



## Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

6 April 2025

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

### Isaiah 43:16-21 (NLT)

<sup>16</sup> I am the LORD, who opened a way through the waters,  
making a dry path through the sea.

<sup>17</sup> I called forth the mighty army of Egypt with all its chariots and horses.  
I drew them beneath the waves, and they drowned,  
their lives snuffed out like a smoldering candlewick.

<sup>18</sup> "But forget all that—  
it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.

<sup>19</sup> For I am about to do something new.  
See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

I will make a pathway through the wilderness.  
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

<sup>20</sup> The wild animals in the fields will thank me, the jackals and owls, too,  
for giving them water in the desert.  
Yes, I will make rivers in the dry wasteland so my chosen people can be refreshed.

<sup>21</sup> I have made Israel for myself,  
and they will someday honour me before the whole world.

### John 12:1-8 (NLT)

#### Jesus Anointed at Bethany

<sup>12</sup> Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead.

<sup>2</sup> A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honour. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him.

<sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

<sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, <sup>5</sup> "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." <sup>6</sup> Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial.

<sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

#### Other Lectionary Readings:

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14



#### CHURCH SERVICES

##### 13 April PALM SUNDAY

11am West Rev Geoff

##### 17 April MAUNDY THURSDAY

7pm Southside

##### 18 April GOOD FRIDAY

9.30am Tamworth City

##### 20 April EASTER SUNDAY

9.30am Southside

11.15am Tamworth City



#### Something beautiful, something good

Something beautiful, something good

All my confusion He understood

All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife

But he made something beautiful of my life

If there ever were dreams

That were lofty and noble

They were my dreams at the start

And hope for life's best were the hopes

That I harbor down deep in my heart

But my dreams turned to ashes

And my castles all crumbled, my fortune turned to loss

So I wrapped it all in the rags of life

And laid it at the cross.

~ Bill and Gloria Gaither

Respect is like a mirror.

The more you show it to other people, the more it will reflect back upon you. ~ Buddha

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We give thanks for the recent rain.
- We pray for Eddie Whitham as he continues with cancer treatment.
- We give thanks for recent successful surgery for Fay and for Geoff.
- We pray that during our federal election campaign, candidates will speak with honesty and integrity.
- We pray for the people of Myanmar and Thailand as they cope with the aftermath of the recent earthquake.

### Meg's Musings

The international focus over much of the last two months has been on President Trump, and his cabinet members.

What will they do, or say, next?

What trade policies will they implement?

Can they restore peace in the Middle East and in Ukraine?

To say that they have had a disrupting influence is an under-statement!

Perhaps the religious leaders of Israel 2,000 years ago saw Jesus as a disrupting influence too.

How do you see Jesus?

*Blessing from Meg*



When the debate is lost, insults become the loser's tool.

~ Socrates

4th Sunday Monthly Hallsville Markets

7:30am 27 April



**Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville**  
**Open 9:30 to 1:00pm Friday & Saturday**  
**NB: Closed Good Friday, Easter**  
**Saturday & Anzac Day.**  
 Cuppa & chat always available.



### PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Minister: **Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202**

Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0476 375 989**

Elders: Margaret Crowell Daryl Lush



### Minister's Weekly Reflection

The song 'Something Beautiful, something good' from Bill and Gloria Gaither's collection of music comes to mind as I reflected on our Gospel reading this week. For me, this passage is a case of another beautiful play on events witnessed. We, of course, know the story of what is yet to come for Jesus – his death, but we are also present in the room with Lazurus – the one Jesus brought raised back to life. And as the story goes, it is Mary who is anointing Christ's feet, perhaps a prophetic moment in the act of preparing the Lamb of God for his death. 'Something beautiful, something good'.

Judas, of course, had other agendas when he challenged Mary's anointing of the feet of Jesus. Perhaps, we too sometimes query the creating of a beautiful worship space. Should we not be spending the money on the poor rather than putting in flowers, lighting candles, polishing lovely brass and so on. For those of us who cherish the church space, there is often something about tenderly caring for and enhancing what we experience as the life of Christ which we find present there. And that is the beauty of our experience as people of God. That we continually find ourselves in this beautiful struggle of where to exert our resources in we get it wrong. And as the song 'something beautiful, something good' progresses, a line goes '...all I had to offer him, was brokenness and strife, but he made something beautiful of my life.' Just as Mary had the jar of expensive oil yet offered it to Christ, although she was met with criticism, Christ affirms Mary's act of hospitality. It is often like honouring that life by making beauty for its reception, imagining greeting Christ with our best efforts at hospitality. Certainly, people who walk into such a church seem to recognize the bringing together of the divine and the human.

In Lent, we could imagine that we are touching, in care, the Christ who walks on to the cross.

*Reverend Sam*



Hospitality is the practice of God's welcome by reaching across difference to participate in God's actions bringing justice and healing to our world in crisis.

~ Letty M. Russell

The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.

