



Anglican Parish of Hamilton

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7th December 2025

Sentence: Mark 1.15

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

Collect

God of all peoples, whose servant John came baptising and calling for repentance: help us to hear his voice of judgement, that we may also rejoice in his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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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CHURCH WARDENS

Stewart Otton-Rector's Warden

0429 724 545

Claire Hilsdon-Peoples Warden

0488 529 303

Ian Hartley-Peoples Warden

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 A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

1. Give the king your judgement, O God: and your righteousness to the son of a king,
2. **That he may judge your people 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.
18. **Let his name live for ever: and endure as long as the sun.**
19. Let all peoples use his name in blessing: and all nations call him blessed.
20. **Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel: who alone does great wonders.**
21. Blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Amen, Amen

2nd Reading: Romans 15.4-13

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, ‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name’; ¹⁰ and again he says, ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’; ¹¹ and again, ‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him’; ¹² and again Isaiah says, ‘The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.’ ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.
And all people will see God’s salvation.
Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 3.1-12

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to St John

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”’ ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore

that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.¹¹ 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

For the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Intercessions for the Eucharist and for you to say at home

'The Response to the bidding:

"Daystar from on high" ... is ... "Enlighten our lives"

Daystar from on high **Enlighten our lives**

In joyful hope for the coming of God's reign, let us pray to the Lord. That the church in all her conversations may make a pathway that is level for those whom she serves. For Garry our Bishop, Scott who assists him and for the parish of Holy apostles. For Fr. Matthew and God's people there. For those parishes that will have no priest at this time of year

Daystar from on high **Enlighten our lives**

For those whose lives are torn apart by bloodshed and distress. For an end to terrorism in our world and those who are called to be instruments of peace. For wise words of reconciliation to be found

Daystar from on high **Enlighten our lives**

For our own selves as we prepare for the coming of Christ. In a moment of silence let us ask God for the resolve to be heralds of good news by our deeds and words. (Pause

1,...2,...3,...)

Daystar from on high **Enlighten our lives**

For the poor, the homeless and the forgotten, that we may recognise in them the person of Jesus. For those who will seek the services of Anglicare at this time

Daystar from on high **Enlighten our lives**

For those this week who will have to impart or hear painful information. That they may be reassured by the loving presence of St. Joseph and Our Lady.

Daystar from on high **Enlighten our lives**

For our deceased relatives and friends that Christ the good shepherd may gather them into His care forever. Especially the recently departed.....

Daystar from on high **Enlighten our lives**

Living God, hear the prayers of your people who anxiously await your coming. Help us to straighten the crooked roads of our lives so that we might create a highway for you to enter our lives with Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

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

Frank Uren, Druscilla Forster, Gary Holmes, Marjorie Hall, Robert Stone, Arthur Moon, Laurel Mercer, Kathleen Buchanan, Clement Hadden, Evan Wensley, Montague Bloomfield, Robert Rohen, Robert Hall, Christopher Rook, Elizabeth Frank, Janet Darling, Florence Carter, Helen Baker, Charles Somers, Justin Ryan, Rodney Northcott, Winifred Johnson, Marguerite Tare

For The Wider Church and Its Ministry

- The Diocese of Pungue River – Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola
- Canberra and Goulburn: Mark Short, Carol Wagner, Stephen Pickard and Vanessa Bennett.
- Hamilton: David Oulton & Jannie Ryan (Deacon)
- Ginjiji
- Victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse.

Today's Homily

Who's in the pub? The census consultant

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. Joseph and Mary went to the city of David called Bethlehem.

When they get to Bethlehem they find that there is no room for them in the Inn. During this advent we will be wildly speculating as to who might have taken up all the accommodation at the hotel.

In Luke's gospel there is reference to a registration or a census. This was to work out who was around to pay a land tax. Sound familiar? So my conjecture is that there would have had to be a group of people who were responsible for counting heads, assessing farms and peoples income, in order that the numbers could be crunched and the appropriate people charged accordingly.

I've called my fictitious consensus consultant Jehu and he is the first born son of Nimshi. Jehu is your 30 something swagger of a guy who declined his dad's business of making chariots and decided that a role in the

Roman government was just what he needed and where the future lies.

He's there in the swirl and swirl of the hotel on this chilly night, trying to work out how much land tax the publican should really be paying but our friendly host behind the bar is elusive and hypertension is beginning to tighten.

