

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.

Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal © 2010,
International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) All rights reserved.

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



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

14 December 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

Year A

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

©Liturgy Help

'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

Youth Group Co-Ordinator: Mrs Elizabeth Taylor

Safeguarding Officer: Mr Ian Laherty 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

Finance Council: Ken Garner

St Patrick's School Details:

St Patrick's College Mr Mark Newton 5482 0600

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

St Vincent de Paul Family Assistance:

Phone: 5481 1525

Parish Associate: Mr Tom Bushell

Facebook: St Patrick's Catholic Parish Gympie

Community Council: Maureen Rush

St Patrick's Primary Mrs Petrea Hass 5489 3200

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

Email: sp4570@svdpqld.org.au

St Patrick's Mass Times this Week

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

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass beginning.

Liturgy Roster for 4th Sunday of Advent

21 December 2025

9:00am Morning Mass

Welcomer: M Green
Reader 1: A Calvert
Reader 2: J Newey
POF: K Cartwright
Altar Servers: Chris, Christes & Chrietta
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 Gruar

The Deceased

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.



Country Church Mass Times 21/12/2025

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

4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Youth Group

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.

Christmas Party

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.

Carparking

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.

Thank you Volunteers

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.

Parish Office Closed

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.

Reconciliation Times

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

Christmas in Sacred Heart Church Kandanga

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.



What's happening

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 – No MASS
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

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

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.



Country Church Locations

St Therese Church – Gunalda, Balkin Street, GUNALDA QLD 4570

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

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

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

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