



Anglican Parish of Hamilton

First Sunday After Christmas

28th December 2025

Welcome to the Baptism of Charlie Venning Son to Todd and Laura,
brother to Alice and Matilda.

If you are a visitor and normally make your communion in a
different parish Church then you are warmly encouraged to join us
at the Lord's table this morning

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Website: www.hamiltonanglican.org.au

Parish Facebook: facebook.com/AnglicanHamilton

Diocesan Website: ballaratanglican.org.au

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CHURCH	Stewart Otton-Rector's Warden	0429 724 545
WARDENS	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: Hebrews 2.18

Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: in your mercy, bring us to share the divine life of Jesus Christ, who came to share our human life, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

1st Reading: Isaiah 63.7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, ‘Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely’; and he became their saviour

⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalms 91:48

1. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven O praise him in the heights.
2. **Praise him, all his angels: praise him, all his host.**
3. Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all you stars of light.
4. **Praise him, you highest heaven: and you waters that are above the heavens.**

5. Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded and they were made.
6. **He established them for ever and ever: he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.**
7. O praise the Lord from the earth: praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;
8. **Fire and hail, mist and snow: and storm-wind fulfilling his command;**
9. Mountains and all hills: fruit trees and all cedars;
10. **Beasts of the wild, and all cattle: creeping things and winged birds;**
11. Kings of the earth, and all peoples: princes, and all rulers of the world;
12. **Young men and maidens: old folk and children together.**
13. Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is exalted.
14. **His glory is above earth and heaven: and he has lifted high the horn of his people.**
15. Therefore he is the praise of all his servants: of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' ¹³ And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' ¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia:

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly'

Alleluia

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2.13-23

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

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' ¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' ¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

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:

“Jesus, Mary and Joseph”... is... “Pray to the Lord for us.”

Jesus, Mary and Joseph...

Pray to the Lord for us.

Emmanuel has come, the hope of all the peoples. Let us lift our voices in prayer with St. Joseph and Our Lady. For the faithful called to be the children of God, for those who seek to be in the Father's house: For Garry our Bishop and Scott who assists him. For the parish of Horsham preparing to welcome Fr. Ian and Alison

Jesus, Mary and Joseph...

Pray to the Lord for us.

For the world broken by poverty and greed, for nations at war, that the dream of a new year of peace may be fulfilled

Jesus, Mary and Joseph...

Pray to the Lord for us.

For loved ones who are ill or close to death, for the aged and all who are in need of our prayers. May they be clothed with God's healing power

Jesus, Mary and Joseph...

Pray to the Lord for us.

For our deceased loved ones whom we miss this season, for those who died alone, for innocent victims of violence, those who are recently departed May Christ gather us together into the eternal light of heaven

Jesus, Mary and Joseph...

Pray to the Lord for us.

Lord Jesus, Everlasting Light, clothe your children with your holiness, and hear our prayers, for we have confidence in you and believe your word.

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, Lorraine

For Those Who Have Died

Years Mind

Elsie Gould, Patricia Geebung, Jean Chadderton, Desmond Wilson, Margaret McKellar, Helene Moodie, Rebecca Filbay, George White, Susan Gaussen, Lena Burger, Laiton Jones, Margaret Egan, Mary Pinkerton, Audrey Cooper, William Sellars, Albert Madden, Alvis Martin, Dorothy Eagles

For The Wider Church and Its Ministry

- The Diocese of Rokon – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
- Mortlake: Lay leaders and locum. Prison Chaplaincy: Rob Ferguson & Kate Schnerring
- Tsendiap
- The terminally ill and those in great pain.

Today's Homily

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

Today's gospel is not a pretty story.

Grumpy old King Herod hears that his political rival has been born in Bethlehem and rather than face a leadership spill in the party room, decides to slaughter all the Jewish males under 2 years old.

The intensity of the widespread and long lasting anguish can never be underestimated.

No matter who you are in the story, the henchmen, the fathers, the mothers, the children, the bystanders, those in authority, or those fleeing for their lives ... This is not a fun piece of history. It's not glamorous or sexy or shiny. We are left squirming that this should be part of our heritage and bible. The preacher may be tempted to preach instead of The master wanting to welcome, touch and bless little children rather than have babies run through with a sword. Today's gospel is not merry and bright but it is vital. It reminds us that Christmas is not about escaping reality, but about finding God in the heart of all reality, in all its terrors as well as its comforts.

What do we say when we look into the face of such an atrocity and does it have anything to say to us in our cushy world of western Victoria in the 21st century?

A few random thoughts.

The innocent have always suffered. There is nothing new here. Go into any paediatric ward, of any hospital, go into any ward of the Royal Children's hospital and there you will be deluged by a tsunami of grief and fear.

Unanswerable questions are draped heavily upon the shoulders of every parent, every child, every doctor, every nurse and every visitor who is brave enough to wander in and take their place amongst the tears, the vomit, the blood and the needles.

And where is God in all of this and where was he when Herod sent out his goons with their sharpened swords.

