



Peel Valley Congregation

Hallsville & West Tamworth



23 August 2026

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

Romans 12:1-8 (The Message)

Place Your Life Before God

12 ¹⁻² So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

³ I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you.

Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God.

No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.

⁴⁻⁶ In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around.

The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we?continued

Romans (continued)

So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.

⁶⁻⁸ If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.



A little girl walked into a beehive museum, and asked, "Why don't bees keep the honey for themselves?"

The guide smiled. "They make for more than they could ever consume." She thought about that all the way home. Years later, she understood. Some people spend their lives trying to be liked. Others quietly spend their creating something that feeds the world. One is remembered for the attention it received. The other.... for the lives it nourished. She stopped trying to be everyone's favourite. And started asking, "What am I leaving behind?" ~ The Quiet Truth.

Other Lectionary Readings:
Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalms 124



A smile is a curve that sets everything straight. ~ anon

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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for all those people recovering from operations, flu's etc.
- We also pray for people awaiting tests, and results.
- We pray for the residents and staff of our aged care facilities.
- We give thanks for winter sunshine.
- We pray that world leaders will be focussed on finding a path to peace.

Meg's Musings

Life seems to unfold in stages.

There are times - sometimes lasting moments, and sometimes years - where life seems to be a whirlwind of activity, when it hard to find the time to catch our breath.

At other times, we are able to take life at a slower pace - to stop and smell the roses, to appreciate the winter sunshine, to enjoy a conversation which goes on and on.

We never know when inactivity is going to morph into a frantic rush!

The fact that we don't know what's coming next is a great reason to ensure that we truly enjoy whichever phase of life we are experiencing right now.

Include God in the quiet times; take a moment to welcome God into your busyness.

Whatever you are experiencing, you will enjoy it more if you're aware of God's presence and love.

Blessings from Meg



VALE BEULAH FENWICK



Beulah passed away at 5:10am 20 August. Heaven is welcoming her, and the celebrations have begun up there. Down here on earth, we're sad, but also pleased that her long wait is over.

We each mourn different things about her, as she had so many wonderful qualities:-

- her love for her family
- her relationship with God, and her prayerfulness
- her friendship
- her sense of fun
- her willingness to serve others, however, whenever, and wherever she could

Beulah, we will miss you, and you remain in our hearts.

Minister's Reflection Called to Serve

Last week I attended the Saltbush retreat in Galong NSW. Over the space of three days, I had the opportunity to pause and reflect on the nature of my gifts and calling and how I am exercising them in the life of the church. Calling is not only for clergy, ministers, or those with official titles. In Christ, every believer is invited into a life of service, shaped by grace and offered for the good of others.

This Sunday's scripture readings remind us that God's call often comes in ordinary places. In Exodus, the story begins quietly, with courage shown by people who protected life and trusted God's purposes. In Romans 12, Paul urges the church to present our bodies as living sacrifices and to use the gifts God has given: teaching, serving, giving, leading, encouraging, and showing mercy. In Matthew 16, Peter's confession becomes the foundation for a renewed life of witness and responsibility.

These readings tell us that calling is both personal and shared. It is personal because God knows each of us and has given each of us gifts. It is shared because those gifts are never meant to be kept for ourselves. They are given so that the whole body of Christ may be strengthened.

So the pastoral question for us is simple: what has God placed in your hands? Perhaps your gift is hospitality, prayer, generosity, practical service, wisdom, encouragement, music, teaching, compassion, or quiet faithfulness. Whatever it is, the church needs it. More than that, the world needs it. When we offer our gifts with humility and love, we become signs of God's kingdom breaking into everyday life.

May we not underestimate the holy significance of faithful service. God is still calling, still equipping, and still building the church through ordinary people who say yes. May we listen for that call, receive our gifts with gratitude, and use them cheerfully for the glory of God and the blessing of our neighbour.

Rev Geoff



CHURCH SERVICES 11am

30 August Worship & Get Together
@ **Southside Church**
followed by lunch and fellowship



6 September **WEST** 11AM ~ Meg Mangan **HC**

Matthew 16:13-20 (The Message)

Son of Man, Son of God

¹³ When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

¹⁵ He pressed them, "And how about you? Who do you say I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter said, "You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Jesus came back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I'm going to tell you who you are, *really* are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

¹⁹ "And that's not all. You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven."

