

dNews

Each week. There is a new free complimentary dNews

Fr. David's easy quiz

The bible tells us that there were how many Magi.

- 3
- 4
- 5 and some water boys and camel attendants
- Actually we're not told

Fr. David's hard quiz

Who wrote the carol 'We three Kings of Orient are?'

- Charles Wesley
- Philip Brooks
- John Hopkins
- Charles Rutter

The answers from last weeks quiz were:

Easy Quiz: Simeon

Hard Quiz: Anna

Cuppa and Chatter

It all happens on **Thursday at 2.30pm.** Ladies to the Lemon Myrtle and **3.00pm** gents to the Thompson's Tavern

All are very welcome

8

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union Australia

Sunday 5th January 2025

Diversity

'After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb' (Revelation 7:9). It is so natural for us to favour our own tribe, our own people, our own class and to be prejudiced against others. But the one church of Jesus Christ is made up of people from every nation, tribe, people and language. This is the church for which he died. One of the most moving experiences we can have in this life is to attend an assembly where Christ's people gather from every continent. The way in which we sing the same songs, but bring our own giftedness to the music is breathtaking. The Mothers' Union is like this, with contributions from all over the world. Even when we never meet, we pray for each other, because we recognise our sisters, our family, different though we may be. But even this is nothing compared with the wonder of the End when we will meet at the throne and in the presence of the Lamb.

Question for thought: In my heart do I see that all people are equally precious to God?

Gracious Lord, we bring before you the Diocese of Hanuato in the Solomon Islands. We pray that you will enable them as they tackle crucial matters concerning family and women's welfare. Please bless their efforts to bring positive changes and promote well-being within families and communities. We especially pray that you will bless them as they encourage a deeper understanding of God's Word. Amen



Anglican Parish of Hamilton

The Epiphany Of Our Lord

5th January 2025

WELCOME

Jeanine and Fr. David wish everyone a Bright, Sparkling and Happy New Year.

Sentence: Isaiah 60.1

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Collect

Lord God of the nations, we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendour: may the brightness of your incarnate Word pierce the night that covers the earth, signal the dawn of justice and peace, and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Parish Directory

Parish Website: www.hamiltonanglican.org.au
 Parish Facebook: facebook.com/AnglicanHamilton
 Diocesan Website: ballaratanglican.org.au.

PARISH PRIEST	Fr David Oulton	03 5571 1317 (Rectory & Office) Email: droulton72@gmail.com PH: 0435 867 040 39 Griffin Street Facetime, Messenger, Skype
PARISH OFFICE	9.00am-12.00pm Thursdays and Fridays	03 5571 1317 (Office & Rectory) office@hamiltonanglican.org.au PO Box 474
CHURCH WARDENS	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.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Wednesday 8th January	Holy Communion 10.00am	Christ Church Hamilton
Saturday 11th January	Vigil 6.00pm	Christ Church Hamilton
Sunday 12th January	Eucharist 9.00am Eucharist 10.30am	St Peter's Glenthompson Christ Church Hamilton

Reader 1: Sandra	Reader 2: Meredith	Intercessor: Sue	Sidesmen : Helen & Ilford
Eucharist Assistant: Susan			

Christ Church Hamilton

St Mary's
Dunkeld

St Peter's
Glenthompson

St Mark's
Cavendish

All Saints'
Penshurst



1st Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6

1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord .

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 72.1-7; 72.10-14

1. Give the king your judgement, O God: and your righteousness to the son of a king,

2. **That he may judge your people**

2 **rightly: and the poor of the land with equity.**

3. Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness: and the hills also with prosperity for his people.

4. **May he give justice to the poor among the people: and rescue the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

5. May he live while the sun endures: and while the moon gives light, throughout all generations.

6. **May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields: and as showers that water the earth.**

7. In his time shall righteousness flourish: and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.

10. **The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.**

11. All kings shall fall down before him: and all nations do him service.

12. **He will deliver the needy when they cry: and the poor that have no helper.**

13. He will pity the helpless and the needy: and save the lives of the poor.

14. **He will redeem them from oppression and violence: and their blood shall be precious in his sight.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 3.1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few

through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of Heaven." "Effendi" is Arabic for "Master." Having ditched the gold, frankincense and myrrh, passing through the eye of the needle and into the new Jerusalem is a giggle and a cinch. What if we are in fact already there, walking the streets of gold with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven...

By Scott Bates
I went all the way
But on the return trip
I gave the caravan
The slip
One desert night
Quit Balthazar
With all his frankincense
And myrrh
And headed out
Across the sand
It was dawn when I came
To this strange land
And found this family
Living here
Without a camel
Because they were poor
So I stayed with them
Carried their hides
Gave all the kids
Free camel rides
Sat with the baby
Worked with the man
Sang them ballads
Of Ispahan
Carried the water
Pulled the plow
Loved my neighbor
Who was a cow
I like it here
I'm staying with them
As I wanted to stay
In Bethlehem
With that other
Family I knew
Which proves Master
That passing through
The eye of a needle

7
Is an easier thing
For a camel
Than a king

Next week's homily

In praise of our excitable God

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.

