

**dNews**

Each week. There is a new free complimentary dNews

**Fr. David's easy quiz**

How old was Jesus when he was baptised

- A baby
- 30 years old
- 21 years old

**Fr. David's hard quiz**

What form did the Holy Spirit take when Jesus was baptised

- A dove
- A flame
- A lamb
- We're not actually told

The answers from last weeks quiz were:

Easy Quiz: Actually we're not told

Hard Quiz: John Hopkins

**Cuppa and Chatter**

It all happens on **Thursday at 2.15pm.**

Ladies to the Lemon Myrtle and **3.00pm** gents to the Thompson's Tavern

All are very welcome

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union Australia  
Sunday 12th January 2025

**Unity**

'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit though the bond of peace' (Ephesians 4:2-3).

How many times do we hear of local churches divided and torn by disputes and disagreements! Too often. The Evil One loves to cause turmoil in the churches. He loves it when gossip turns to slander and untruths. Division reflects so badly on what Christ has done for us and how he cares for us. The unity of the Church begins with you and how you act in your church. It is the responsibility of every Christian. The Bible tells us that we are all one in Christ Jesus, and that all who belong to Jesus have been gifted with the Holy Spirit, the very presence of God within our hearts. Our path is the path of humble, gentle and patient love. It is the love which forgives and keeps the unity of the Spirit.

*Question for thought: Do I work towards the unity of my church, or do I cause division?*

Heavenly Father, we pray for MU members in the Seychelles as they endeavour to work with families many of whom are coping with challenges of a rising crime rate, gender violence and drug and alcohol abuse. May they offer the comfort of the love of God to those in need. Amen.

**SERVICES THIS WEEK**

Wednesday 15th January	Holy Communion 10.00am	Christ Church Hamilton
Saturday 18h January	Vigil 6.00pm	Christ Church Hamilton
Sunday 19th January	Eucharist 9.00am Eucharist 10.30am Eucharist 5.00pm	St Mark's Cavendish Christ Church Hamilton St Mary's Dunkeld

Reader 1: Linley	Reader 2: Eileen	Intercessor: Helen R	Sidesmen : Sandra & John
Eucharist Assistant: Lofty			



## Anglican Parish of Hamilton

### The Baptism Of Our Lord

12th January 2025

# WELCOME

Sentence: Luke 3.22

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

*Collect*

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: grant that all who are baptised into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

**Parish Directory**

Parish Website: [www.hamiltonanglican.org.au](http://www.hamiltonanglican.org.au)  
Parish Facebook: [facebook.com/AnglicanHamilton](https://facebook.com/AnglicanHamilton)  
Diocesan Website: [ballaratanglican.org.au](http://ballaratanglican.org.au).

<b>PARISH PRIEST</b>	Fr David Oulton	03 5571 1317 (Rectory & Office) Email: <a href="mailto:droulton72@gmail.com">droulton72@gmail.com</a> PH: 0435 867 040 39 Griffin Street Facetime, Messenger, Skype
<b>PARISH OFFICE</b>	9.00am-12.00pm Thursdays and Fridays	03 5571 1317 (Office & Rectory) <a href="mailto:office@hamiltonanglican.org.au">office@hamiltonanglican.org.au</a> PO Box 474
<b>CHURCH WARDENS</b>	Stewart Otton - Rector's Warden Claire Hilsdon - Peoples Warden Ian Hartley - Peoples Warden	0429 724 545 0488 529 303 0407 095 410

If you would like to give to the parish by the direct debit option, the parish bank details are as follows:- NAB. BSB:083-663 the account No.: 51580-7866.

Even if you miss coming you are still giving. This also helps with budgeting for our future.

### Christ Church Hamilton

St Mary's  
Dunkeld

St Peter's  
Glenthompson

St Mark's  
Cavendish

All Saints'  
Penshurst

1 But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

3 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

4 Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

5 Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—

7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

1. Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven: ascribe to the Lord glory and might.

