



Anglican Parish of Hamilton

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

30th November 2025

Sentence: Isaiah 2.3a.

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.

Collect

Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one 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

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PARISH OFFICE

9.00am – 12.00pm

0429 724 545

CHURCH WARDENS

Stewart Otton-Rector's Warden

Claire Hilsdon-Peoples Warden

Ian Hartley-Peoples Warden

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 Mark's Cavendish

St Peter's Glenthompson
All Saints' Penshurst

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 122

1. I was glad when they said to me: 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
2. **And now our feet are standing:
within your gates, O Jerusalem;**
3. Jerusalem which is built as a city:
where the pilgrims gather in unity.
4. **There the tribes go up, the tribes of
the Lord: as he commanded Israel, to
give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

5. There are set thrones of judgement: the thrones of the house of David.

**6. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
may those who love you prosper.**

7. Peace be within your walls: and prosperity in your palaces.

**8. For the sake of my kindred and
companions: I will pray that peace be
with you.**

9. For the sake of the house of the Lord our God: I will seek for your good.

2nd Reading: Romans 13.9-14

⁹ The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Show us, Lord, your mercy;
grant us your salvation.!

Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 24.36-44

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

³⁶ ‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken

and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



Picnicking in the Hamilton Botanic Gardens on our
Diocesan 150th Anniversary

Intercessions for the Eucharist and for you to say at home

Intercessions for Advent 1

The response to the bidding “Prepare our hearts” ... is ... “And come in your glory”

Prepare our hearts ... And come in your glory

No eye has ever seen greater wonders than what God has done for us. With confidence then let us offer our prayers to God, our Father.

For the Church – that all the baptised may be living witnesses of your light in the world, seeking to speak the Good News in new ways to the people of our time. We offer to you Garry our Bishop for healing and wholeness. We give hearty thanks for Bishop Scott who assists him.

Prepare our hearts ... And come in your glory

For national and international leaders – that weapons of violence be set aside, and that all peoples, and especially leaders, will seek peace and not war.

Prepare our hearts ... And come in your glory

For all the people of Australia– that the beauty of our mountains, hills, rivers, and the night sky pierced with light of the Southern Cross, may awaken in us all, a spirit of generosity, mercy, and deep compassion.

Prepare our hearts ... And come in your glory

For our communities – that families affected by physical addictions, broken relationships, depression, or mental health problems, will be supported and encouraged by loving neighbours who bring light into the darkness.

Prepare our hearts ... And come in your glory

For ourselves – that as we enter this new Liturgical year, we deepen our prayer in Christ, fast from excess, and strive to abound in love

for one another and for all

Prepare our hearts ... And come in your glory

Jesus, Master, shape us in your ways of justice and mercy, form us in your peace and craft us in your love. We ask these things in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

For Your Prayers This Week

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

Beatrix, Bishop Garry, Vivian McKellar, Heather M., Bishop Scott & his family

For Those Who Have Died Years Mind

Norman Thomas, Keith Allen, Gregory Mutch, Dawn Shoebridge, Winston Forrest, Rachel Malseed, Albert White, Robie McDonald, Stuart Bell, Charles Sandison, Jessie Harris, Robert Gardiner, Janice Hann, Ralph Henderson

For The Wider Church and Its Ministry

- The Anglican Church of Australia
- Clergy with Permission to Officiate and others: Christine Angus, Donald Bellamy, Des Benfield, Michael Boyle, Grant Bullen, +Mark Burton, Robert Caernarvon-Smith, Emmanuel Carrington, Cliff Cheong, Stephen Coggins, Malcolm Crawley, Wayne Dorning, Roger Dyer, Thomas Edayal, Don Fairlie, Rob Ferguson, +Philip Freier, Mark Garner, Colin Griffiths, Bruce Hallyburton, Paul Harper, Charles Helms, Marilyn Hope, Catherine Inches-Ogden, Barry Johns, Anne McKenna, Bill Peacock, Robert Long, Hayden McKellar, Bert Muysers, Terence O'Neill-Fitzsimons, David Price, John Price, Keith Purdie, Neale Salan, John Sanderson, Cornelius

Samuel, Wayne Sheean, Graeme Snell, Jonathon Sturman, Chris Talbot, Malcolm Thomas, Geoffrey Tisdall, Russell Trickey, David Turner, Lynton Wade, John Walz, Sr Elisa Waterhouse CSC and Barry Wells.