~ Albert Einstein

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus

## Velcro:

In 1941, a Swiss mechanical engineer named George de Mestral was taking a walk in the Alps with his dog. He noticed that both his clothes and his dog's fur were covered with small burdock seeds. These seeds, known for their ability to easily stick to any surface, piqued his curiosity. On closer inspection he realized that the seeds had a fascinating structure: they were covered with tiny hooks that latched onto the loops of fabric and fur.

Intrigued by this natural mechanism, George decided to examine one of the seeds under a microscope. He discovered that the small hooks, called "cips," adhered effortlessly to the loops in the fibers of his clothes. This seemingly simple but highly effective phenomenon sparked an innovative idea. What if he could replicate this fastening mechanism in a synthetic material that would be practical and easy to use across different fields?

Motivated, George de Mestral experimented with synthetic materials and designing a system that mimicked the structure of the burdock seeds. After years of trials and improvements, in 1955, he was able to patent it under the name "Velcro," a combination of the French words "velours" (velvet) and "crochet" (hook), which refers to the two main parts of the system: one strip with small hooks and another with small loops. When pressed together, the hooks latch onto the loops, creating a strong and firm connection that can easily be separated when desired.

De Mestral's invention, initially a curiosity of nature, became a technological revolution. Velcro found applications in a wide range of industries, from fashion and sportswear to aerospace and medicine. ease of use made it an essential tool in everyday life.

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The material's durability and ability to be reused many times made it ideal for various products, such as shoes, sports equipment, medical devices, and astronaut clothing. Over the years, Velcro has proven to be much more than just a fastener. Its impact has been so profound that it has become an everyday item in most homes and an indispensable solution in sectors as diverse as the military, industrial, and technological fields. The legacy of George de Mestral lies not only in his invention but also in his ability to see the potential in something as common as a burdock seed and transform it into an innovation that has changed the way we interact with the world. His story is a testament to the power of observation, curiosity, and perseverance to create practical solutions that improve people's lives. ~ História Al



When Thomas Edison was struggling to perfect the light bulb, it took his team of workers twenty-four hours to put together just one light bulb. When the team was finished with one light bulb, Edison gave it to a young boy to carry upstairs. Step by step the boy carefully climbed the stairs, afraid that he might drop this priceless piece of work. You can probably guess what happened; the poor boy dropped the bulb at the top of the stairs. It took the team twenty-four hours to produce another bulb. Finally, tired and ready for a break, Edison was ready to have the bulb carried upstairs. He gave it to the same young boy who had dropped the first one. Mr. Edison gave the boy a second chance! That's true forgiveness.

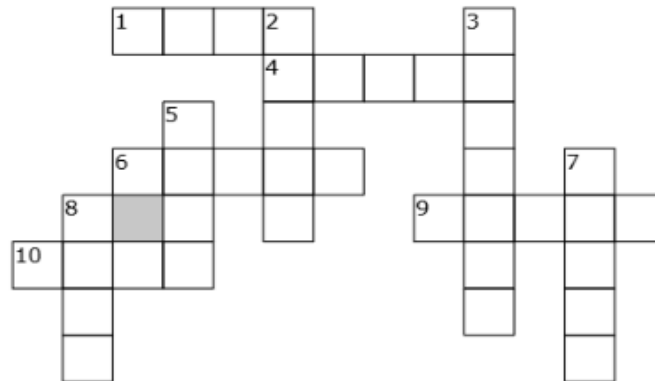
~ James Newton, Uncommon Friends

**You know you're getting old when you look at the clock to see if it's late enough to go to bed.**

# A Most Precious Gift

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. John 12:3a (NIV)

Based on John 12:1-8



## ACROSS

1. The part of the body on which a person stands
4. The building in which a family lives
6. What we use to buy things
9. The disciple who betrayed Jesus
10. What grows on the head of a person

## DOWN

2. A person who steals
3. A liquid produced and sold for its pleasant smell
5. The opposite of rich
7. Pay received for the labor of a worker
8. The woman who poured perfume on the feet of Jesus

X F N S E Z B A R H O U S E G  
 G P R N E X G R J S M O N E Y  
 X F R A S M P B E T R A Y E D  
 H T A A G A F E W V R H S E Q  
 H D D R L R J T N B C A M G E  
 Z U O M Z T A K L S U I Y W R  
 J O F H J H I N A F I R N Y A  
 P W T S T A S S C E P V A D I  
 K I U F I L L E D E L G E W S  
 P A S S O V E R I T O R U N E  
 J O Z L A Z A R U S U W D C D  
 Y G J R T R S V U O M A R Y D  
 P E R F U M E A P N E U F A V  
 C X W I P E D U R Z C W E Q U  
 J E S U S W C L S A D D G B X

MARTHA  
POOR  
RAISED  
JUDAS

PERFUME  
HOUSE  
FEET  
PASSEOVER

FILLED  
MARY  
MONEY  
FRAGRANCE

DEAD  
WIPED  
EXPENSIVE  
BETRAYED

POURED  
LAZARUS  
JESUS  
HAIR

~ Sermons 4 Kids

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus