



St Patrick's Parish

Gympie and Surrounds

14 Church Street, GYMPIE

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Email: gympie@bne.catholic.net.au

5th Sunday of Easter

Year A

3 May 2026

REFLECTION by Geoffrey D Dunn

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These days if we want to find out how to get somewhere, we simply type the address into a map app and up will pop directions on how to get there. Often we are given several options about which way to go. Many people view getting to heaven the same way: Catholics go this way, Protestants go that way, the Orthodox go along a third route, Buddhists another, Muslims their own way, but eventually everyone will end up in the same place.

The Gospel of John seems to present some difficulties for holding that view. Jesus is presented as saying, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life'. If he is the way, is he the only way? The next sentence seems to make that clear that he is the only way: 'No one can come to the Father except through me'. This raises the serious question: can non-Christians be saved? If they can be saved apart from through Jesus, then why do we bother with so much missionary work? If they cannot be saved, then God seems unfair in condemning those who have never had the opportunity of hearing about Jesus. These issues have plagued Christianity for centuries.

Just what does it mean to come to the Father through Jesus? Does it mean that one has to have heard of him? Does it mean that one has to belong to his community of disciples, the church? Could it not mean that Jesus saves through a variety of means or through a variety of communities? At the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960s the bishops of the Catholic Church taught definitively in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) that salvation is open to non-Christians if they follow the commands of their conscience, where the Spirit communicates with them. The Decree on

Ecumenism (*Unitatis Redintegratio*) also taught that non-Catholic Christians can come to salvation because they are members of Christ's body, the church, however imperfectly. Does this mean everyone will be saved, no matter what? The first letter of Peter tells us that those who reject Jesus, the living stone, will stumble and fall because they do not believe. So it is still possible to reject God and reject Jesus as the way, but we should not automatically think that everyone who is not baptised has therefore explicitly rejected Jesus.

It is possible to believe that salvation is only through Jesus and to believe that Jesus can offer that salvation outside the visible confines of the Catholic Church or of Christianity in general. The great Jesuit theologian of the twentieth century, Karl Rahner, described this as anonymous Christianity – a view not without critics of either conservative or liberal inclination.

Perhaps Rahner could have found a better term than 'anonymous Christian', for in essence his focus was on the universal love of God made visible through Jesus and communicated through the Spirit without limit. People can only be saved through Jesus, even if they do not know that it is he who is saving them. Once we start dealing with God's will, our ability to know it perfectly is something I would hesitate to assert.

In preaching on this passage of John's Gospel, however, Augustine of Hippo did not dwell on such matters. He was concerned rather with the people in front of him, those who knew Christ and who explicitly followed his way. Augustine's concern is what kind of way it was that Christ calls those of us who are baptised to follow. Augustine said, 'Christ the way is the humble Christ; Christ the truth and the life is Christ exalted and God. If you walk along with the humble Christ, you will arrive at the exalted Christ; if in your sickly health and debility you do not spurn the humble one, you will abide in perfect health and strength with the exalted one' (*Sermo 142*).

The way of Jesus is the way of the cross, it is the humble way of dying to oneself that others may live, it is the way of turning away from sin and being faithful to the gospel. We thank God for the living stone, who is Jesus; we thank God for ourselves as the living stones forming his body. We thank God that through baptism we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a consecrated nation. In our eucharist now let us sing the praises of God, who has brought us light and life, the truth and way, through Jesus. We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song.

St Patrick's Mass Times this week

Monday:	7:30am
Tuesday:	9:00am
Thursday:	7:00am
Friday:	5:30pm reconciliation from 4:45pm
Sunday:	9:00am (Livestreamed) 5:30pm

Country Church Mass Times 09/05/2026

Saturday

Sacred Heart – Kandanga – 5:00pm

Sunday

St Therese Gunalda – 7:00am

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Saturday

St John Vianney Tin Can Bay – 5:00pm

Sunday

St Peter the Fisherman Rainbow Beach – 6:30am

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
9:00am to 1:30pm

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 Tony Hytch
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



St Patrick's Parish
Gympie and Surrounds

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING 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:



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

Direct Debit: 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.

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.

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@stoline.com.au

Online: bneatholic.stoplinereport.com

A Vocation View

Fifth Sunday of Easter - A

The institution of the Diaconate is mentioned in today's Scripture. Perhaps the Lord is calling you to assist with the charitable, educational, or liturgical needs of the Lord's People today.



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**

Scripture Study Group

You are invited to join the new weekly Scripture Study Group on Tuesday's from 12:30pm until 1:30pm in the Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend.