- Kandabiam
- The lonely and those who feel unloved

Today's Homily

Who's in the pub? Zacchaeus.

“And Mary gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

While the focus is rightly on the Blessed Virgin Mary and her new born son, I can't help but wonder who else might have been at the inn that night. Who else got in ahead of them and actually remembered to book, as clearly Joseph did not or could not, have emailed ahead.

During this advent we'll be having a bit of play with some of these forward thinking characters and what they might have to teach us. The theme for this advent is 'Who's in the pub?'

Today I'd like to speculate that a tax collector called Zacchaeus might have been one of those at the inn. My thinking is that the Nazareth Hotel at census time would have been exactly where our friend Zacchaeus would have placed himself. On this night and in this place, there is lashings of money to make.

Luke is the only gospel to record the story of the short statured gentleman and he only occurs in the story of the sycamore tree and the crowds. But it is this story that we get a glimpse of the sorts of people that the Master came to love, redeem and take pleasure in.

In the story of Zacchaeus up a tree, we see someone who is eager to see the master but he can't see because of the crowds. We sense not only his eagerness but also his frustration and see his inventiveness to get a glimpse of what has been invisible to him. And I wonder what it is that sometimes crowds out the Master that we know we need. The one we long for and the only one who can actually begin to put things right.

Where did Zacchaeus' drive come from and when did the sense of wanting to put things right begin? Perhaps what we see in this story of Zacchaeus' really began one night in Nazareth.

Being short of stature he has to sit on a tall bar stool. There he is swilling the good quality cabernet, nibbling on some nuts and olives, all charm and palaver, making oodles of money but all the time he has a sinking feeling that this is not all there is. It is all so hollow. He never really knows who truly likes him, or not, but he has a fair idea that most don't and out of fear they will never tell him. Zacchaeus has the power after all.

His conversations this chilly night are courteous and thin. Manners and business are all there is. Deep down, at that level where the dollars do not count, but faith, trust and sacrifice do, Zacchaeus is actually bankrupt. He knows all this but chooses to wash it away with another glass of house red.

Perhaps it is in that seedy establishment with its dim lighting and the swirling sticky pub carpet, that the imperative to actually seek out that something more, that deeper something that Zacchaeus knows he needs and which we know we need as well.

But there is a mirror quirk in the story of the crowds and the sycamore tree. Not only is Zacchaeus urgent in his endeavours but it

seems that the Master is just as emphatic that something needs to happen. Like now.

“Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”

In our quest for the divine we can easily forget that The Master is far more urgent in his endeavours to seek us out than we are in our attempts to find him.

Whilst Zacchaeus swirls the dark red wine in his cup, perhaps these postulations are beginning to swirl in his soul. He is lost in his thoughts, the wine and the banter of the crowded bar. When all of sudden there is a loud urgent knock on the door and there stands a rough hewn, grubby carpenter and teenage girl in labour.

“Jesus Master carpenter, when you knock upon the woodenness of our indifference and sloth, give us the will to open the door and greet your arrival with joy. Grant us the strength to open our souls, our lives and our hearts to you. Step across the threshold of our complacency and lodge within us. Weep, dance and laugh with us. Make us uncomfortable, surprise us, disturb us, disquiet us and challenge us. Replenish us when our cup has run dry and when we are famished nourish us with the bread of life. And finally, when our earthly temple collapses in death, bring us to the home you have prepared for us where your eternal banquet goes on forever and ever Amen.”

Next week's homily

Who's in the pub? Jehu, The Census consultant.!

Wanted

Small quiet farmhouse or cottage sought to rent by lady with one dog. Very tidy with excellent references. Contact Deacon Jannie 0420283809 with a text message please.

dNews

Each week. There is a new free complimentary dNews

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

Fr. David's easy quiz

The Gospel which mentions the Census at the time of Jesus birth is

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John
- All of the above.
-

Fr. David's hard quiz

In St. Luke's Gospel the Angel Gabrielle appears to The Blessed Virgin Mary and...

