



## Peel Valley Congregation

Hallsville & West Tamworth



2 August 2026

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

**Matthew 14:13-21 (NLT)**

### **Jesus Feeds Five Thousand**

<sup>13</sup> As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns.

<sup>14</sup> Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

<sup>15</sup> That evening the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

<sup>16</sup> But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them."

<sup>17</sup> "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" they answered.

<sup>18</sup> "Bring them here," he said. <sup>19</sup> Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people.

<sup>20</sup> They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers.

<sup>21</sup> About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!



### *Loaves and Fishes*

This is not  
the age of information.  
This is NOT  
the age of information.

Forget the news  
and the radio  
and the blurred screen.

This is the time  
of loaves  
and fishes.

People are hungry  
and one good word is bread  
for a thousand.

—David Whyte

### **Other Lectionary Readings:**

Genesis 32:22-31 Psalms 17:1-7, 15

Romans 9:1-5



### **CHURCH SERVICES 11am West**

9 August ~Rev Tony Shumack

16 August ~ Rev Geoff Flynn

23 August ~ Meg Mangan



### **BENEFITS OF A GOOD VOCABULARY!**

**I RECENTLY CALLED AN OLD ENGINEERING BUDDY OF MINE AND ASKED WHAT HE WAS WORKING ON THESE DAYS.**

**HE REPLIED THAT HE WAS WORKING ON "AQUA-THERMAL TREATMENT OF CERAMICS, ALUMINUM AND STEEL UNDER A CONSTRAINED ENVIRONMENT."**

**I WAS IMPRESSED UNTIL, UPON FURTHER INQUIRY, I LEARNED THAT HE WAS WASHING DISHES WITH HOT WATER UNDER HIS WIFE'S SUPERVISION.**



### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday TRUC Worship & Get Together**

Sunday, 30 August 2026

11am at Tamworth Southsided

Moderator-Elect, Rev Pablo Nunez will be joining us.

Lunch to follow.

Join in the Worship and fellowship together.

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



## IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Lynne Bowd - for a good recovery from her surgery on 30th July.
- We give thanks that Doug is making a remarkable recovery.
- Our prayers continue for peace to be achieved in Ukraine and throughout the Middle East.

## Meg's Musings

This morning I received a phone-call from someone I'd never met.

She was concerned about her aunt, who hadn't been in touch for a couple of months.

Her aunt also happened to be a cousin of Laurie's. It was a while since I'd heard from Pam too.

All that I could do was to give her the phone-number of a niece of Pam's from the "other side" of the family. It was a reminder of how inter-connected we all are - even if we have never met. We care about the same people.

With God the connections are much greater. He cares about, and loves, each and every one of us.

*Blessings from Meg*



Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results.

~ Herman Melville

”

## Otrovert

(n.) An individual who is socially capable and friendly but emotionally independent from group identity or 'the tribe

A perpetual outsider, who chooses depth over noise, solitude over crowds, and real connections over surface-level interactions.

ART OF POETS

## Minister's Reflection

### Loaves, Fishes, and the Everyday Miracles Among Us

There's a moment in Matthew 14:13–21 that feels especially close to the heart of rural communities. Jesus has just heard devastating news about John the Baptist, and he withdraws to a quiet place. But the crowds follow him—people carrying their worries, their illnesses, their hunger, their hopes. Instead of turning them away, Jesus welcomes them. He heals, he listens, he stays present.

As evening comes, the disciples look at the crowd and see a problem: “We don't have enough.” Not enough food. Not enough resources. Not enough to meet the need.

It's a feeling many rural communities know well. We often work with limited resources—small congregations, stretched volunteers, tight budgets, long distances, and the quiet pressure of being asked to do more with less. It's easy to look at what we have and say, “It's not enough.”

But Jesus says something different: “Bring what you have to me.”

Five loaves. Two fish. Not much. But offered in faith.

Jesus blesses the small offering, breaks it, and places it back into the hands of the disciples. And suddenly, what seemed too little becomes more than enough. Everyone eats. Everyone is satisfied. And there are baskets of leftovers—abundance where scarcity once stood.

This story reminds us that God's work often begins with what we already have. A small act of kindness. A simple prayer. A shared meal. A neighbour checking in. A congregation that shows up faithfully week after week. Rural communities know how to make the most of what's available—and Jesus honours that.

The miracle of the loaves and fishes is not just about food. It's about trust. It's about offering what we have, even when it feels small. It's about believing that God can multiply our efforts in ways we cannot see.

