



St Patrick's Parish

Gympie and Surrounds

14 Church Street, GYMPIE

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The Ascension of the Lord

Year A

17 May 2026

REFLECTION by Geoffrey D Dunn

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Only Luke separates out resurrection, ascension, and giving of the Spirit over a fifty-day period. The clear implication in John's Gospel is that the Spirit is given on the day of the resurrection and that the ascension has occurred around the same time since, one week later, Jesus invites Thomas to touch him – something that Mary of Magdala had been forbidden one week earlier because the ascension had not yet occurred. In essence they are all different dimensions of the one reality, and the church, in following Luke's chronology, allows us to reflect on this one reality over fifty days in all its richly different aspects.

In Matthew's Gospel what is interesting is that we have the account of the women at the tomb (Matt 28:1-10), the account we proclaimed at the Easter Vigil, where the angel tells them not to be afraid and instructs them to tell the disciples of Jesus' having been raised and instructs them to go to Galilee. On the way to tell the disciples, the women see Jesus, who also tells them not to be afraid. The encounter between the women and the disciples is not described, and what we hear from the very last lines of the gospel, which we have just heard, is that the disciples are in Galilee. When Jesus appears some hesitate to recognise him.

We have a homily preached by Leo the Great, bishop of Rome between 440 and 461, on this solemn feast early in his episcopate, in 444. Leo saw the hesitancy of some of the disciples having a spiritual significance. His explanation was that it was for our benefit:

The Spirit of Truth would by no means have permitted this hesitation, wavering in human weakness, to enter the hearts of his preachers, if their trembling anxiety and questioning delay were not to have established the foundations of our faith. Consequently, it was our doubts, our danger, that was being considered in the apostles. We, in the guise of the apostles, were being instructed against the slanders of the wicked and the proofs of earthly wisdom. Their 'seeing' instructed us, their 'hearing' informed us, their 'touching' strengthened us. Let us give thanks for the divine plan and the necessary 'slowness' of the Holy Fathers [the apostles]. They 'doubted' so that we need not doubt. (*Sermo 73*)

In Matthew's Gospel, the ascension is the moment of the great commissioning. To be a disciple is to be sent into the world to bear witness to the resurrection, to be a messenger of the good news of hope and promise and of the victory of life over death and of love over sin. We hear no more about the fear of the disciples after this. This is the paradox of Christianity: the one who was dead is alive, the one who has gone remains with us, those who fail are forgiven, those who fear are fortified. This is the mystery of faith, this is the hope God's call holds for us. Would that we allow the eyes of our minds to be enlightened by this promise of the rich glories we are to inherit.

These rich glories are beyond our wildest dreams. Leo the Great concluded that the promise of the ascension is not that we shall be restored to the paradise of our first parents, but we shall be raised to the heights of heaven itself and dwell in the very presence of God:

Since the ascension of Christ is our elevation, and since, where the glory of the head has preceded us, there hope for the body is also invited, let us exult, dearly beloved, with worthy joy and be glad about a holy thanksgiving. Today we are established not only as possessors of paradise, but we have even penetrated the heights of the heavens in Christ. (*Sermo 73*) In our eucharist we are thankful that the Christ who has left us is still present with us in the bread that is his body and the wine that is his blood. We share in this meal that we may share in the triumph of life over death, in the triumph of love over death. 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 Fr Rafal's 35 th Anniversary
Friday:	5:30pm reconciliation from 4:45pm
Sunday:	9:00am (Livestreamed) 5:30pm

Country Church Mass Times 24/05/2026

Saturday

St John Vianney Tin Can Bay – 5:00pm

Sunday

St Peter the Fisherman – 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
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

Ascension of the Lord – A (World Day of Prayer for Christian Unity)

Through His death, resurrection and ascension, Christ showed us the path to eternal life. Know that the Lord is with you always, through your struggles and triumphs, and that he will hear your prayers.



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**

What's Happening

Date	Event
14 th May	Lion's Morning Tea
21 st May	Fr Rafal's 35 th Ordination Anniversary
26 th May	A Big Morning Tea – 9:30am Kandanga Hall
28 th May	Men's Afternoon
29 th May	Parish Office Closed

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:

3rd Meeting – 24th May
4th Meeting – 31st May
Celebration – 14th June

Youth Group

There will be no youth Groups for the next two week. Our next Youth Group afternoon will be the **29th May 2026**.

In God's Care

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

Admin Volunteer

The Parish office is looking for someone that can volunteer 1-2 days per week to assist in the Parish Office. This will be to train the volunteer for the office role whilst Brianna goes on holidays or requires assistance. If you are interested please contact the parish office.

Looking for a Lift

We have a parishioner who would love to come to Sunday morning Mass but cannot drive anymore. If you live near Carrington Avenue and might be able to assist even if it is fortnightly or once a month can you please contact the parish office and we can put you in contact with the Parishioner.

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass beginning

**Liturgy Roster
Pentecost Sunday
24 May 2026
9:00am Morning Mass**

Welcomer: E Saunders

Reader 1: Shania Shine

Reader 2: John Van Der Lugt

POF: K Cartwright

Altar Servers: Alvina, Sherlyn, Alen

Communion Ministers:

1. Volunteer, **2.** L Newey **3.** E Saunders, **4.** M Calvert,
6. S Kelly, **7.** M Green, **8.** I Laherty

PowerPoint: J Newey

Piety Store: A Jomy

Morning Tea: Hollow Log

5:30pm Evening Mass

Welcomer: J O'Shea

Reader 1: S Skuse

Reader 2: S Hayes

POF: K Murray

Communion Minister: E Shields, B Doak, K O'Shea

PowerPoint: N Gruar

Pentecost Readings

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

Annual Fundraising Dinner

The Christian Religious Instruction Area Subcommittee is encouraged to see the work of Christian RI expanding across our region. One of the reasons for this is the generous support of God's people to enable some paid RI workers to take up more classes in our region. On June 1 at 6:00pm, we're running our annual fundraising dinner, this time at the Gympie Wesleyan-Methodist church's community place.

RSVP by the 18th May 2026.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/acre-gympie-fundraising-dinner-tickets-1986183706934?aff=oddtcreator>

A Big Morning Tea

Kandanga are holding A Big Morning Tea for Little Haven Palliative Care on Tuesday 26th May at 9:30am at the Kandanga Hall. If you would like further information please see Trish Gabbana.

Aged Care Conversations Gympie

ADAAustralia are inviting seniors, carers, families, and service providers to join us for a free and informative event all about navigating aged care. With recent changes to the Aged Care Act, this is a great opportunity to ensure seniors have access to the right resources and support. **Wednesday 27 May 2026** at the Pavillion, 77 Exhibition Road, Southside. From 10:00am. A complimentary light lunch will be provided. Please remember that **RSVP is required!** RSVP by emailing events@adaustralia.com.au or calling 1800 818 338.

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

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).

Communion Minister training

If you would like to assist with ministering communion at Mass but unsure how to minister it Fr Rafal will be holding training after morning mass on the 17th May and the 7th June. Please stay behind after mass to learn.

Fr Rafal Ordination Anniversary

Congratulations to Fr Rafal who on Thursday 21st May will celebrate his 35th anniversary of his ordination. You are welcome to attend Mass on Thursday morning at 7:00am to help Fr Rafal celebrate.

HymnFest

Due to circumstances beyond their control, this Sunday's 17th May HymnFest has to be cancelled. Thank you for your support, attendance and understanding.

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 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. R.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. R.

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. R.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 14:15-21

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