Right at the centre. At the very heart of the story is Our Lady, St. Joseph and the Christ-child. The Holy Family are not absent, resting comfortably from afar, tut tutting 'How appalling.'. They are right there, inseparable from the muck itself.

And in the Royal Children's hospital? He is there in the dedication, resilience, courage, unswerving dedication and love of everyone who walks through those big shiny glass doors day after night after morning after evening.

Where else could He be? Where else would He be? Being the God of infinite love he is most potent where love and reason seem most appallingly absent.

The very reason that Our Lady and St. Joseph are fleeing so emphatically and urgently is simply because they love their child so very much.

Sometimes we glimpse refugees and distraught families on the screens in our lounge rooms. We have been seeing these images for a long time now almost to the point when we can be desensitised.

In a bizarre irony it is often the Holy land, yet again, where the fabric of humanity unravels and the littlest of people, who are the strands and wisps of vulnerability are caught by the gusty winds of greed and fear and tossed on the winds of neglect and futility.

The message of every christmas tide is that The master is not distant from our muck, but right in the middle of it. And each day we have a choice to roll up our sleeves and to share in his redeeming work of love to those who must leave everything they have ever known, loved and cherished, and flee to a place and a people who they hope will make them welcome and cherished.

The work of love is a skanky, mucky, manky, risky work. It goes unnoticed and unheralded for it seeks no recognition or fanfare. It seeks no payment or glamor or wage, save that we know that we are trying to do our best for those who are least.

And there will be times when we fail, times when we become disheartened, times when we will hear a question in our heart. Is it worth it?

Yes... faintly,.. tentatively... yes. For responding to these little ones we are of course responding to Him.

In a few days time we will turn over the calendar, open a fresh new diary and we will have an unblemished opportunity to start afresh in 2026. Along the way you and I will have opportunities to welcome the fearful and

distraught. To love the ugly and those who seem odd and peculiar to us. We may not 'get' their story because we can't. We might not capture their nuances and culture, but we can receive and welcome them. And we may not know who they are, but boy, we can really show them who we are.

I suspect that you and I are unable to write picturesque history on an international scale and we certainly can't change what is past. But locally, in our own community, and in our own lives, we can write some marvellous history in 2026.

Next Weeks Homily

What's in the treasure chest?

dNews

Each week. There is a new free complimentary dNews. Returns on 7th Jan.

Fr. David's easy quiz

The third gift of the Magi was 'myrrh'. This is:

- an expensive fragrant perfume;
- a collection of priceless objects;
- a fragrant oil offered to Kings and Queens;
- an ointment used to anoint the bodies of the dead.

Fr. David's hard quiz

We celebrate St. John on December 27.

This is:

- St. John, the Apostle and Gospel Writer;
- St. John, the Baptist;
- St. John of Bethlehem;
- St. John, the King of Bohemia

The answers from last weeks quiz were:

Easy quiz: Oxen

Hard quiz: The early Church was trying to combat the pagan feast of Sol Invictus

("Unconquered Sun") that fell on December 25.

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 Sumner Day = August 9th
- Synod = 16th and 17th of October.

- Or23rd 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???

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union

Sunday 28th December 2025

The Passing Days

‘From everlasting to everlasting you are God’ (Psalm 90:2)

The end of a year is a special time of reflection and planning. It is also a reminder that as time goes, we age and will eventually pass away. Human beings are frail, fragile creatures. But the Christian message gives us hope. Our hope is in the majestic God, the maker and sustainer of all things. He is not the victim of time. Indeed, he invented time for us to live in, but as the Psalmist says, he is eternal, everlasting, never the victim of time and its passing days. It is wonderful to know this, because in the midst of the ocean of time, there is sure and certain ground on which we may stand. There is One in whom we can put all our plans and hopes. He deals with our past, he sustains our present and he guarantees our future.

Question for thought:

What will be my thoughts and prayers on New Year's Eve?

Gracious Lord, we bring before you Mothers Union worldwide asking that we never lose sight of upholding Christ's teaching on marriage and Christian family life. We thank you that over these past 150 years members in your name have served

you faithfully bringing hope and your love to their communities. Bless Kathleen Snow as she encourages members and as she looks to the future of Mothers Union in an increasingly secular world. May your name be hallowed throughout the world. Amen.

The precarious lemon scented gum tree

is due to be dismantled on Tuesday 13th of January. If you happen to be around please observe all safety advice.

Cuppa and chatter

starts again on Thursday 8th of January.

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.



TODAY'S HYMNS
536 622 193 698

Services for this week

Wednesday	31st December	Holy Communion 10.00am	Christ Church Hamilton
Saturday	3rd January	Vigil 6.00pm	Christ Church Hamilton
Sunday	4th January	Eucharist 9.00am	St Mark's Cavendish
		Eucharist 10.30am	Christ Church Hamilton
		Eucharist 5.00pm	St Mary's Dunkeld

Reader 1: John *Reader 2:* Ian *Intercessor:* Susan *Sidesmen:* Linley & Denise

Eucharist Assistant: Heather