In our paddocks, kitchens, church halls, and quiet acts of care, God is still taking what we offer and turning it into blessing.

And that is good news for us all.

*Rev Geoff*



Small drops of water can also make a river.

~ Japanese Proverb



"It's a quiet night tonight, isn't it, Piglet?" said Pooh, gazing up at the stars.  
 "It certainly is," said Piglet, his little paw resting on his friend's.

"What do you think the stars talk about?" asked Pooh. "When we're not listening, I mean."

Piglet thought for a moment. "I think they talk about light," he said. "About how even in the darkest skies, they shine as best as they can, no matter how small they are. Because they know someone, somewhere, is looking up and needs to see them."

Pooh smiled. "That's a lovely thought, Piglet. Do you think we're like that too? Little stars, shining for each other?"

Piglet nodded. "Yes, Pooh. I think that's what we're meant to do. To be a little light for someone, even when the night feels very big and very dark."

Pooh sat quietly for a moment, then said, "If that's true, Piglet, then I think you're the brightest star I know. Even on my gloomiest days, you make me feel like everything will be alright."

"And you're mine, Pooh," said Piglet, softly. "Because with you, I always feel safe, even when the woods seem scary, or the path isn't clear."

The two friends sat together under the stars, wrapped in the kind of quiet love that doesn't need grand gestures or fancy words. Just presence. Just care. Just two lights shining for each other in the great big world. "What do you think we should do tomorrow?" asked Pooh after a while.

"I think we should just keep shining," said Piglet.

If you have good thoughts they will  
**Shine**  
 out of your face like  
**SUNBEAMS**  
 and you will always  
**Look Lovely**  
 - Roald Dahl -



Join us at Tamworth Southside Uniting Church from 10:30am to celebrate moving on from NENW to Northern Presbytery

Morning tea, worship, holy communion, lunch and memories.

RSVP to [nenwpresbytery@gmail.com](mailto:nenwpresbytery@gmail.com)



**Meeting Invite**  
**8 August 2026**



**NENW Presbytery**




**MOVING ALONG**

Stories of a traveller performed by  
**BETTY STROUD**

**Cost:** \$15/head including afternoon tea

**Tickets:** Contact Jennifer Battle 0402 376 424

**Where:** Tamworth Southside UC  
 440 Goonoo Goonoo Rd  
 (Op. The Big Golden Guitar)

**When:** 2pm Saturday,  
 15 August 2026

A fundraiser for Tamworth Fijian Congregation to attend the Annual Fiji National Conference in Perth, October 2026





**Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville**  
**9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday.** Cuppa and a chat always

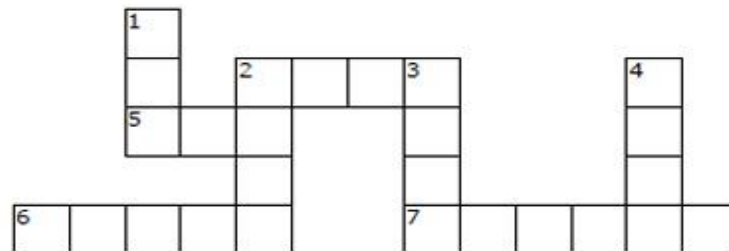
**PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION** Our goal:  
**"To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."**  
 Mission: **"Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."**  
 Minister: **Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202**  
               **Rev Sam Sadrata 0431 216 188**  
 Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0476 375 989**  
 Elder: Margaret Crowell  
**P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH**



# Jesus Feeds The Five Thousand

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.  
Matthew 14:20 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 14:13-21 (NIV)



## ACROSS

2. An animal without legs that lives in water
5. The number equal to one plus one
6. A basic food made from flour, water, and yeast mixed together and baked
7. Pieces of bread shaped and baked in a single piece and sliced for eating

## DOWN

1. To take food into your mouth, chew, and swallow it
2. What we eat to give us energy and to help us grow strong bodies
3. To cure someone of illness or disease; to make someone well again
4. The number that comes after four and before six

|              |                 |             |             |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| FIVE<br>FISH | BREAD<br>LOAVES | EAT<br>FOOD | TWO<br>HEAL |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|

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

Sermon4kids4

|                               |                                        |                                       |                                      |                                |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| LEFT<br>THANKS<br>ATE<br>FOOT | BASKETFULS<br>CROWDS<br>FOOD<br>PEOPLE | LANDED<br>TWELVE<br>SATISFIED<br>LATE | FOLLOWED<br>HEALED<br>JESUS<br>TOWNS | LOAVES<br>FISH<br>SICK<br>BOAT |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

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