



St Patrick's Parish

Gympie and Surrounds

14 Church Street, GYMPIE

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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

13 September 2026

REFLECTION by Liturgia

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Last Sunday's notes ended with the observation that the Law maybe summed up as cherish (or love) your neighbour as your own self. Another way of putting that is: do to others as you would have them do to you. Today's gospel parable puts it yet another way: do for others as God does for you. The parable that conveys this message is rather dramatic, for who cannot but be affronted by the bad behaviour of the man one who is relieved of a burdensome debt but refuses to do the same for a much smaller one? One might well imagine the outpouring of indignant outrage that such a scene would prompt through social media today that, for whatever benefits it may provide, is so often foul pool of seething resentment and anger. The members of that "virtual" mob, anything but virtuous in its behaviour, bay and howl from the safety of relative anonymity, too ready always to take offence and to interpret anything in the worst possible way. It is amazing how people who are so quick to reject the Hebrew Scriptures (the "Old" Testament) with the claim that its picture of God is of one who is angry and vindictive yet themselves are so ready to leap to judgement, to punish and destroy; they are not kind and merciful, not slow to anger and not rich in compassion.

The all too human culturing of resent and anger, and the nurturing of desire for vengeance, can be so much easier than hearing the divine call to forgiveness. But people do sometimes admit that maintaining hurt and anger can take a terrible toll, in effect consuming one's life and imparting bitterness that poisons other relationships. In learning to forgive the wrongdoer, wronged parties find that they claim back their own life. Imagine that God was just some more powerful form of human being; imagine God as resentful and angry, wanting and plotting vengeance - what a bitter eternity this would make for. No; rather God lives on other terms, free from such foul things, free to love, desiring created human beings also to be free. Hence also the question in our baptismal promises, "Do you renounce sin so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?" This renunciation may be not only of our own offences but also the burden of others' offences.

The way of forgiveness must not be imagined as easy, and the person wronged cannot be hectored or lectured into forgiving. Some offences cut very deep, the hurt is profound and long lasting, and the grace to leave it behind may grow only very slowly. Remembrance of our own failings, offences and sins, even if of a lesser grade than the offence received, can lower our hostility towards the other sinner, but it takes grace to feel compassion for them; if you imagine that you could not live with yourself if you were to act in the same way as the offender has towards you, then you have at least the beginnings of compassion for the other, an ability to imagine how miserable it must be to be them. Some offenders may consider their faults and change their ways when a compassionate response prompts their own remorse, but will stubbornly refuse to do so, almost as a defensive response, if faced with direct anger or correction. The way of compassionate forgiveness will always remain, therefore, a difficult path, but the message of the cross, the divine message, is that it is the only way that ends the wrong and heals the hurt.

The gospel parable puts the onus on each of us to learn to forgive lest we condemn ourselves before God for not doing what we ourselves hope for or ask of God.

St Patrick's Mass Times this week

Monday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 9:00am
Thursday: 7:00am
Friday: 5:30pm (Reconciliation from 4.45)
Sunday: 9:00am (Livestreamed)
 5:30pm

Country Church Mass Times 20/09/2026

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 - Gungalda - 7:00am

Parish Contact Information

Parish Priest

Fr Rafal Rucinski

0410 887 476

rucinski@bne.catholic.net.au

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 Phone Number

07 5490 6880

Parish Website

Stpatricksgympie.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: AOB@stopline.com.au

Online: bncatholic.stoplinereport.com

A Vocation View

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

How much would the world be changed if everyone were completely forgiving? Probably totally! Jesus' stories of forgiveness are so loved because they are so needed. Re-tell them! Re-live them!



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
18 September	Youth Group
25 September	Youth Group and Youth Choir

Youth Group

Youth Group will be held on Friday 11th September in the Parish Centre from 3:00pm - 5:00pm. If you are in year 6 to year 10 and are interested in joining in the free afternoon of fun activities please come along. Afternoon tea is provided.

