



Peel Valley Congregation

Hallsville & West Tamworth



11 October 2026 **Rev Geoff Flynn** **Rev Sam Sadrata** **Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)**

Matthew 22:1-14 (NIV)

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

22 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying:

2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

4 "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

5 "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.

6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.

7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.

9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.'

10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.

12 He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless.

13 "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen."



Your true age is
determined by your
mental attitude,
not by the number
of years you've lived.

-Napoleon Hill



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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We give thanks that the Fijian Conference in Perth was such a success, and the attendees gained so much by being there.
- We pray for the health of each member of our congregation.
- We are thankful for the beauty of spring flowers.
- We pray that Fiesta La Peel, to be held 17th October, is a successful event which helps people to understand other cultures.

Meg's Musings

As I drove out to the Op Shop last Thursday, the sky was criss-crossed with contrails - the lines left behind from planes.

The upper atmosphere must have been colder than usual, allowing the fumes to form, and remain, as ice crystals.

The contrails had different starting points, and went in different directions.

Some were narrow, and others, at a level where there must have been more wind, were wider, and less defined.

It seemed amazing that a by-product of plane travel could create such an arresting and interesting picture. They were a completely unintended consequence of people's flights.

It made me wonder - what unintended consequences flow from my words and actions?

Do they provide benefit for others, or are they sometimes negative or hurtful?

Blessings from Meg



An Evening Prayer

If I have wounded any soul today
If I have caused one foot to go astray
If I have walked in my own willful way
Dear Lord, forgive

Forgive the sins I have confessed to Thee
Forgive my secret sins I do not see
Oh guide, watch over me and my keeper be
Dear Lord, Amen ~ Elvis Presley

CHURCH SERVICES 11am West Tamworth

18 October ~ Rev Geoff

25 October ~ Meg



Minister's Reflection

Grace Beyond Condemnation

Matthew's parable of the wedding banquet (22:1-14) is not an easy story. It is violent, unsettling and shaped by a painful family conflict. Matthew's community was wrestling with its separation from fellow Israelites and with the question of whether Jesus was the promised Messiah. Read without care, the passage can—and has—been used to deepen hostility between Christians and Jews. We must resist that misuse and acknowledge the harm it has caused.

Yet difficult Scripture should not simply be avoided. Understanding its historical setting helps us read honestly and faithfully. Matthew's darker version of the banquet reflects a community trying to make sense of rejection, loss and disappointment. Its struggle also raises a question that remains deeply personal today: how do we respond when people we love do not share our faith?

Too often, we think our choices are either to condemn those who believe differently or to fear that withholding condemnation makes us unfaithful. But the parable also declares that the invitation goes out to everyone, "both good and bad" (Matthew 22:10). In Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we see how far God's grace reaches. Love and forgiveness speak more powerfully than punishment, hatred or fear.

That frees us to entrust our loved ones to God rather than pronounce judgment upon them. As Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians, we can bring everything to God in prayer and allow God's peace to guard our hearts and minds. Trust makes room for genuine conversation in which we can explain why our faith matters, listen respectfully to questions and struggles, and come to new understandings.

Faithfulness is not always easy. Sometimes it requires us to face troubling texts, reject harmful interpretations and choose grace over condemnation. When we pray, listen and love without fear, our lives may become the strongest witness we can offer to the generous welcome of God.

Rev Geoff,



PS It's good to be back in Tamworth after walking 120 km of the Portuguese Camino and praising God in song with the 700 Christians who attended the UCA Fijian National Conference in Perth.