



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

10 November 2024

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST

**Mark 12:38-44 (NRSVUE)**

### Jesus Denounces the Scribes

<sup>38</sup> As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces <sup>39</sup> and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets!

<sup>40</sup> They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

### The Widow's Offering

<sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums.

<sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny.

<sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury.

<sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

### Other Lectionary Readings:

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 Psalms 127

Hebrews 9:24-28



### A rich young man came to ask of Christ:

"Good teacher, will you tell me,  
What must I do for eternal life?  
I've kept your laws completely."

"Sell all you have, give to the poor,  
Then heaven's treasure shall be yours."

How hard for those who are rich on  
earth

To gain the wealth of heaven.

Now Jesus sat by the off'ring gate

As people brought their money:

The rich they filled the collection plate;

The widow gave a penny.

"Now she's outgiven all the rest -

Her gift was all that she possessed."

Not what you give but what you keep

Is what the King is counting.

O teach me Lord to walk this road,

The road of simple living;

To be content with what I own

And generous in giving.

And when I cling to what I have

Please wrest it quickly from my grasp;

I'd rather lose all the things of earth

To gain the things of heaven.

~Stuart Townend, Keith & Kristyn Getty

"It was miraculous. It was almost no trick at all, he saw, to turn vice into virtue and slander into truth, impotence into abstinence, arrogance into humility, plunder into philanthropy, thievery into honor, blasphemy into wisdom, brutality into patriotism, and sadism into justice.

Anybody could do it; it required no brains at all. It merely required no character."

"Catch-22" by Joseph Heller, (1996)

"Whatever you do today, don't sink anyone's boat.



The ocean is wide enough for all of us to sail comfortably and even leave some space," ~ Anita Soina



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Peter Scorgie who is in hospital with a fractured femur, and concussion.
- We pray for Laurie Mangan, who is in hospital with a fractured hip.
- We pray for Judy Lennon who is recovering from a sprained knee.
- We give thanks for excellent medical assistance.
- We pray for Beth Scorgie, who is in the throes of moving.

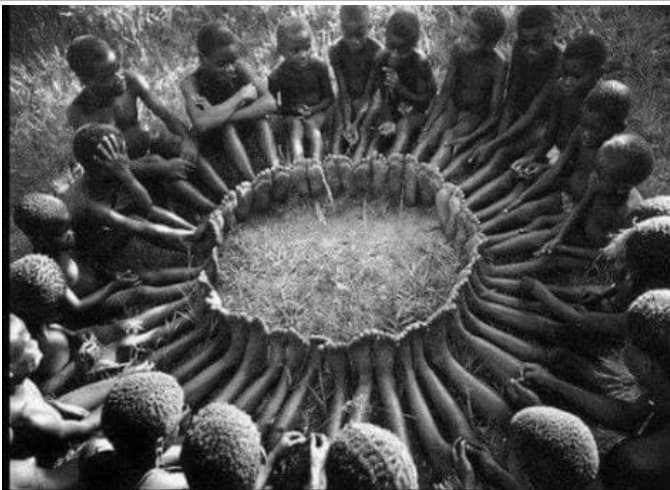
### Meg's Musings

After the recent Queensland state election, the extended focus on flight upgrades in Federal Parliament, and the USA election, I felt that this quote helped to put things into their proper perspective.

**“For Jesus, there are no countries to be conquered, no ideologies to be imposed, no people to be dominated. There are only children, women, and men to be loved.”** ~ Henri J. M. Nouwen

If only our world could see life in such a simple, and balanced way!

*Blessings from Meg*



An anthropologist proposed a game to the kids in an African tribe. He put a basket full of fruit near a tree and told them that whoever got there first won the sweet fruits. When he gave them the signal to run they all took each other's hands and ran together, then sat in a circle enjoying their treats. When he asked them why they chose to run as a group when they could have had more fruit individually, one child spoke up and said: "UBUNTU, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?"

'UBUNTU' in the Xhosa culture means: "I am because we are"

### Words from Rev Sam Sadrata

Last Thursday kids in the area and from near-by neighbourhood(s), involved themselves in 'trick-or-treating' at the Windmill estate - North Tamworth. It was especially amazing seeing kids going 'all in' in their costumes as they went door to door seeking out candy and chocolate to enjoy at their leisure. To try to be part of the event, I went out and bought my favourite chocolate - Cadbury Flakes, to enjoy for myself, but made sure to buy some other assortment of chocolates to share around.

As the afternoon of last Thursday progressed, I realized that I had exhausted the other types of chocolates which saw me digging into the packet of my favourite chocolate to share with those knocking at my door. It was hard because I wanted to keep it for myself, yet how could I not share, the kids went 'all in' so I went 'all in' too though it was hard giving away my flakes. I'm going to need to rethink my chocolate strategy next year.

We have been journeying these past weeks in Mark looking at different levels of commitments. Some people were all in, some were all out, and others were almost all in. The rich man went away in grief as he had many possessions - all out. James and John were willing to be all in if Jesus would 'promote' them - 'all in but with terms and conditions. Bartimaeus, like our poor widow, were both 'all in'.

Putting myself in Bartimaeus' sandals, I would have draped my cloak over my arm and taken it with me as I felt my way toward Jesus through the crowd. Just in case Jesus couldn't heal me, I'd have a plan B. I'd have my money, my shelter, my bed—all of which the first-century beggar's cloak represented. Putting myself in the poor widow's shoes, I would have put in one coin and kept the other. But that's not how she does things. Jesus denounces scribes who are all about their own prestige and wealth. Then, by contrast, he praises the widow who gave all that she had. She is all in.

