	7:30am—8:30am
	5:30pm—6:30pm
Friday 15th December	4:30pm—5:30pm
Saturday 20th December	9:00am—10:00am
Monday 22nd December	6:30am—7:30am
	5:30pm—6:30pm
Tuesday 23rd December	8:00am—9:00am

We would love for you to join us at the Sacred Heart Church in Kandanga on Christmas morning at 7:00am.

The Parishioners of Kandanga have put together a wonderful Christmas display in preparation for the Mass.

Please show your support around our country churches.



Date	Event
15th December – 12th January	Brianna on Holidays
19th December	Christmas Party after the 5:30pm Mass in the Parish Centre. Bring a small dinner plate to share.
24th December – 5th January	Parish Office Closed
24th December	Mass – Rainbow Beach 4:00pm Mass – Gympie 6:30pm Youth Play – Gympie 6:00pm
25th December	Mass – Kandanga 7:00am Mass – Gympie 9:00am
26th December	Fr Rafal Away – <b>No MASS</b>
28th December	BBQ after morning Mass in the Parish Centre – Fr Rafal’s Birthday
3rd January	Mass and Anointing – 9:00am St Patrick’s Church

This Christmas, St. Vincent de Paul will again be preparing both grocery & toy hampers for all those doing it tough. All donations to help with this much needed project will be very much appreciated. Donations of non perishable food, Christmas treats such as shortbread, nuts, candy canes, cans of soft drinks & toiletries such as soap & toothpaste would all be very handy. All donations can be placed in the baskets at the Church doors up to & including **Sunday 14th December.**

If you would prefer to give a monetary donation, envelopes are available from the table at the front door. Alternatively, you can make a direct deposit into our bank account:

Account - SVDP St. Patrick's  
BSB - 064 786  
Account No. - 100027023

Merry Christmas & May God Bless.  
SVDP Gympie.



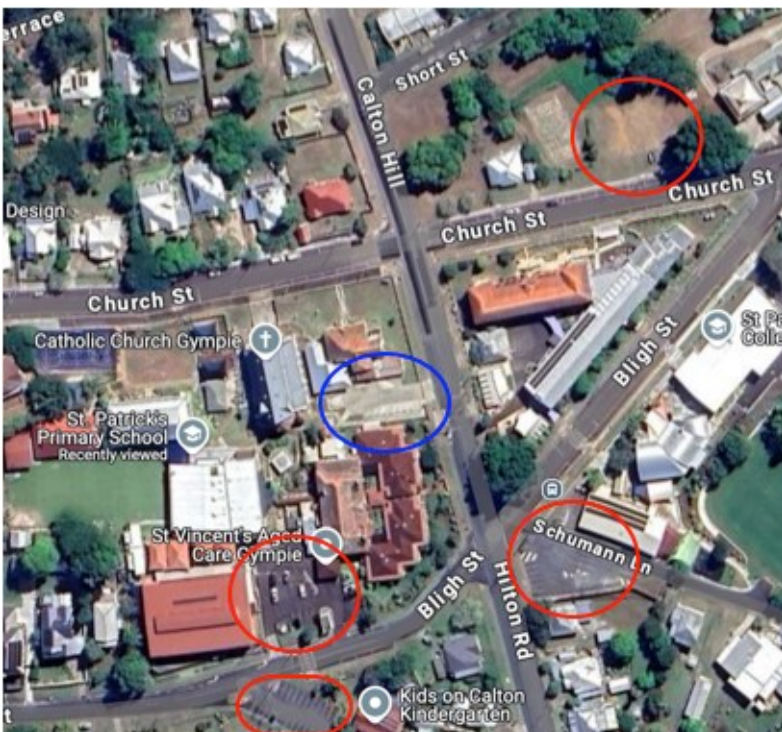
**St Therese Church – Gunalda**, Balkin Street, GUNALDA OLD 4570

**Sacred Heart Church—Kandanga**, 43-45 Stephen's Street, KANDANGA QLD 4570

**St Peter the Fisherman Church – Rainbow Beach**, Manooka Drive, RAINBOW BEACH OLD 4581

**St John Vianney Church – Tin Can Bay, 22-24 Bream Street, TIN CAN BAY OLD 4580**

**St Vincent de Paul – Widgee, Cnr Gympie-Woolooga and Little Widgee Road, WIDGEE QLD 4570**



Let us remember in our prayers those loved ones who have died recently, David Connors and Atonio Osing and those whose anniversaries fall around this time. May the faithful departed rejoice to see the face of their Saviour.

Please write names in Remembrance book at the front door.

Please see a map of additional parking around the St Patrick's Church circled in **red**. We kindly ask that you leave the parking circled in the **blue** for those who require greater accessibility to the church. These parking areas are also available on our general Sunday masses as well.

As Christmas approaches the Pastoral Council would like to thank all volunteers within our parish churches and communities for your time and service in 2025.

We value your contribution as volunteers and trust that all parishioners appreciate and act accordingly with an attitude of gratitude.

May the blessings of the Christmas Season be with you all and your families. Hope to see you all back in 2026 with new volunteers always welcome.

Gympie Pastoral Council.