



Anglican Parish of Hamilton

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

21st December 2025

Sentence: Matthew 1.23

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.

Collect

Gracious God, you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of 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

1st Reading: Isaiah 7.10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 80.1-7, 80.17-19

1. Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock: you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory;
2. **Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh: stir up your power, and come to save us.**
3. Restore us again, O Lord of hosts: show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4. **O Lord God of hosts: how long will you be angry at your people’s prayer?**

5. You have fed them with the bread of tears: and given them tears to drink in good measure.
6. **You have made us the victim of our neighbours: and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
7. Restore us again, O Lord of hosts: show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
17. **Let your power rest on the man at your right hand: on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.**
18. And so we shall not turn back from you: give us life, and we will call upon your name.
19. **Restore us again, O Lord of hosts: show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

2nd Reading: Romans 1.1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God

our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ..

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 1.18-25

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

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus

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:

"Come Lord Jesus," ... is ... "That we may live with you."

Come Lord Jesus, ... **That we may live with you.**

For our Church and our parish community that we may joyfully respond to the will of God with the faith and trust of Mary and Joseph. For Garry and Scott our Bishops and the parish of St. Matthews Wendouree, Fr. Denis and God's people there
*Come Lord Jesus, ... **That we may live with you.***

For all mothers and children in the womb. For those who will give birth at this time and those who will tend them
*Come Lord Jesus, ... **That we may live with you***

For the city of Bethlehem and those who will make pilgrimage to that city at this Christmass time. For the gift of safe travel on our roads and for the gift of peace
*Come Lord Jesus, ... **That we may live with you***

For all parents and guardians, that they may see in Our Lady a model of loving patience and selfless devotion
*Come Lord Jesus, ... **That we may live with you***

For those who do not celebrate Christ's birth, that they too may know the joy and

peace of the Messiah's coming. For ourselves as we prepare for Christs coming among us. (Pause 1,...2,...3,...)

Come Lord Jesus, ... That we may live with you

For those who we love and who are separated from us by distance this time. For those families where there is disharmony.

Come Lord Jesus, ... That we may live with you

For our deceased relatives and friends, especially the recently departed of Bondi Beach that they may dwell forever in the house of God.

Come Lord Jesus, ... That we may live with you

Come Lord God, shatter the darkness of our world with the light of your love. May these prayers we offer, bring the light and peace of the Messiah into our own time and place. We ask this in the name of our hope, Jesus the 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

For the people of Bondi Beach

Years Mind

Clara Middleton, Lilian Stanley, Geoffrey Dacomb, Lillian Compson, Harold Holmes, Dorothy Charman, Alberta Baker, Stanley Kinnersley, Daisy Holmes, Lawrence Annett, Laura Taylor, Alys Sanders, Maureen Sealey

For The Wider Church and Its Ministry

- The Diocese of Rhode Island – The Episcopal Church
- Wangaratta: Clarence Bester
- Movi
- Neglected and abused children. Those in fostercare.

Today's Homily Who's in the pub

Elah the drunk (1 Kings 16:8-10)
I sit quietly in my usual spot at the darkened corner of the inn. I'm comfortable here and the locals know me simply as Elah although they also call me the village idiot and the town drunk. I would be first to own up and say that I am all three. You'd have to be an idiot to be a drunk.

But I have seen too much and the wine seems to be the only thing that numbs the pain... until the next morning. But it wasn't always this way. I vividly remember the verve with which I went to war against the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites." My job was to loot all the corpses. That was it. How hard can it be and what could possibly go wrong. It's not as though they can jump up and cut your head off.

Most of them were mutilated and decapitated with their eyes still open, gazing accusingly up at you and the

their mouths twisted in the agony of their death. Take the swords, the purses and the shields. It's easy... or is it? For you just can't forget those sorts of things. I still see every one of them when I close my eyes at night.