Bible Scripture Group

Would you like to deepen your understanding of the Bible and make new friends? Come along to our Scripture Study Group on **Tuesdays from 12:30pm to 1:30pm** in the **Parish Centre**. Everyone is welcome!

Hayden Wiseman Tour

Hayden Wiseman will be holding a concert at the Gympie Wesleyan Methodist Church on the Sunday 11 October at 6:30pm. This is a free event however you will need to book a seat. Please scan the QR code below.



Musician Wanted for Parish Choir

Our parish choir is seeking a talented pianist, guitarist or multi-instrumentalist to accompany Catholic hymns and sacred music during liturgical worships on Sunday Masses. If you play the piano, guitar or other suitable instruments and would like to share your musical gifts in the service of God and our parish community, please contact Frances Skinner on 0431 286 796.

Psalm 96:1 - "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth."

Liturgy Roster
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
20 September 2026
9:00am Morning Mass

Welcomer: C Cash

Reader 1: P Callaghan

Reader 2: Shania Shine

POF: Sister Di

Altar Servers: Amelia, Seb, Anna & Franny

Communion Ministers: 1. S Kelly, 2 A Tadj, 3. M Liyanage,

4. J Van Der Lugt, 6. S Silamoia, 7. M Green, 8. L McGrath

PowerPoint: M Calvert

Piety Store: A Williams

Morning Tea: All Stars

5:30pm Evening Mass

Welcomer: A Cambridge

Reader 1: T Tierney

Reader 2: L Collins

POF: K Murray

Communion Ministers: A Cambridge, E Shields, C Johnston

PowerPoint: N Guar

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Are you celebrating your 50th year of Marriage? The Cathedral of St Stephens warmly invites couples celebrating this milestone to their annual Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass. Celebrated on Saturday 26th September at 11:30am at 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane. Family and friends are welcome to attend.

Live-In Marriage Encounter Weekend

A weekend away from your day to day commitments allowing you to focus on your relationship.

Friday 9th October to Sunday 11th October
Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston

Bookings and Enquiries : Lisha and Joseph Deasem

Phone: 0481 307 821

Email: qldbookings@wwme.org.au

www.wwme.org.au

St Vincent de Paul

St Patrick's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul, Gympie, would sincerely like to thank all parishioners for your very generous support of our Winter Appeal. As well as very generous monetary donations, we also received donations of food, blankets, sheets, towels, beanies & Scarves & Winter clothing. Our Companions were all extremely grateful for all these donations which helped them survive our cold Gympie weather. All donations were very much appreciated!!!

"Giving does not only precede receiving; it is the reason for it. It is in giving that we receive."

Help Us Stay Connected Through Flocknote

As many of you are aware, our parish now uses Flocknote to distribute our weekly newsletters. Flocknote also serves as our secure parish database, allowing us to keep your contact details up to date and share important parish news, events and announcements with you.

We kindly ask all parishioners to complete the form enclosed with this newsletter and return it to the Parish Office at your earliest convenience. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code and update your details online.

Please be assured that your personal information will be kept private and secure.

Thank you for helping us stay connected with you and our wider parish community.



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

Sirach 27:30 - 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of
the Lord,

who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself,

can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by the
commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your
neighbour ill-will;

remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the
offence.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is My Shepherd (Crimmond)

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;

He makes me down to lie

In pastures green; he leadeth me

The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale

Yet will I fear no ill;

For thou art with me; and thy rod

And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for ever more
My dwelling place shall be.

Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if
we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the
Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This
explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that
he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia!

All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I
forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?'
Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven
times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king
who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When
the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten
thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his
master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his
wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At
this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give
me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the
servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and
cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he
happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one
hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began
to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow
servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me
time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on
the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay
the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when
they saw what had happened, and they went to their master
and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for
him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt
of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound,
then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on
you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the
torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my
heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive
your brother from your heart.'

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.