What's Happening

Date	Event
4 th May	Labour Day Public Holiday – Office Closed
15 th May	Gympie Show Holiday – Office Closed
14 th May	Lion's Morning Tea
28 th May	Men's Afternoon

Craft Group

If you knit, sew, draw, do any craft or just enjoy company. Please join us at the Parish Centre at 9:30am until 11:30am. Tea and Coffee supplied. All are welcome, For further information please contact Marea Teakle 0402 493 038 or Maureen Rush 0412 737 380.

First Holy Communion

Has your child been Baptised and Confirmed and wishing to complete the next sacrament of First Holy Communion? Our meeting dates are as follows:

- 1st Meeting – 3rd May
- 2nd Meeting – 10th May
- 3rd Meeting – 24th May
- 4th Meeting – 31st May
- Celebration – 14th June

Youth Group

We will be recommencing Youth Group again this term. If you are Year 6 – Year 10 come along and bring a friend. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Friday 8 May
Parish Centre
3:30pm until 5:00pm

Come, Rest & Rejuvenate - a Retreat Day for you

You are warmly invited to a retreat day in the beautiful bush of Kilkivan, away from the busy-ness of life, where you can rest, reflect and be renewed and inspired by God's creation.

Saturday 16 May 2026, 9am to 3pm, 86 Godber Road, Cinnabar. \$20 including facilitation and retreat materials. More Details and to Register here <https://jisa.org.au/retreat/come-rest-and-rejuvenate-cinnabar-qld/>

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass beginning

Liturgy Roster
6th Sunday of Easter
10 May 2026
9:00am Morning Mass

Welcomer: M Green

Reader 1: I Laherty

Reader 2: D Griffin

POF: M Rush

Altar Servers: Chris, Christes, Chrisetta, Chisty

Communion Ministers:

1. I Laherty, **2.** D Liedel, **3.** D Dillon **4.** L Newey,
6. E Saunders, **7.** M Calvert, **8.** M Green

PowerPoint: S Maris

Piety Store: M Rush

Morning Tea: Servant Community

5:30pm Evening Mass

Welcomer: S & H Skuse

Reader 1: L Collins

Reader 2: M Norris

POF: T Tierney

Communion Minister: C Johnston, E Shields, B Doak

PowerPoint: N Gruar

6th Sunday of Easter Readings

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Kokoda Challenge

A number of our Altar Servers and parishioners from St Patrick's College will be heading over to complete the Kokoda Challenge on the 9th May. They are looking for donations that you can spare. There are 8 groups heading from the College to complete the challenge. Each group must raise their minimum amount in funds to be able to complete the Kokoda Challenge.

To donate please follow the link

<https://www.kokodachallenge.com/sponsor?kw=spartans>.

Gympie Winter Shelter

Gympie Winter Shelter is looking for volunteers for cooking, evening or morning shifts. If you would like to assist please scan the QR code to register by the 10th May. For more information contact Kate Clues on 0422 151 969.



Annual Mass Count

It is that time of year again, during May we will be conducting the Annual Mass Count. These figures help the Archdiocese Of Brisbane to understand how many people are being reached in local communities and across the whole Archdiocese. Also every 5 years, to coincide with the Australian National Census, the ACBC asks for data on parish Mass attendance. This year the Parish Leadership team within Archdiocesan Ministries will coordinate with the ACBC.

Marriage Encounter

Marriage Encounter are hosting a couple of retreats.

“The Vow” Mini Retreat

30th May 2026

9:30am to 12:30pm

St Oliver Plunkett Church Hall, Cannon Hill

RSVP: Cathy or Vince Agius –

vinceandcathywwme@gmail.com

“Live Out” Retreat

4th – 5th July 2026

Our Lady of The Southern Cross Parish,
Springfield Lakes.

Bookings or Enquires: Joseph and Lisha Deseam 0481 307

821 or qldbookings@wwme.org.au

www.wwme.org.au

Domestic & Family Violence Prevention Month

Each May, Queensland marks Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Prevention Month. This annual initiative aims to raise awareness of domestic and family violence and coercive control, highlight the support services available and send a clear message that violence in our communities will not be tolerated. If you are or know someone that is in a life threatening situation please call 000 and ask for police. If you do not want to speak to the police you can call DV Connect 1800 811 811 or 1800 737 732 (24 hours a day 7 days a week).

HymnFest

Our next HymnFest is on Sunday 17th May @ 2.30 pm at Uniting 4570, Red Hill Road, Gympie. This is a very enjoyable time of singing some old favourite hymns/choruses. We sing for about an hour then enjoy fellowship over a cuppa afterwards. The afternoon finishes around 4pm. Please bring a small plate of afternoon tea to share. All are welcome. Inquiries Phone: Narelle Towner 0418 729 268.

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

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. R.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. R.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. R.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 14:1-12

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