



Anglican Parish of Hamilton

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

14th December 2025

Sentence: Isaiah 35.3–4.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not
fear! Here is your God.’

Collect

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and 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

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| PARISH PRIEST | Fr David Oulton | 03 5571 1317 (Rectory & Office) Email: droulton72@gmail.com PH: 0435 867 040 |
| PARISH OFFICE | 9.00am – 12.00pm | 39 Griffin Street Facetime, Messenger, Skype 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



Christ Church-Hamilton

St Mary's Dunkeld

St Mark's Cavendish

St Peter's Glenthompson

All Saints' Penshurst

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.’ ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear the word of the Lord

*The Song of Mary
(Magnificat, Luke 1.47–55)*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord: my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant: from this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me: and holy is his name.

God has mercy on those who fear him: from generation to generation.

The Lord has shown strength with his arm: and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones: and lifting up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things: and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel: to remember the promise of mercy,

The promise made to our forebears: to Abraham and his children for ever.

2nd Reading: James 5.7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of

the Lord is near.⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11.2-11

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

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples³ and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’⁴ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see:⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.¹⁰ This is the one

about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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:
Dear Lord..... is..... Please answer our Prayers.

Dear Lord.....**Please answer our prayers.**

We pray for everyone who is being affected by war that you Lord help and protect them from harm. We also pray for the Leaders that you guide them to do your Will.

Dear Lord.....**Please answer our prayers.**

We pray for Doctors, Nurses and everyone who works in hospitals and medical centres that they have a happy and safe Christmas and we pray for everyone in hospital that they can overcome their illness and be with their families this Christmas.

Dear Lord.....**Please answer our prayers.**

We pray for the recently departed and their families that you Lord enfold them in your warm embrace and help them through this Christmas.

Dear Lord.....**Please answer our prayers.**

We pray for the homeless and people who

are suffering from the cost of living crisis that you Lord help them this Christmas
Dear Lord....Please answer our prayers.

We pray for our families and friends who are travelling this Christmas that you Lord keep them safe from harm.

Dear Lord....Please answer our prayers.

We pray for everyone that is having Christmas at home and we pray that you Lord keep them and their animals safe from harm.

Dear Lord....Please answer our prayers.

Dear Lord please keep us all safe this Christmas and guide us to do Your Will 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

John Arnold, Jeffrey Dickeson, Robert Lowcock, Viola Robertson, Stanley Duncan, John Watkins, Ian McFarlane, Albert Hickey, Thomas Rolton, Dorothy Ryan, Arthur Wiles, Stanley Rundle, William Grimes, Mavis Humphries, Francis McKenzie, William Woods

For The Wider Church and Its Ministry

- The Diocese of Rajasthan – The Church of North India

- Perth: Kay Goldsworthy, Kate Wilmot, David Bassett & Hans Christiansen
- North West Australia: Darrell Parker
- Wendouree: Denis Sotiriadis.
- Koko
- The elderly and those who care for them in institutions and at home.
- Senior citizen groups

Today's Homily

Who's in the pub? The bar maid.

Harlot ... Prostitute. This is what they call me. Not to my face mind, but I hear them muttering on the other side of the bar.... as I leave the table after pouring their wine. And while they might scowl about me in derision and call me names, this does not stop them gawking at me and reaching out inappropriately. On a good day they call me by name Rahab and here at the inn I am often just called the barmaid.

In the 21st century, when they are being polite, they will refer to me as a 'sex worker' and when they are not being polite, well,... there is a colourful array of names that are not particularly helpful. None of these words really describes me properly, for no one really knows me for who I am... not really.

My parents and my siblings have had nothing to do with me ever since I came to work here. I call them the name of "hypocrite" as all of them have had their indiscretions. It's just that since my soldier husband died, I had nowhere to go and no trade to support myself. I was left penniless and I needed the money to live.

I see no way out of this; but I know that one day, my looks will fade and someone younger and prettier will take my place and I will be in a worse position than I am now.

I'm not a monster and I am always honest in my business transactions. What you see is what you get. I reckon that everyone, the business men, the soldiers and tax collectors appreciate integrity. They certainly seem to keep on coming back.

Occasionally there is small talk, gentle pillow talk, but usually there are the slaps and bruises after they have got what they wanted. After all, what am I going to do? Tell on them? But I know them. After all my dealings with men I can see past their actions into their heart. I see the loneliness, the need, the longing for something more than the superficial encounter.

But this is true for me too. I am more than just the figure they see and a body they take pleasure in. I know that I am unique. I have hopes and dreams, needs and wants and apart from good ol commandment no. 7, I do try to keep the law and commandments. I do go to synagogue, I do say my prayers, I do go to Passover and Yom Kippur and if there is someone in need I keep some of the leftovers from the bar meals for them.

But some of my clients are often dishonest, uncaring and brutish. They are always a 'someone' to me, whereas I am always a 'no one' to them. I find that I hang out with tax collectors because they too are despised and belittled, but we both have an extensive list of clientele and because of our principles I actually think we align

more closely with the Torah than the scribes and Pharisees. Perhaps the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into heaven ahead of the clergy and the teachers.

I long for the coming of the messiah. To straighten out this squalid, upside mess of ours. To see everyone as they truly are and to shout it from the rooftops. And it would take nothing less than the Messiah to do this. We've got ourselves into quite a mess.

I long to be seen and loved for who I am, not what I do and I think that is true of everyone who comes through the front door or the back door of the inn. To be seen, known and loved for who we truly are, not what we do. I am turning this over in my mind and heart when 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.

"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. Love us for who we are, not what we do. 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 drunk

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 reason purple is the color for Advent is

- It's Fr. David's favorite color
- It signals the end of the Black Friday Sales
- Purple is for penitence
- To remind us of the wine becoming Christ's blood
- Fr. David found some purple garments in the back of a cupboard once

Fr. David's hard quiz

The outer garment worn by a Deacon is called

- A tunicle
- A Dalmatic
- A Chasuble
- An Ephod
- We don't actually know. It's just a thingy

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?'

The last meeting of Parish Council for 2025

happens on Thursday 18th of December at 5:30pm. All are very welcome

OK So it's Yellow this year.

make sure that you get your Christmass service times leaflet.

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.

Christmass Roster

There is a roster at the back of Christ Church for anyone able to help with the Christmass

Services. Please put your name in the place where you are able to help.

If you have any queries please speak to Jenny Rankin.

Mothers Union Christmas Cards and diaries.

We apologize for their late arrival this year.

Christmas cards are \$8 for a packet of 10.

Diaries are \$10.

To buy see Linley or telephone her 0428582152.

Congratulations to Roma

Tully who was awarded the Victorian Public Healthcare honor roll award.

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union

Sunday 14th December 2025

Naming a child

‘and they will call him Immanuel (which means “God with us”)’ (Matthew 1:21)

It is not always easy for parents to find the right name for a new-born. There are many mistakes made, where a strange name difficult to spell is given, or a name with the same initial as a close sibling, to take two examples. As we know, names also have meanings, and sometimes such a meaning is unwelcome. Jesus received the name ‘Immanuel’, following the prophecy in the book of Isaiah. But the name seems not to have been used. It was recorded so that we would remember from the

meaning of the name who he is, namely ‘God with us’. For that is the truly astonishing and wonderful thing about Christmas – it reminds us that we are not alone, but that God himself has entered human history by becoming one of us. And from then on, Immanuel will never leave us.

Question for thought:

What comfort do you draw from the name Immanuel applied to Jesus?

Father of All, we pray for the Diocese of Banks and Torres in Vanuatu where they face many challenges to family life including adultery, family breakdown, widespread drug and alcohol abuse and gender-based violence. As members seek to care for those suffering may they share the hope which you alone can give. We also pray for members in the Diocese of The Murray, for the Families Equip program and for the way members in Mt Barker record Mia Mia for the visually impaired. Amen.

TODAY'S HYMNS
153 669 724 671

**Happy Birthday to
Amelie Shrive (Dec 20th)
From all the Parish Family**

Christmass services

The Anglican Parish of Hamilton 2025

St. Peters Glenthompson

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| Sunday 14th of December | 9:00am Advent 2 |
| Thursday 25th of December | 6:30pm Carol Service |
| | 8:00am Christmass Day |

Christ Church Hamilton

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| Sunday 21st of December | 10:30am Advent 4 |
| Wednesday 24th of December | 7:00pm Nine lessons and carols |
| Wednesday 24th of December | 5pm Family Vigil Mass |
| Thursday 25th of December | 10:30pm Solemn Midnight mass and blessing of the crib. |
| | 9:30am Mass for Christmas Day |

St. Mary's Dunkeld

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| Sunday 21st of December | 5:00pm Christmass mass |
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St. Marks Cavendish

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| Wednesday 24th of December | 6:30pm Christmass Eve mass |
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All Saints Penshurst

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| Tuesday of 23rd of December | 7:00pm |
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Enquiries Fr. David ph. 0435 867 040

Services for this week

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| Wednesday | 17th December | Holy Communion | 10.00am | Christ Church Hamilton |
| Saturday | 20th December | Vigil | 6.00pm | Christ Church Hamilton |
| Sunday | 21st December | Eucharist | 9.00am | St Mark's Cavendish |
| | | Eucharist | 10.30am | Christ Church Hamilton |
| | | Nine Lessons & Carols | 7pm | Christ Church Hamilton |
| | | Christmass Mass | 5.00pm | St Mary's Dunkeld |

Reader 1: Eileen Reader 2: Todd Intercessor: Nicole Sidesmen: Helen & Illford

Eucharist Assistant: Jannie