



Anglican Parish of Hamilton The Birth Of Our Lord – Christmas Day 25th December 2025

Welcome to Christmass Celebration.

A special welcome if you are visiting. If you normally make your communion in your own parish Church then you are warmly encouraged to join us at the altar today.

Jeanine and Fr. David wish you all a very joyous Christmass

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Website: www.hamiltonanglican.org.au

Parish Facebook: facebook.com/AnglicanHamilton

Diocesan Website: ballaratanglican.org.au

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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

Sentence: Luke 2.10-11

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord

Collect

Almighty God, who gave your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of the Virgin Mary: grant that we being born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, ever one God, now and for ever. Amen

1st Reading: Isaiah 62.6-12

Thanks be to God

⁶ Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest,

⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

⁸ The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured;

⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹ The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.'

¹² They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

Psalms 97

1. The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice: let the multitude of islands be glad.
2. **Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**
3. Fire goes before him: and burns up his enemies on every side.
4. **His lightnings light the world: the earth sees it and quakes.**
5. The mountains melt like wax before his face: from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.
6. **The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness: and all peoples have seen his glory.**
7. They are ashamed, all those who serve idols and glory in mere nothings: all gods bow down before him.
8. **Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced: because of your judgements, O God.**
9. For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth: you are exalted far above all gods.
10. **The Lord loves those that hate evil: the Lord guards the life of the faithful, and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.**

Hear the word of the Lord

11. Light dawns for the righteous: and joy for the true of heart.
12. **Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous: and give thanks to his holy name.**

2nd Reading: Titus 3.4-8a

⁴ But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia:

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

Alleluia

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2.8-20

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to St Luke

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the

people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them

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:

God of surprises ...is... hear our prayer.

God of surprises ... **hear our prayer.**

As we celebrate God with us, let us offer our humble petition to Christ Child lying on the straw.

For Mother Church in her proclamation of the good news of the incarnation. For our Bishops Gary and Scott and those parishes without a priest at this time. That the God surprises may bring them good news this year
*God of surprises ... **hear our prayer.***

We ask that the message of the angels may bring peace on earth and good will to all people. That in the littleness of the Christ Child enemies may see in each other the face of the loving God

*God of surprises ... **hear our prayer.***

For our own selves at this Christmas time that God may step across the threshold of our complacency and indifference so that we may welcome him with great joy

*God of surprises ... **hear our prayer.***

That our departed loved ones may join in with the Christmas angels in the worship of heaven.

We offer these prayers to the Messiah in the Manger. 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

Maria Rippon, Eric Reid, Raymond Gebert,
Joseph Vaughan, Dorothy Falkenberg, Gilmore
McCurdy, Catherine Woodward, Margaret
Cooper, Leanne Ellis, John McGormack,
Francis McKenzie

For The Wider Church and Its Ministry

- The Diocese of Rochester (England) – The Church of England
- All R.E. Teachers.
- Warrnambool: Bp Scott Lowrey & Robyn Shackell (Hon. Assist. Priest)

(Anglicare) Warrnambool Parish
Emergency Relief Centre: staff and
volunteers.

Port Fairy: Netta Hill.

- Komungwai
- Those suffering through political unrest and oppression.

Today's Homily Who's in the pub? We are!

This Advent we've been thinking about some of the hypothetical characters who were at the pub when pregnant Mary and St. Joseph arrived and were unable to find a room. The theme for this Advent has been the question.

‘Who's in the pub?’

It's been a bit of romp actually as we have theorised and speculated wildly about some of the folk who may have been there.

We opened up this trough of crocodiles with the character Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus who was short of stature, but not short of a bob or two, thanks to his own greed and flouting of the tax system. If there is lucrative and easy cash to be made, then the inn at Bethlehem on the night of the census is exactly where such a shady character would have been. Tax on the wine, tax on the chicken parma and the land tax for the pub.

And yet somehow he knows that this is not all there is. Having accumulated his wealth, much of it illicitly, he never really knows who genuinely, authentically likes him. Is there anyone? No one will ever tell him. He understands that not only is he morally bankrupt, but also he has a dearth of friends and his credit rating of authentic love is negative 26. Fear and business are his diet, not laughter and affection.

He hungers for a way out of this hollow cave of existence.

Then there was Jehu, son of Nimshi. The Census consultant. A whizz with pie charts, graphs and spreadsheets. A census consultant is the wonderful career opportunity that he must excel in even if it costs him time, energy and burnout. While the profits might be going through the roof his relationships have dwindled and his marriage is not only on the rocks but is now mangled in unfixable pieces of driftwood on the beach.

Then there was Rahab, the barmaid and prostitute. A single Mum just trying to find enough money to feed her child and stay alive herself. There are some nights when she feeds her daughter and not herself because, well, there just isn't enough housekeeping for both of them.

She is muttered about, called names and the physicality of her relationships sometimes results in bruises and blood.

Deep down she knows that she is of infinite worth and sees past her clients actions into their heart. She sees the loneliness, the need, the longing for something more than the superficial encounter for that is her need too.