Eventually my tour of duty ended and when I returned from the battlefield, sleep became elusive, my dreams became more vivid, the fuse on my temper became shorter, my anger became more intense. After all the thrashing nightmares, Elkanah my wife left me to become a temple prostitute. So for medication and company I find myself here at the inn. There was, after all, no one left at home and it became easier to eat bar meals than to go to the market, buy the produce and try to toss something together by myself, for myself.

My indifference and sloth spiralled downward into a maudlin self pity. I am complacent about the injustices I hear at the bar. My heart is hardened to my fellow compatriots, who like me have traded one kind of savagery for another. The death they inflict is no longer towards the enemy army but rather a slow torturous death upon themselves and those who are closest to them. The wives, the friends, the children, the brothers and sisters. There are no winners except of course the Romans who tax the wine I drink and the publican who makes a killing from my misery.

Every so often I sense that this is not all there is. There are other people leading happier lives, different lives

and just for once I would like not be labelled as old Elah, the town drunk and the village idiot or is it the town idiot and village drunk. I am more than that ... surely... aren't I? It is not who I am.

What would it take to break free from the wine and the solitude. How do you do that? Who could help me and what would they be like?

I need to be surprised, disquieted, shocked and shaken. While my wine goblet is never dry I have never been more empty. Whilst my belly is stuffed full and gorged with lamb, olives and bread I am famished for a fresh new beginning.

And not just me but everyone who drinks with me, whinges with me, ignores me and belittles me. Our world is tired and it is time for something quite radical, quite different, something quite surprising. I know this is what is needed but I cannot do it by myself. I am allowing this to ruminate in my sozzled mind 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.

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.”

Homily for Christmas

Who's in the pub? We are!

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

Fr. David's easy quiz

Good King Wenceslas last looked out on the
feast of Stephen. In which country was
Wenceslas king?

- Australia
- New Zealand
- England
- Bohemia

Fr. David's hard quiz

Which carol's 2nd verse begins with 'Christ by
highest heaven adored'

- Silent night
- Hark the herald angels sing
- Come all ye Faithful
- We three kings

The answers from last weeks quiz were:

Easy quiz: Purple is for penitence

Hard quiz: A Dalmatic

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.

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.

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.

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

Diaries are \$10.

To buy see Linley or telephone her

0428582152.

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union

Sunday 21st December 2025

He came to save

‘She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins’ (Matthew 1:21)

In the Old Testament language of Hebrew,

‘Jesus’ was ‘Joshua’, a word meaning

‘Saviour’ and reminiscent, of course, of the great leader called Joshua and described in the book that bears his name. Thus, Jesus is the

Lord who is the Saviour. But his task was even

more important than that of leading the people

into the Promised Land. It was ‘to save his

people from their sins’. We deserve nothing but

condemnation and judgement on our sins. But

in his mercy and grace, though Jesus and his

death on the cross, the Lord brought about the

forgiveness of our sins and eternal safety. We

can never cease to be grateful for what he has

done for us.

Question for thought:

Is Jesus my Lord and my Saviour?

Almighty God, we pray for the Anglican

Church worldwide and particularly the

Archbishops, Bishops and Clergy that they will

uphold your Word and lead with faithfulness,

justice and mercy. We particularly pray for

those nations where there is conflict and

persecution of believers that you will give them

courage and steadfastness. Amen

Flowers for Christmas

David Young is doing the flowers in the Church for Christmas. Could parishioners please raid your gardens and put the flowers in the church Flower Room by Christmas Eve morning. Many thanks Meredith

Men's Breakfast

The next men's breakfast will be held on Saturday 24 January 2026 in the Canon Julian Centre at 8.00am for 8.30am. All men are welcome - bring a mate.

An attendance sheet is located at the back of Christ Church Hamilton for catering purposes. Please indicate your attendance by Wednesday 21 January 2026.

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

TODAY'S HYMNS

316 343 468 646

Christmass services

The Anglican Parish of Hamilton 2025

St. Peters Glenthompson

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

Christ Church Hamilton

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