Today's Homily

From the camels point of view

The poem I offer this week comes from Scott Bates. It's cleverly written and takes the vantage point of one of the camels in the Epiphany story.

The Camel tells us about his own search and it's not the quest we often think of at Epiphany. Usually we think of the magi, and therefore the camels, searching for the Christ-child. And that's true and right.

They go looking and searching and it's a long and tortuous process, with many missteps, working night shift and a bad guy thrown into the story for good measure.

In Scott's poem it's as if the camel glimpses not only the Messiah, but also the sense of community and service that the brat in the Manger envisions and hopes for all of us. So the poem talks about that invisible commonality, that intangible web of support and nurture one with another, when we dispense with what we think is important and take up instead a life of service and friendship. The camel discovers that this life is its own lasting treasure of infinite value. Far more precious and enduring than gold, frankincense and myrrh. And it doesn't matter where we happen to live, or what we do for a crust. Whether student, retired, pensioner or highflier, our real treasure is discovered in our conversations, relationship and friendships with each other. Love is made manifest in the everyday dishes and weeding and cuppa and silence and thought bubbles. Here in what we think is boring and dull, we discover Christ made flesh in a different, but no less authentic way.

There is an implied criticism in the poem of the kings for not having stuck it out and stayed with the Christ child—that's why the camel has to slip away— We once were in touch with divinity and then returned to our normal lives. Having savoured and

tasted divinity at the cradle the camel becomes addicted and like all of us longs for more, needs more, because we have come to understand no matter how dimly and fleetingly, that we have been loved. That we are loved.

In his poem Scott teaches us about the ebb and flow between secular and sacred. We come along and immerse ourselves in the dimension of the divine and then we scurry back to our everyday lives for what we think of as the secular. And while I get this and am guilty of it myself, the distinction is in fact false and misleading. Both Heaven and earth are full of God's glory. Yes, it is hard to see the divine out there. Outside the church building. But the divine is all around us and within. All of us lose the vision and must rediscover it outside the four walls of our own God box. And if you're anything like forgetful ol me, this looking and searching and glimpsing the divine is something we do again and again and again.

Scott gives us a couple hints as to where we might find our 'new' treasure. He writes...

It was dawn when I came
To this strange land
And found this family

Living here

Without a camel

Because they were poor

So it is often in the unfamiliar and the unusual that the Master reveals himself. In unremarkable things that are easily overlooked. And it is the unpretentious, those without any sense of self righteousness or self entitlement, those who just enjoy being themselves without any 'dressups', those who are poor, who have most to give us and who teach us most patiently the lessons that are vital.

You'll probably recognise the Biblical allusion in the final stanza but, in case you don't, it's Jesus' assertion (Matthew 19:24) that "it is easier for a camel to pass

words,⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power.⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Alleluia! alleluia.

We observed his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.

R. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12

The Lord be with you.
And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to St Matthew

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men

from the East came to Jerusalem,² asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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
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For those who have died

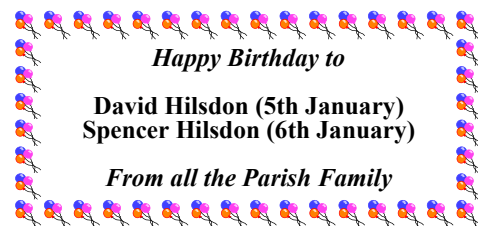
Doreen Pinkerton Frank Uren Alexander Murrell Helen Russell Joan Baker	Robert Menzel Shirley Simpson Jean Rowen Elinor Stanley Wayne Banfield	Margaret Noske Lorna Pearse Patricia Kennett
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For the wider Church and its ministry

- The Church in Wales
- MU Australia: Jill Gale (Ballarat President)
The Auxiliary of ABM: Alice Knight
Girl's Friendly Society: Wendy Veal
Anglican Men's Society
- Bokopai & Bulolo / Wau
- Those suffering through the abuse of drugs.
Those involved in drug rehabilitation.

Yes... it is true. Fr. David will be keeping
Monday as his day off in 2025

TODAY'S HYMNS
144 167 723 722



Intercessions for the Eucharist and for you to say at home

The Response to the bidding:
Loving God...is...
You are our shepherd

Loving God... **You are our shepherd**

That we will be a people who walk together in a spirit of listening, guided by the holy spirit.

Darkness cannot overpower the light of Christ.

Loving God... You are our shepherd

For our world that we strive for justice and the gift of peace to come to our whole world.

Loving God... You are our shepherd

For those who feel lost and have no aim in life, through the dark times the light of life, who is Christ, will lead them to fullness of life. God is the word made flesh.

A God who cares. Shelters us by day and shows the way and guides us by the stars at night.

Loving God... You are our shepherd

We pray for those who need the healing touch of Jesus, For Bishop Garry and all those of our families that also need Christ's healing touch.

Loving God... You are our shepherd

God of all, we bring before you the gold of your divine life,

The incense of our prayer, and the myrrh of humanity.

Reveal to us the depths of your love in the heart of a searching world;

Open before us the sea of your riches;

and show us the salvation of your son, Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever.

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.