And of course no hotel is complete without its local drunk. The person who comes in on a very regular basis, sits at the same spot, drinks all night, every night.

The one who has taken his medicine to try to un-see the things that he has had to see. The one who, deep inside longs to have his past stripped from him and to start again with a blank canvas. A white bit of paper on which to write a begin new story with no mistakes, blotches, smudges, corrections or cross-outs.

Yes, it was a wild old Advent as we allowed our imagination to introduce us to characters that may or may not, probably weren't at the inn.

But if we look a little more closely at each of

these people, and if we look deep into ourselves... there is a bit in all of us that have done some silly things. There are times when we have had to weigh the moral dilemmas carefully because there was no straightforward answer. We've all been tempted to the murky side and we share the same mortal ache and longing that this is not all there is. Little wisps of 'the other' allure us and tease us. We long to break free of the tedium and treadmill that we have been on for far too long. And if of our own volition, we can't break out... then maybe He can break in.

And break in he does, not with next week's tattsлото numbers, not with a press release or Facebook posting. Not with lightning, earthquakes and rainbows. Not with sophisticated eloquent polished people who have all the glib trite answers that caress our ears and make us feel all gooey inside.

He comes into the mucky straw. He comes in the bewildered, teenage peasant lass, terrified because she is in the first stages of labour and a gnarly handed old carpenter who is even more frightened and in tears.

He is a God that comes in the unexpected, who surprises us, makes us feel embarrassed and flusters us. We are boggled because he comes and wants to live with us and he wants us to live with him.

"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 Weeks Homily

We just don't seem to be able to write good history

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

Which animals does the bible say were present at Jesus birth

- Crocodiles
- Heffalumps
- Cows
- Zebras
- Oxen
- None of the above

Fr. David's hard quiz

The principal reason that Christmas is celebrated on December 25 is:

- This date was determined by the Council of Nicaea in 325
- Carbon dating on the manger shows that Jesus was born on December 25.
- The early Church was trying to combat the pagan feast of Sol Invictus (“Unconquered Sun”) that fell on December 25.
- The Annunciation is always on the 25th of March ... therefore....

The answers from last weeks quiz were:

Easy quiz: Bohemia

Hard quiz: Hark The Herald Angels Sing

On Sunday 28th of

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

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.

Some dates / days to get you started for 2026

- Fr. David & Jeanine will be keeping Monday as their day off
- January = bring back your palm crosses and espy any confirmation candidates.
- First Fundraising Committee Meeting 15th of January
- First MU meeting for 2026 = Sunday 18th of January.
- Fr. David and Jeanine will be on Annual leave from Wednesday 28th of January till Thursday 12th of February. In case of emergency please contact Deacon Jannie p. 0420 283 809
- Ash Wednesday = 18th of February
- First Parish Council meeting. = 19th of February
-
- Book Fair. Starts on Monday 23rd of February and goes until the 1st of April.
- Quiet Day at Camperdown = 28th of February
- Glenthompson Harvest Thanksgiving =

March 1st 6:30pm

- Mothering Sunday = 15th of March
- Lady Day = March 25th (Same as last year)
- Chrism Mass = March 30th
- Easter = April 5th
- Mary Summer Day = August 9th
- Synod = 16th and 17th of October. Or
....23rd and 24th of October
- Clergy Retreat = 2nd - 6th of November
- Parish Fete = 7th of November
- 16 days of Activism against Domestic
Violence = November 25th - December 10th.
- Christmass day ... = umm???

The Twelve Days of the Christmas Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me: 'I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.'

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard as we tucked into our turkey, A most delicious bird.

On the third day we entertained the people from next door. The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

Day four, relations came to stay;
Poor Gran is looking old. We finished up the festive pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas outside the snow flakes flurried. But we were nice and warm inside for we had our turkey curried.

On the sixth day I must admit the Christmas spirit died. The children fought and bickered; We ate turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince When he sat at the table and was offered turkey mince.

Day eight, the nerves were getting frayed, the dog had run for shelter I served up turkey pancakes with a glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day our cat left home, by lunchtime Dad was blotto. He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto.

By the tenth day the booze had gone, except for our home-made brew, And if that wasn't bad enough, we suffered turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting. The mince pies were as hard as rock, and the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day my true love had a smile upon his lips: The guests had gone, the turkey too, and we dined on fish and chips.

<p>TODAY'S HYMNS</p> <p>501 364 155 317</p>

Services for this week

Saturday	27th December	Vigil 6.00pm	Christ Church Hamilton
Sunday	28th December	Eucharist 9.00am	St Peter's Glenthompson
		Eucharist 10.30am	Christ Church Hamilton
			Baptism of Charlie Venning
<i>Reader 1:</i> Gladys		<i>Reader 2:</i> Sandra	<i>Intercessor:</i> Heather
			<i>Sidesmen:</i> Stewart & Meredith
<i>Eucharist Assistant:</i> John			