- 2. **Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name: O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.**
- 3. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: the God of glory thunders, the Lord upon the great waters.
- 4. **The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation: the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.**
- 5. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees: the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6. **He makes them skip like a calf: Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.**
- 7. The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash: the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert, the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.
- 8. **The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees, and strips bare the forests: in his temple all cry 'Glory.'**
- 9. The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood: the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.
- 10. **The Lord will give strength to his people: the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.**

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the

highly probable that He also got excited and gets excited still. If we are made in the image of God then there must be times when he is not only sad and grumpy, but also delighted and excited and thrilled. If he shares every aspect of our humanity except sin, that must mean that God gets excited. Our God is in fact, not aloof, distant and cool, but a passionate and excitable God. You all probably had this worked out a long time ago, but I've only just woken up to this thrilling thought. And what would walking towards an excitable God mean for us personally when we come to the altar today? And what would this excitable, exciting, and excited God say to us? Probably the same thing that he said to Jesus his son when he was in the skanky waters of the river Jordan. If you listen carefully you might just hear him say "You are my child whom I love. With you I am well pleased."

**Next week's homily**

Three cheers for Felicity and Fr. Scott.

**Howard Thurman wrote**

"When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart."

**So who's Thomas a Kempis?**

Thomas was a theological writer in the 15th century. He wrote a classic called 'The Imitation of Christ' which is a very

hefty theological book and not for the fainthearted. It became one of the great mystic classics and over the past couple of months a copy has found its home in the Lady Chapel. If it is yours please see Fr. David.

**How to find....**

- 1. Confirmation candidates. Keep an eye out for these folk. They can be of any age. You may approach them or maybe just slip your parish priest their contact details for him to approach them
- 2. Palm crosses. Often found on a fridge, notice board, in a prayer book

**Come back Fr. Thomas....**

You know you want to

**The Fund Raising committee**

opens the batting on Thursday 16th of January at 1:30pm. All ideas and people are welcome.

**Dates for your shiny new diary...**

Ash Wednesday	March 5th
Lady day	March 25th
Parish Fete	November 8th
Easter day	April 20th
MU Planning Meeting	February 3rd
F.R.C.	January 16th

**Men's Breakfast**

The next men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday 18 January 2025 to be held in the Canon Julian Centre commencing at 8am for 8.30am. All men are welcome. Bring a friend. An attendance list (for catering purposes) is situated at the rear of Christ Church and will close on Sunday 12 January 2025.

## Today's Homily

### In praise of our excitable God

In my mind's eye I can very easily imagine the scene of today's gospel. For one thing, those who have been to the river Jordan tell me that it would not pass our stringent O. H. & S standards. The river Jordan is not chlorinated and sparkling clean and you can't see the bottom. So I envisage something like the muddy farm dam of my childhood, complete with Red-fin, mud and yabbies. I love the image of a wild and wooly John the Baptist, complete with an embarrassingly large unkept beard, whilst waving a hefty pastoral staff passionately in the air. On the banks of the River Jordan he is proudly sporting the latest camel's hair coat and matching leather belt. There he is, loudly hollering and encouraging the folk to get their stuff together. To repent and believe the good news, that sin can be forgiven, that they can be baptized by the Holy Spirit and that the Messiah is coming. He seems undaunted or oblivious to the fact that he is making an enemy of powerful Herod. In this scene Luke even tells us about the sense of expectancy and wonder that was amongst the people.

"The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah."

When I conjure up the vision I sense the peoples anticipation and hope. And if I had been there ... would I have been caught up in their emotion? I'd like to hope so. But what about us today? Do we still have that flutter of nervous exuberance? And if not, where, when and how, did we lose that sense of anticipation. It might help to recapture some of this sense of awe, if we remember who it is that is with us today. The seen and the visible, the unseen and the invisible. And it might help if we remember that it isn't always

supposed to be roses and champagne and twinkles in our eyes and butterflies in our tummy and unstoppable grins. We can't always go on exclaiming 'Yippee' and 'Hoorah', at the top of our voices. Surely that sort of passionate hoopla and merriment is unsustainable.

Perhaps then, we are more like the mature couple who know and rejoice quietly in the fact that the heady days of their youth have mellowed and matured into something far more deeper and far more lovelier.

Our relationship with the living God has developed through days and nights of being in the murky waters where nothing much seemed to happen and yet everything has happened.

Perhaps in 2025, when we have a few more wrinkles and our hair might be a more silver fox look, we might celebrate the fact that our love of God is no longer a puppy dog rush to get to the altar in glee and gusto, but rather it has become a graceful, gentle striding, maybe even a hobble, towards an old friend who we have come to rely upon, rest in and appreciate more and more, knowing that we have always been his child and we always will be.

So what would happen if instead of feeling guilty about not hurtling to the altar we simply tottered quietly, and enjoyed each and every step. Wouldn't that heighten the desire and the joy of knowing that He is just as excited to be with us as we are to be with Him?

Mmm... Hang on. Now there's an interesting thought. What if we worship a God who not only loves us, but actually gets excited about us.

I reason thus. That if Jesus walked the dusty streets of Palestine, was dunked in the mawkish waters of the river Jordan, bled real blood on the cross, wept real salty tears at Lazarus' grave, drank real wine, ate real fish and bread... is it not

Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).<sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Hear the word of the Lord

### Thanks be to God

#### Alleluia! alleluia.

A voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased

R. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 3.15–22

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
According to St Luke

### Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' <sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. <sup>19</sup> But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the

evil things that Herod had done,<sup>20</sup> added to them all by shutting up John in prison. <sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## For your Prayers this week

For the sick and in need and those who are preparing for surgery

King Charles Beatrix Catherine, Princess of Wales	Bishop Garry Chris Henderson Judy Sommerville	Vivian McKellar
---	---	-----------------

For those who have died

Barry Harding Reginald Murray Frederick Ryan	Tanya Groves Anna Lyons Gweneth Fraser	Frances Annett Bruce Cuming Thomas Moore
--	--	--

For the wider Church and its ministry

- The Church of the Province of West Africa
- North Queensland: Keith Joseph
- Glenelg Wannan: Wayne Corker  
Kowree: Wayne Corker
- Kenainj
- Our local hospitals and all who work in health care.

**TODAY'S HYMNS**  
**541 286 527 667**

### Did you know?

There is a lot of information on our parish website:

[www.hamiltonanglican.org.au](http://www.hamiltonanglican.org.au)

and our parish facebook:

[facebook.com/AnglicanHamilton](https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanHamilton)

(these addresses can be found on the front of our pew sheets)

You can read Fr David's down to earth homilies (even leave a comment about them).

If you don't have the technology to have a look maybe just ask a young person, like a grandchild .

Also our Diocesan website: [ballaratanglican.org.au](http://ballaratanglican.org.au) is a good place to find information.

## Intercessions for the Eucharist and for you to say at home

The response to the bidding:  
"With expectant hearts" ... is ...  
"We pray to you"

With expectant hearts ...  
**We pray to you**

To God, the giver of life and the Author of all holiness, let us offer our prayers:

That our church may bring sight to those who are blind to the life of God and liberation to those imprisoned by darkness. For Garry our Bishop, Fr. Scott as he prepares for consecration and for the parish of the Otway's and those who offer ministry there

*With expectant hearts ...*  
**We pray to you**

For the nations and peoples of the world,..... that we may all work together for the victory of justice. For those lands where there is tyranny and prejudice.

*With expectant hearts ...*  
**We pray to you**

That we may be always faithful to our covenant with God, sealed in the waters of our Baptism. For those who are preparing to receive the sacraments of Christian initiation at this time.

*With expectant hearts ...*  
**We pray to you**

That the sick and the suffering, the poor and forgotten, may find hope in the good news of peace. For those who spend this day in our hospitals and institutions

*With expectant hearts ...*  
**We pray to you**

For the gift of safe travel on our roads at this time and those who are called out to serve others in this holiday season For those who have suffered bereavement or tragedy. For those affected by fire.

*With expectant hearts ...*  
**We pray to you**

That those who have died may rise to the new life of the Risen Christ especially the souls of the recently departed; .....

*With expectant hearts ...*  
**We pray to you**

Lord May your Spirit of justice and peace always rest upon us so that we may dedicate ourselves to the work of the prayers we have offered. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.