



St Patrick's Parish

Gympie and Surrounds

14 Church Street, GYMPIE

Ph: 07 5490 6880

Email: gympie@bne.catholic.net.au

3rd Sunday of Lent

Year A

08 March 2026

Reflection by Project Compassion

Every summer seems to get a little longer and a little hotter. We have all become conscious of issues surrounding water. Either there seems to be too much, as when we see summer floods or rising sea levels in the Pacific. Other times, there seems to be too little water as when the rivers in our country run low or members of God's family around the world experience drought. Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, has been responding to the dire needs of water justice in a range of vulnerable countries.

Today's readings may well cause us to reflect on the current state of God's creation. In the book of Exodus, we hear that people are complaining to Moses because they are dying of thirst. In the Gospel, Jesus meets a woman in a Samaritan town. She has come to draw water from the well in the hottest part of the day. In both cases, access to water is precarious. Yet God responds not only to a thirst for water but to a deeper thirst as well. Moses' people are thirsty for direction, leadership and hope. The woman in John's Gospel has a thirst for love and acceptance which, Jesus tells her, will come from within if she is able to accept him and his message of life. As the story unfolds, we learn of her loneliness and see her reconnecting with her community.

In reflecting on this story in Listening Together, Cardinal Radcliffe reminds us that Jesus' first words are abrupt. 'Give me a drink.' He considers the times in John's Gospel when Jesus expresses thirst, including when he is on the cross. Radcliffe concludes that Jesus is thirsty on our behalf. He longs for our freedom.

Thirst is a great spiritual metaphor, one which Pope Leo XIV has used. But let's not forget the millions of people for whom physical water is a real challenge. This week, Project Compassion shares with us the story of Monoranjon, a farmer in Bangladesh whose family has been deeply impacted by environmental damage, specifically salination of soil and water. This beautiful story reminds us of the importance of meeting people, as Jesus did, at their place of greatest need.

Our thirst for freedom and justice enables us to *Unite Against Poverty*.

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 15/03/2026

Saturday
St Vincent de Paul – 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

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
4th Sunday in Lent -
15 March 2026
9:00am Morning Mass

Welcomer: P Tobin
Reader 1: B Lipke
Reader 2: M Ryan
POF: I Laherty
Altar Servers: Chris, Christes, Christetta
Communion Ministers:
Host: I Laherty, D Liedel, A Towner
Chalice: L Newey, E Saunders, M Calvert, M Green
PowerPoint: J Newey
Piety Store: K Taylor
Morning Tea: Servant Community

5:30pm Evening Mass

Welcomer: A Cambridge
Reader 1: A Goldie
Reader 2: K Reeves
POF: L Collins
Communion Minister:
A Cambridge, E Shields, C Johnston
PowerPoint: A Osborne

4th Sunday in Lent Readings

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel: John 9:1-41

Lion's Morning Tea

Lions International Community Morning Tea. The Second Thursday of the month from 10:00am to 11:30am at the Senior Citizens Centre. \$5.00 includes morning tea and a lucky door prize. Next meeting will be **Thursday 12th March.**

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: AOB@stoline.com.au
Online: bncatholic.stoplinereport.com

A Vocation View

Third Sunday of Lent - A

Only the Lord can give true living water, the fullness of life. Our body cannot survive without water; our spirit cannot survive without living water. Now is the time to renew our lives in the waters and Spirit of Baptism.



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**

Parent's Information Session

We will be holding a Parents Information Session for Sacrament of First Penance on **Sunday 8th March 2026** after the morning Mass.

[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.



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.

[Lenten Reflection Group](#)

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

[Holy Week Roster](#)

There is a roster in the front of the Church if you can assist over the Holy Week Masses please write your name down.

[Project Compassion Envelopes](#)

This Lent, like we did in 2025, there is a single Project Compassion donation envelope – rather than the six weekly envelopes used in previous years. This change was made to reduce waste and support our shared commitment to caring for our common home.

You can still give weekly by taking several envelopes at once or simply make your offering when you're ready. Thank you for Uniting Against Poverty with us this Lent.



Third Sunday of Lent 7 – 8 March 2026

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

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.*



[What's Happening](#)

Date	Event
10 th March	Finance Council Meeting 5:30pm
15 th March	BBQ after Morning Mass St Patrick's Church
17 th March	St Patrick's Solemnity
26 th March	Annual Chrism Mass @ St Stephens Cathedral
29 th March	Palm Sunday

[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 will be holding Stations of the cross on Friday's at 10:00am except for the 6th March.

[Piety Store](#)

There are still a small supply of Lenten books (\$6.00) and Columban Calendars (\$10.00) available to purchase in the piety Store. If you are looking for something in particular please let the volunteers know we might be able to order it.

[St Patrick's Day](#)

This year St Patrick's Day falls on Tuesday 17th March. We will be holding our usual Mass on Tuesday at 9:00am followed by adoration. We will be celebrating St Patrick's day with a BBQ after Sunday morning Mass on **15th March**. We would love for you to wear Green and celebrate the solemnity.

[First Rite of Reconciliation](#)

If your child is 11 years old or older or in Year 5 and has received the sacraments for Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion and would like to receive the Sacrament of First Rite of Reconciliation our program will start **Sunday 15th March** with the First meeting at 10:30am in the St Patrick's Church.

[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

Exodus 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

R. If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

cf John 4:42, 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 4:5-42

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Holy Week Schedule

2nd April - **Thursday of the Lords Supper** – St Patrick's 7:00pm followed by adoration in Parish Centre until 10:00pm

3rd April – **Stations of the Cross** – Sacred Heart Kandanga 9:30am

- St Patrick's Gympie 10:00am

- St John Vianney Tin Can Bay 10:00am

- St Therese Gunalda 10:00am

3rd April – **Friday of the Passion of the Lord** – St Patrick's Gympie 3:00pm

- St John Vianney Tin Can Bay 3:00pm (Liturgy of the Word)

4th April – **Holy Saturday – The Easter Vigil** – St Patrick's Gympie 7:00pm

5th April – **Sunday of the Resurrection** – St Peter the Fisherman Rainbow Beach 6:30am

- St Patrick's Gympie 9:00am

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