²⁰ He swore the disciples to secrecy. He made them promise they would tell no one that he was the Messiah.

I have witnessed the softening of the hardest of hearts by a simple smile.

~ Goldie Hawn



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**

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The Tiger And The Donkey



The donkey told the tiger:

"The grass is blue".

The tiger replied:

"No, the grass is green".

The discussion became heated up, and the two decided to submit the issue to arbitration, and to do so they approached the lion, King of the Jungle.

Before reaching the clearing in the forest where the lion was sitting on his throne, the donkey started screaming:

"Your Highness, is it true that grass is blue?"

The lion replied:

"True, the grass is blue".

The donkey rushed forward and continued:

"The tiger disagrees with me and contradicts me and annoys me please punish him".

The king then declared:

"The tiger will be punished with 5 years of silence".

The donkey jumped for joy and went on his way, content and repeating:

"The grass is blue"...

The tiger accepted his punishment, but he asked the lion:

"Your Majesty, why have you punished me, after all, the grass is green?"

The lion replied:

"In fact, the grass is green".

The tiger asked:

"So why do you punish me?"

The lion replied:

"That has nothing to do with the question of whether the grass is blue or green. The punishment is because it is not possible for a brave, intelligent creature like you to waste time arguing with a donkey, and on top of that to come and bother me with that question".

The worst waste of time is arguing with the fool who doesn't care about truth or reality, but only the victory of their beliefs and illusions. Never waste time on discussions that make no sense...

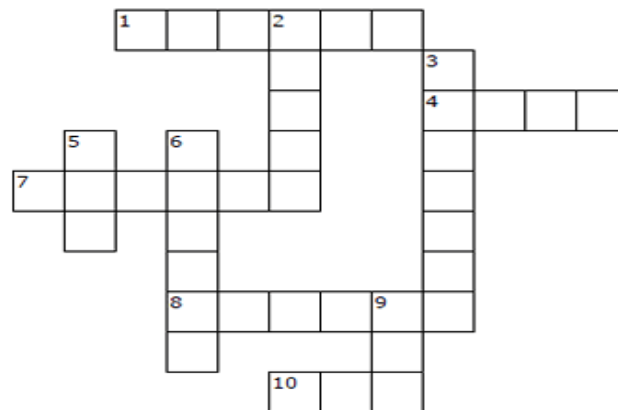
There are people who for all the evidence presented to them, do not have the ability to understand, and others who are blinded by ego, hatred and resentment, and the only thing that they want is to be right even if they aren't. When ignorance screams, intelligence shuts up. Your peace and tranquility are worth more.

~ anon

Peter's Confession of Christ

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. Persons; men, women, and children; human beings
4. A large stone that sticks up out of the ground or the sea
7. A male parent
8. The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets
10. An adult male human being

DOWN

2. The name that Jesus called Simon
3. A persons who speaks for God
5. To speak
6. The whole body of believers in Christ
9. A male child in relation to his parents

PETER PROPHET	FATHER ROCK	PEOPLE MAN	SON CHURCH	CHRIST SAY
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I W H Q O X N F C T Z V D L M
 P V V P O E U A Z F U I B O M
 E R Y G V M S T S P S Y D R N
 O X O A R J R H B M E G O O M
 P P E P G E D E L G N T S C S
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 M H E Y O E Q S E A A T N P I
 T L C T S A J I Z R H J I G M
 B A H Y P R P J S I E K O S L
 X P R J N T F E J A D M A H T
 I L I B U H D J L A J P I X N
 J J S Y L A J G A T E S T A T
 G L T E H U I S A C H U R C H

Sermon4kids4

CHRIST BLESSED LIVING JOHN	EARTH KINGDOM ROCK HEAVEN	SON CHURCH FATHER PETER	PROPHETS GATES HADES KEYS	PEOPLE BAPTIST ELIJAH JEREMIAH
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..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus