



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

19 April 2026

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

Luke 24:13-35 (NRSVue)

The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.

¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!continued

Luke 24:26-35

²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?"

²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.

²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.

³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!"

³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



Peel Valley Congregations

Invite you to join them for the
Gowrie Community Church Closing
Service of Thanksgiving
On Sunday, 31 May 2026
At 11am, 2125 Gowrie Road, Gowrie
A combined 5th Sunday TRUC Service

2026 marks the 93rd year of the Gowrie Church on this site and the 136th year of the original Union Church at Gowrie.
So much history, so many memories...

Following the service we will convene at the Gowrie Community Hall (behind the Rural Fire Service shed), 238 Sweeneys Lane, a short drive from the church. A barbecue lunch will be hosted by the Peel Valley Congregations and the Gowrie Progress Association.

We hope you can join us.

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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for rain for our parched region.
- We pray that Beulah will settle into McKay House well, and continue to pray for all of our nursing home residents.
- We pray for peace in the Middle East, and in Ukraine.
- We give thanks for the many things which we so often take for granted.

Meg's Musings

Over the past several weeks I have had huge numbers of forms to fill in.

Forms for cataract surgery (X 2), forms for banks (endless), forms for medicare, forms to renew my drivers licence.

I can choose to see this task as an imposition, and a chore. Or I can choose to see it as a privilege.

The opportunity to have my eyesight dramatically improved is life affirming.

The ability to continue to drive, and the independence that brings to my life, is a truly wonderful gift.

When we choose to, we can be open to seeing some of the many gifts and opportunities God gives us....each and every day.

Blessing from Meg



Acts 2:14a, 36-41 (NRSVue)

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

³⁶ "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

The First Converts

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.



Lest We Forget

On ANZAC Day remember what's worth fighting for, Our freedom, our home, our country and so much more.

A way of life preserved by those that gave their all, Selfless men and women that answered such a call.

Brave souls that served, we are forever in your debt, Your memory lives eternal, Lest We Forget.



Chels
TAYLOR
Sweet nothings for the Soul

CHURCH SERVICES 11am West

- 26 April ~ Meg Mangan
- 3 May ~ Rev Geoff Flynn



As long as we have memories
Yesterday remains,
As long as we have hope
Tomorrow awaits,
As long as we have friendship
Today is beautiful.

~ anon

Facebook has taught me a couple of things. First, there are some incredibly brilliant people in the world. Second, they are vastly outnumbered.

Minister's Reflection

TRUC Ministers Reflection Easter 3

There is something profoundly fitting about baptism in the season of Easter; because Easter is not simply about what happened to Jesus. It is about what now happens to us.

In the gospel reading, the risen Christ walks alongside the disciples on the road to Emmaus but they do not recognise him. Their grief clouds their vision. Their expectations have been shattered. They had hoped... but hope, it seems, has died with Jesus. Yet, even in their unknowing, Christ is present. Christ walks with them. He listens to them. He opens the scriptures to them.

This is often the way of resurrection - quiet accompaniment. Christ comes alongside us before we are ready to name him. Grace precedes recognition. Then comes the turning point: the breaking of the bread. "In the breaking of the bread, their eyes were opened." It is not in argument, nor even in explanation, but in shared table, in embodied grace, that Christ becomes known. Word and sacrament. Story and table. Presence and recognition.

This takes us to Acts. Peter stands before the crowd as one transformed by resurrection and Spirit. His proclamation cuts to the heart: "God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." And the people ask the only question that matters: "What should we do?" Peter's answer is striking in its simplicity and depth: "Repent, and be baptized and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Repentance here is not moral shame, rather a reorientation. A turning toward the life of the risen Christ. And baptism is its embodied sign: dying and rising, belonging and becoming, incorporation into a new community shaped by grace.

This past Sunday, we witnessed that mystery among us. In baptism, water becomes more than water. It becomes the sign of God's promise; that nothing can separate us from the love revealed in Christ. That we are claimed before we can respond. That we are drawn into a story larger than ourselves.

In some ways, baptism is our Emmaus moment because we often do not fully understand what is happening. Like those disciples, we may not yet recognise the fullness of Christ's presence.

And yet Christ is there meeting us, claiming us, opening a future we cannot yet see.

....continued

And like the crowd in Acts, baptism is also a beginning. "They devoted themselves," the text tells us to teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. Baptism is not an endpoint. It is an entry into a life shaped by these practices. A life where Christ is continually made known - in scripture opened, in bread broken, in community formed.

There is also a quiet but profound connection between these two readings: recognition leads to response. At Emmaus, once the disciples recognise Christ, they do not stay at the table. They rise and return to Jerusalem. To witness, to share the good news. In Acts, once the people hear and are cut to the heart, they do not remain as they were. They are baptised, and they enter into a new way of life.

Encounter with the risen Christ is never static. It always sends us outward. So we might ask ourselves: where have our eyes been opened? Perhaps not in dramatic revelation, but in small moments. in the breaking of bread, in the waters of baptism, in the quiet assurance of grace.

And if Christ has been made known to us there, then we too, are sent. Sent to live as resurrection people. Sent to embody a hope that is deeper than despair. Sent to be a community where Christ is still recognised in word, in sacrament, in love.

Because the risen Christ is still walking alongside us. Still opening the scriptures. Still made known in the breaking of the bread. Still calling people into the waters of new life. Our hearts, like those first disciples, are still being set ablaze.

Amen.

Rev Sam



Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday. Cuppa and a 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**

Rev Sam Sadrata 0431 216 188

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

Elder: Margaret Crowell

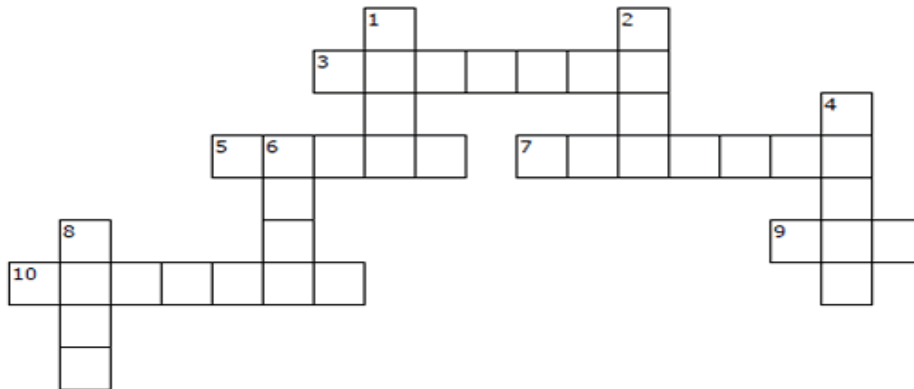
P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH



On the Road to Emmaus

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.
 Luke 24:31a (NIV)

This puzzle is based on Luke 24:13-35 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. To put to death on a cross
5. The Old Testament man who received the Ten Commandments from God
7. A person who visits
9. A period of twenty four hours
10. Carrying on a conversation with someone

DOWN

1. Not false
2. The organ which makes people able to see
4. A food made from flour and water, mixed together and baked
6. Not closed
8. To travel on foot

OPEN	MOSES	DAY	WALK	VISITOR
TRUE	BREAD	EYES	TALKING	CRUCIFY

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

~ Sermons 4 Kids

WALKED	JESUS	SUFFER	CRUCIFIED
MOSES	BREAD	BELIEVE	VISITOR
THANKS	FOOLISH	PROPHET	EYES
CLEOPAS	OPENED	VILLAGE	EMMAUS

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