



St Patrick's Parish

Gympie and Surrounds

14 Church Street, GYMPIE

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1st Sunday of Lent

Year A

22 February 2025

Reflection by Project Compassion

Nelson Mandela said that education was the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world. There are plenty of people who would agree with him. One of them is Oprah Winfrey who said that education was the way to move mountains, build bridges and, yes, to change the world.

Today's readings certainly suggest the value of learning. The story from the Book of Genesis comes from pre-history. It has often been misunderstood to suggest that sin entered the world through one woman. This is not true. On the contrary, the readings tell us that the world is good. When humans try to overstretch their boundaries, trouble follows, and the experience of beauty and harmony is threatened. We need to choose our teachers. Are we going to listen to God or the serpent? In our modern world, the serpent takes many forms. There are countless threats to the harmony of the human race and the beauty of our natural environment.

Likewise, today's story of the temptations in the wilderness from Matthew's Gospel shows us that some lessons are difficult. Jesus teaches the devil. He tells the evil one that God is in charge. Jesus must decide which voices he will follow. He must learn that some ideas may not be as good as they sound. All the kingdoms of the world, Jesus learns, are no substitute for an honest and life-giving relationship with God.

Each week during Lent, Caritas Australia asks us to think about the world and learn more about our role in building God's kingdom. Today we start with an introduction to Project Compassion, which allows us to appreciate how much the Catholic community, has been able to achieve across the decades for the most marginalised people of the world. We are all still learning. Pope Leo XIV has reminded us that the vulnerable are great teachers.

In Dilexi Te he writes:

Christians must not abandon almsgiving... It is always better at least to do something rather than nothing. Whatever form it may take, almsgiving will touch and soften our hardened hearts... for our part, we need to give alms as a way of reaching out and touching the suffering flesh of the poor.

The evil spirit will always focus on the negative and convince us that change is too difficult. The spirit of grace and truth will show us what is truly possible and help us sort our priorities.

UNITE  AGAINST POVERTY

this Lent

St Patrick's Mass Times this week

Monday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 9:00am
Thursday: 7:00am
Friday: 5:30pm
Reconciliation from 4:45pm or by appointment
Sunday: 9:00am (Livestreamed)
5:30pm

Country Church Mass Times 01/03/2026

Saturday
St John Vianney – Tin Can Bay 5:00pm
Sunday
St Peter the Fisherman – Rainbow Beach 6:30am
Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Sunday
St Therese – Gunalda 7:00am

Parish Contact Information

Parish Priest

Fr Rafal Rucinski
0410 887 476

Parish Secretary

Mrs Brianna Bridges

Parish Associate

Mr Tom Bushell

Safeguarding Officer

Mr Ian Laherty
Lsr.gympie@bne.catholic.net.au
0460 573 349

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30am to 1:00pm

Parish Website

Stpatsgympie.net.au

Facebook

St Patrick's Catholic Parish
Gympie

Finance Council

Ken Garner

Community Council

Maureen Rush

St Vincent de Paul

Family Assistance

Ph: 5481 1525
Email:
sp4570@svdpqld.org.au

St Patrick's College

Principal: Mr Mark Newton
Phone: 5482 0600
Website:
www.spcgympie.qld.edu.au

St Patrick's Primary

Principal: Mrs Petrea Hass
Phone: 5489 3200
Website:
www.stpatrickspsgympie.qld.edu.au

Support the Gympie Parish

Thank you for your continued financial support of the Parish it is greatly appreciated and much needed. If you would like to support the Parish financially please see the ways below:

Direct Debit: Account Name: St Patrick's Parish
BSB: 064-786 Account Number: 1000 17636
Reference: Name/Collections

EFTPOS: We have an EFTPOS machine at the back of the church just tap and go

Envelopes: If you wish to use envelopes, please contact the parish office to arrange a box and then place on the collection plate on either collection.

Cash: If you prefer to use cash please place on the collections plate.

Containers for Change: Simply return your containers to any of the containers for change refund points and quote our number C11306796. Donations collected through this method will be used for Youth Group Activities.