The scribe in the passage just before this one is on the brink of being 'all in'. Jesus tells him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God'. All it will take for him to enter is to love the Lord with all his heart, all his soul, all his mind, all his strength and to love his neighbour as himself. The word "all"; for me is emphasized and repeated which is reflected in the lives of the twelve disciples. Yes, they do not get it time and time again, but they are 'all in' as they left behind their families, their work, their comfort, things that were all dear to them to follow Christ.

Perhaps this passage serves as a reminder to us all that this calling involves absolute surrender to and trust in the triune God, much like the poor widow in our Gospel text. To be 'all in' not 50/50. All in, in relationships across the Tamworth Regional Churches. All in, in sharing the peace and grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ to those we interact with. All in, in our own self care particularly as we draw nearer to the back end of 2024.

*Rev Sam Sadrata*



## TRUC MINISTER'S POSITION DESCRIPTIONS REVIEW

### Duties of each Minister in the Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches (TRUC) Team.

Reverend Geoff Flynn and Reverend Sam Sadrata have reviewed the allocation of ministerial duties that were included in the 2023 TRUC Profile that was used to call a second Minister. Now that Rev Sam has had six weeks to settle into the team it timely to the allocation of duties be reviewed to reflect the gifts and skills of each member of the team. The allocation of duties presented below has the agreement of both team members.

Minister A - Community Engagement Emphasis – Rev Geoff Flynn

Resource Pastoral Education across the cluster (Experienced Clinical Pastoral Educator)  
Support the social enterprise activities of the cluster ie opportunity shop/ markets/ fete  
Support the Scripture in School Teachers  
Work ecumenically and promote interfaith relationships.  
Explore opportunities to promote good mental health in the community.  
Oversight of small group ministries (prayer groups, bible study groups, fellowship groups  
Advocate for social justice re climate, and First peoples  
Advocate for Drug and Alcohol Treatment in Tamworth  
Lead Sunday Worship across the cluster as rostered.  
Share in baptism and confirmation preparation.  
Support engagement with Tamworth Country Music Festival and Conservatorium.  
Facilitate regular Team Ministry meetings.  
Exercise pastoral care across the cluster.  
Support the property Committees.  
Oversight of the TRUC Mission Plan.  
Ex- officio member of all Church Councils

.... continued

### CHURCH SERVICES

**17 November 8.30am Gowrie**

~ Meg Mangan

11am West

~ Meg Mangan

**24 November 11am West**

~ Jennifer Battle



### Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

Open 9:30 to 1:00pm

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.

Cuppa & chat always available.



### Duties of each Minister in the Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches (TRUC) Team.

Minister B – Discipleship, Christian Education and Fresh Expressions – Rev Sam Sadrata

Oversight of children and family ministry within the congregations.

Work ecumenically with Scripture Union

Support the Stepping Stones Ministry

Support the Multicultural ministry to PALM Workers and their families

Establish and oversee a Fijian – Australian Worship Service

Oversight of the Southside Healing Service.

Lead small groups and bible studies and prayer groups,

Share in baptism and confirmation preparation.

Oversight of Communication ministries – Websites, social media, newsletters.

Support stewardship programs conducted in the congregations.

Lead Sunday Worship across the cluster as rostered.

Exercise pastoral care across the cluster.

Co-ordination of preaching plan.

Ex- officio member of all Church Councils

Oversee ministry in Aged Care Facilities

~ TRUC meeting 5/11/2024

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.  
Grant me the patience with changes that take time,  
appreciation of all that I have,  
tolerance of those with different struggles, and the strength to get up and try again, one day at a time.

~ Reinhold Niebuhr

4th Sunday Monthly Hallsville Markets

7:30am

24 November



### 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



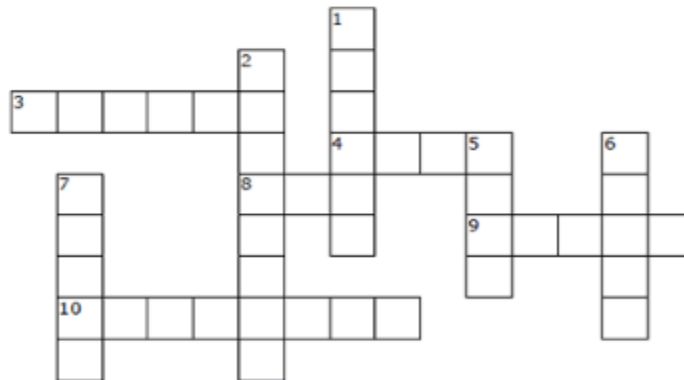
.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



# The Widow's Mite

But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Mark 12:42

Based on Mark 12:38-44



## ACROSS

3. A reddish-brown metal which is sometimes used in making coins
4. Having little or no wealth
8. The entire amount; everything
9. A small piece of flat, circular metal, used for money
10. A contribution or gift made at a religious service

## DOWN

1. A building used for worship
2. A place where funds are received, kept, and dispensed
5. Having great material wealth
6. The official currency issued by a government
7. A woman whose husband has died and who has not remarried

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

PENNY	PLACE	TRUTH	DISCIPLES	TEMPLE
JESUS	TREASURY	MONEY	POVERTY	AMOUNT
MORE	WIDOW	COINS	RICH	OFFERING
LARGE	WEALTH	EVERYTHING	COPPER	POOR

~ Sermons 4 Kids

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