- Joseph
- Zechariah
- Elizabeth
- Shepherds

The answers from last weeks quiz were:

- Easy Quiz: A BYO picnic
- Hard Quiz: A Latin word "podium," meaning an 'elevated platform or balcony

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union Australia

Sunday 30th November 2025

The Return of Jesus

'They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus who saves us from the coming wrath' (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

As the season of Advent reminds us, we are waiting for the return of Jesus in all his glory to judge the world. We can be confident in his mercy, as we trust what he did in his first appearing – he saved us and so he will save us. Judgement sounds frightening, and it is. But we are glad that a just God will deal with sin and evil once and for all. As well, in the midst of the turmoil of the end, we will see Jesus, the one who was sent into the world to be our Saviour. There is an old hymn which runs 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace'. Good advice!

Question for thought:

Are the eyes of your heart fixed on Jesus?

Almighty God, we pray for all those throughout the world who are victims and survivors of domestic abuse. May there be an end to this terrible suffering. Please heal, renew and guard them. We ask that they will bring their cares to you and that they will know the peace that passes all understanding. Amen

Anglicare for Christmass Donations

To support our Christmas Giving programs we are accepting donations at both Ballarat and Warrnambool.

Donations of Christmas foods and seasonal treats are very welcome additions to our Emergency Food Relief Pantry. We are also in

need of donations of toys and gifts for children of all ages, but especially toys for those aged from birth to 12 years. If you would like to help an older child, you can also donate a gift voucher or money to put towards buying gift vouchers for teenage children.

The theme for the Advent homilies this year

'Who's in the pub?'

On Saturday 6th of

December at 6pm our Vigil mass will be offered with the special intention of praying for an end to Domestic Violence.

A Mini Break

for Jeanine and Fr. David.

Jeanine and Fr. David will be on a short break from Friday November 28th to Tuesday 2nd of December. In case of catastrophe during these days please contact:

Deacon Jannie on 0420 283 809

1st Anniversary for Deacon Jannie and 40th for Fr David Sunday 7th Dec

Please join them in the hall after church for a cuppa.

The last meeting of Parish Council for 2025

happens on Thursday 18th of December at 5:30pm.

All are very welcome

A HEFFALUMP size Thank

You to all those who worked so hard to make our Church sparkly for the 150th celebrations.

Great news

to all people especially to this parish.
Mr. David Byrne is our new Parish Treasurer.
Please support and encourage him.

OK So it's Yellow this year.

make sure that you get your Christmass service
times leaflet.

Mother’s Union News

At church on Saturday December 6th the
service with focus on a recognition of our
support for the 16 days of activism against
domestic violence.
Our final meeting for the year will be a
luncheon at the Thompson’s Tavern following
the Sunday morning church service on
December 14th. Members, partners and church
community members are warmly invited to
attend but numbers are required. Please let
myself or Betty Lacy know if you plan to
attend by December 7th.
Shirley Gregory

The Australian Chamber

Choir's Dunkeld performance of Baroque
Christmas is on Saturday 13 December at 3PM
at Sterling Place Community Centre, Dunkeld
This is an exploration of biblical texts telling
the Christmas story, set mostly by composers
of the Baroque period.

- Baroque Christmas
- Australian Chamber Choir
- Katia Mestrovic – harp
- directed by Douglas Lawrence
- Saturday 13 December at 3PM
- Sterling Place Community Centre,
Dunkeld
- Book/info: auschoir.org/buy-tickets

The Hamilton Anglican
Womens’ Guild

The Fundraising Committee Raffle raised
\$397.00 for the flowers for the 150th Ballarat
Diocese Celebrations.
We send our appreciation and a very big
THANK YOU to David Young for the
fabulous flower arrangements. The winner of
the raffle was Tom Trimmell.

Services for this week

Wednesday	3rd December	Holy Communion 10.00am	Christ Church Hamilton
Saturday	6 th December	Vigil 6.00pm	Christ Church Hamilton
Sunday	7 th December	Eucharist 9.00am	St Mark’s Cavendish
		Eucharist 10.30am	Christ Church Hamilton

Reader 1: Caroline Reader 2: Judy T Intercessor: Betty Sidesmen: Sandra & John

Eucharist Assistant: Heather