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass beginning

Liturgy Roster
2nd Sunday in Lent -
1 March 2026
9:00am Morning Mass

Welcomer: M Green

Reader 1: Shania Shine

Reader 2: A Gur

POF: K Cartwright

Altar Servers: Alvina, Sherlyn, Chisty

Communion Ministers:

Host: L Newey, S Kelly, I Laherty

Chalice: M Green, D Liedel, A Towner, M Calvert

PowerPoint: A Jomy

Piety Store: A Williams

Morning Tea: Hollow Log

5:30pm Evening Mass

Welcomer: A Hallam

Reader 1: M Norris

Reader 2: T Tierney

POF: P Hass

Communion Minister:

E Shields, N Gruar, C Johnston

PowerPoint: T Hallam

2nd Sunday in Lent Readings

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Men's Afternoon

Men's Afternoon has a new time of 1:00pm until 2:30pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome to come along for a chat, a beer, a coffee and a few games. Next meeting will be

Thursday 26th February 2026.

Hearing Loop in St Pats

For anyone using hearing aids please turn your hearing loop to T. The hearing loop is situated in the middle of the church.

Safeguarding

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding>
Information can be provided at STOPline anonymously.

Ph: 1300 304 550

email: A0B@stopline.com.au

Online: bncatholic.stoplinereport.com

A Vocation View

First Sunday of Lent - A

Lent is a season of renewal, of spiritual growth. These forty penitential days invite us to strive for our true calling.



Flocknote

Want to receive our newsletters online or stay up to date with information from the Parish? Sign up to our Flocknote. By signing up and filling in your details you are also updating the Parish Office with your current phone numbers and addresses.



Facebook

You can also stay up to date with any notices from the parish by visiting and liking our Facebook page. **St Patrick's catholic Parish Gympie**

RCIA Meeting

We will be holding our first RCIA meeting on Thursday the 26th February at 5:30pm in the Parish Centre.

The Catholic Guy

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is **FREE** and you can sign up here:

<https://brucedownes.org/lent-2026-sign-up/>

Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

Mary Poppins Jr Musical

Tickets are now on sale for this years St Patrick's College school musical – Mary Poppins Jr. **Friday 27th February and Saturday 28th February.** Tickets can be purchased for \$30.00 each via

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1523183>

or scanning the QR code.



The Missal
Masso Foundation

The Missal Phone App

To help reduce waste of paper and printing costs we are going to be removing the readings from the back of the newsletters. If you would like to continue reading you can purchase an app on your phone **The Missal** for \$5.00 through your app store, alternatively you can bring your copy of the missal or purchase one through the piety store.

Combined Church Prayer

This month we will be hosting the Combined Churches Prayer at St Patrick's on **Tuesday 24th February** at 6:00pm. We would love for you to come and show your support of our parish.

What's Happening

Date	Event
24 th February	Combined Churches Prayer @ St Patrick's 6:00pm
26 th February	Men's afternoon 1:00pm Parish Centre
27 th & 28 th February	Mary Poppins JR – St Patrick's College Musical
5 th March	Community Council Meeting 5:00pm

Parish Office closed

The Parish office will be closed this Monday the 23rd February it will reopen on Tuesday 24th February at 8:30am.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent we will be holding Stations of the Cross at St Patrick's Church every Friday evening after the 5:30pm Mass. St John Vianney at Tin Can Bay will be holding stations of the cross on Friday's at 10:00am except for the 6th March.

Lenten Reflection Group

Lenten Reflection Group will be meeting in the Parish Centre on **Tuesday's during Lent** at 11:00am.

World day of Prayer

This years World Day of Prayer will be held on **Friday 6th March** at the following venues with Morning Tea to follow:

10:00am St Peter's Church Gympie

10:00am Good Shepherd Church, Rainbow Beach.

9:30am 81 Main Street, Kandanga

St Vincent de Paul

On behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Gympie Conference I would like to thank Fr Rafal for his amazing support in assisting us receiving so much financial assistance with last year's Christmas Appeal. We provided 142 hampers to needy people and the assistance given to us by Father and all parishioners is so much appreciated. Thank you all for such amazing support.



First Sunday of Lent 21–22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code. **Or online at:** www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*



Country Churches

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

First Reading

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis
Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death,
and thus death has spread through the whole human race because

everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:
You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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