This is not the first time it has been difficult for Jehu. Every farmer he has encountered, every fisherman, every tent maker, every carpenter, every merchant, every stone mason, every seamstress has met with cold indifference. No one has been forthcoming about their income and assets.

"Oh no, last year was a terrible year". The fish were almost nonexistent.' 'I traded poorly and no one could afford my fine linen cloth'. 'The border of my land is actually that fence there, not the one you thought of Jehu.' 'Those large barns... yeah they belong to someone else who's gone on pilgrimage.'

It's all starting to be a bit too much and Jehu who has been in his illustrious career for just 5 weeks is beginning to see a bit of a pattern and to realise that his popularity has plummeted.

What's more, he knows that tomorrow he will have to get up and spend the whole day having the same conversation over and over and over again. And the next day and the next day.

The tedium and the predictability of his work is grinding him down and somehow the service seems to be particularly slow in this Inn whilst everyone else gets prompt attention for their orders of roast lamb stuffed with marinated olives and good quality red ned.

He's seriously beginning to wonder if he made the right career choice. Knocking together air-conditioned chariots with the upmarket model of bridles and reins... All of sudden, seems

like a pretty cruisy job, but his father has sold the business to Jacob and having tetchy argy bargy sessions with people who don't want to talk to you is now Jehu's lot. Finally he gets his second ... or is it his third... glass of cheap plonk. He sits by himself in a dark corner and not even the barmaid gives him a second glance. Business is brisk tonight and he is left to swirl his cup and allow the questions to stir and swirl in his mind.

Is this all there is? How did it come to this? I am trapped in a job and place that is foreign. It runs counter to everything my parents taught me and everything the Torah teaches. Am I really only good for doing the governor's hard grist? People are more than their assets aren't they... and I am more than a bureaucrat in a backwater town... aren't I?

Back in the synagogue, love God and your neighbour as yourself seemed so simple. Now I am doing none of these things.

He is lost in his thoughts, his questions and feels his emotions begin to spiral and slip downwards into darkness. The wine and the banter of the crowded bar buzz obliviously around him. If only I could break out of this 'prison'.

All of sudden there is a loud, urgent knock on the door and there stands a rough hewn, grubby carpenter with a teenage girl in labour. Guess I won't be questioning them.

"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? The barmaid

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 Inn where Mary and Joseph failed to get a room was called

- The Tax collectors haven
- The Farmers left leg
- The Spotted Donkey
- Actually it was probably just someone's home with a barn out the back.

Fr. David's hard quiz

The word 'Advent' means

- Arrival
- Thanksgiving
- Birth
- End of the year
- Start of the year

The answers from last weeks quiz were:

- Easy Quiz: Luke
- Hard Quiz: Zechariah

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union Australia

Sunday 7th December 2025

Two Comings

'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light...' (Isaiah 9:2a)
Walking in darkness can be nerve wracking. All the more so in the world before electric light and good torches. To see the light was a wonderful, breath-taking moment. Jesus tells us that he is the Light of the World. He brings the light of his message and work into a world made gloomy by sin and evil. When we think of this, we are reminded that many people around us know little or nothing of the true Light and we have an obligation to share that light with them. Christmas can be a good opportunity to do this. The first step is to pray constantly for our friends and neighbours.

Question for thought:

How do I love my close neighbours?

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for members in Namibia in Southern Africa who have become a vibrant organisation, keen to reach out and support family life especially those affected by HIV/AIDS. May they share the hope and comfort of knowing you. 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?'

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

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

Christmass Bowl envelopes

are available from the back of Christ Church Hamilton or from Fr. David.

On Sunday 28th of

December Charlie Venning, son to Todd and Lara, brother to Alice and Matilda, will be baptised at Christ Church Hamilton.

Please note that there is no mass at 10am on Wednesday 24th Dec. Please come in the evening or on Christmass day.

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

Happy Birthday to
Ken Avery (Dec 8th)
From all the Parish Family

TODAY'S HYMNS
541 161 187 503

Services for this week

Wednesday	10th December	Holy Communion 10.00am	Christ Church Hamilton
Saturday	13th December	Vigil 6.00pm	Christ Church Hamilton
Sunday	14th December	Eucharist 9.00am	St Peter's Glenthompson
		Carol Service 6.30pm	St Peter's Glenthompson
		Eucharist 10.30am	Christ Church Hamilton
<i>Reader 1:</i> Linley <i>Reader 2:</i> Tony <i>Intercessor:</i> Meredith <i>Sidesmen:</i> Judy & Ken			
<i>Eucharist Assistant:</i> Susan			