



Anglican Parish of Hamilton

Second Sunday After Epiphany

18th January 2026

Sentence: 1 Corinthians 1.9

God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; 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

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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 Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.

3 And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'

4 But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord , and my reward with my God.'

5 And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord , and my God has become my strength—

6 he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

7 Thus says the Lord , the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord , who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

1. I waited patiently for the Lord: and he inclined to me and heard my cry.
2. **He brought me up from the pit of roaring waters, out of the mire and clay:and set my feet upon a rock, and made firm my foothold.**
3. And he has put a new song in my mouth: even a song of thanksgiving to our God.
4. **Many shall see it and fear: and shall put their trust in the Lord.**
5. Blessed are those who have made the Lord their hope: who have not turned to the proud, or to those who wander in deceit.
6. **O Lord my God, great are the wonderful things which you have done, and your thoughts which are towards us: there is none to be compared with you;**
7. Were I to declare them and speak of them: they are more than I am able to express.
8. **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire: but my ears you have marked for obedience;**
9. Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required: then said I, Lo, I come.
10. **In the scroll of the book it is written of me, that I should do your will: O my God, I long to do it, your law delights my heart.**

11. I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation: I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, and that you know.

12. I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart: I have spoken of your faithfulness and of your salvation.

13. I have not kept back your loving-kindness and your truth: from the great congregation.

14. O Lord, do not withhold your mercy from me: let your loving-kindness and your truth ever preserve me.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1.1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the

fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia:

And the Word became flesh and lived among us

To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God

Alleluia

The Holy Gospel: John 1.29-42

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

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, “After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.” ³¹ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.’ ³² And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’ ³⁵ The next day

John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹ He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

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 all the innocent people and animals who are experiencing war. We pray that you Lord help to bring an end to these wars very quickly

Dear Lord...Please answer our prayers.

We pray for all the people who have lost their homes, animals and livelihoods during the Victorian fires. We pray they get the help and guidance they need to recover very quickly.

Dear Lord...Please answer our prayers.

We pray for Bishop Garry and Bishop Scott and all clergy in the Diocese of Ballarat and their families that they all have a happy, successful, healthy and safe year ahead. We also pray for the people of Hamilton and the Parish of Hamilton that they all are kept safe and healthy this year

Dear Lord...Please answer our prayers.

We pray for friends and family who are experiencing ill health that you Lord help them to recover very quickly.

Dear Lord...Please answer our prayers.

We pray for the recently Departed people and animals that you Lord enfold them in your warm embrace

Dear Lord...Please answer our prayers.

We pray for all the people and animals in Northern Australia who are being affected by the heavy rain and cyclone. Lord please stop the rains and floods so that the people and animals can be safe.

Dear Lord...Please answer our prayers.

Lord please help and guide us in our lives and help keep us from harm and please answer our prayers.

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, Sharon

For Those Who Have Died

Years Mind

Thomas Moore, James Day, Rosemary Mann, Rita Waters, William Frichot, Emma Bellman, Ella Eales, Joyce Taylor, Harold Arher, Charles Ellis, Jessie Fox

Today's Homily

Today's homily is an excerpt from a homily by Alyce MCKenzie.

Alyce M. McKenzie is Professor of Homiletics at the Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. She is the author of a number of books including "Preaching Proverbs: Wisdom for the Pulpit" and "Parables for Today,"

Of Introductions

I have a friend Susan who says her husband always remembers a face but seldom a name. So when they go to a social event and approach someone whose name he should know but doesn't remember, they have devised a social strategy that works for them. He places his hand gently in the small of her back and guides her toward the person with these words "This is my wife, Susan." Anyone with any manners at all is going to respond by giving their own name. Not many

people are going to just stare at Susan until it becomes awkwardly clear that her husband has no recollection of their name. I'll bet that any of you reading this would respond by putting out your hand, shaking her hand, and saying, with a gracious smile, "It's nice to meet you, Susan. My name is _____."

Our text for this morning has John introducing Jesus to some of his (John's) disciples, with the description: "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" This is called a "revelation formula". John likes to use this technique when recounting people's interactions with Jesus in his gospel. For example In 1:49, Nathanael introduces Jesus to his view of him: "Rabbi, you are the Son of God!" Jesus dying on the cross, introduces his mother to the disciple whom he loved and vice versa. "Woman, here is your son. . . . Here is your mother."

In todays gospel Jesus prompts the disciples to figure out their own true identity, or, more precisely, to be guided toward it by Jesus. It's an odd scenario, really. Not like anything that would happen in ordinary social gatherings when people are introduced to other people. John introduces Jesus to two of his own disciples. It sounds like he may almost have been talking to himself and they overheard. They followed Jesus. When he turns around and asks, "What are you looking for?" he is asking them to identify themselves. To say something like: "We are two people looking for meaning and purpose in our lives and we think you may be it." I think the reason they don't say that is because they are not sure who they are

or even that they are looking for something. So instead of answering, they counter Jesus' question with another question: "Where are you staying?"

And they stay with him all day. At some time during the day, Andrew, one of the two, goes and gets his brother Simon. He introduces Jesus to his brother from a distance with the description "This is our Messiah, Jesus." In the subsequent face-to-face encounter with Jesus, Jesus gives Simon a new identity: "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (1:42).

In terms of my friend Susan's anecdote, John the Baptist is introducing us to Jesus saying, "This is the Lamb of God, Jesus."

This introduction tells us three things about Jesus.

First, He is the lamb who destroys evil.

Second, He is the Suffering Servant willing to give his life for the redemption of his people.

Third, He is the paschal lamb who takes away our sins and leads us from bondage to liberation.

In bread and wine, in spoken word and silence, in stolen homilies, in chortles of laughter and unstoppable sobbing The Master introduces himself to us.

It is now up to us to put out our hand and say who we are and allow him to shape our identity in the year to come.

I suspect Susan's husband is not the only one who utilizes the "this is my wife Susan" social technique to get somebody to reveal his or her identity to them. I

admit to having used the "this is my husband Murry" approach on many an occasion. It worked for John the Baptist, as he introduces Jesus: "This is the Lamb of God." It motivated two men wandering around looking for something, unaware they were looking for something, to follow Jesus and allow him to give them an identity as more than wanderers.

This is the one who will shape our identities if we choose to follow him. This is the one who is working against injustice and brutality in our world and in our lives. This is the one who was willing to sacrifice his life that we might have a new life and who calls us to sacrifice selfish aims and comfortable goals. This is the one who opens a path to that new life through choppy seas and roaring waves. Through the grave into eternity itself.

Hoping for an answer Today he looks at us lovingly and says

"Look! I am the Lamb of God." And you are . . . ?

Next Weeks Homily

How to make a disciple

dNews

Each week. There is a new free complimentary dNews.

Fr. David's easy quiz

The first beatitude in Matthew's Gospel is...

- Blessed are those who mourn
- Blessed are the cheesemakers
- Blessed are the pure in heart
- Actually, Matthew doesn't have the beatitudes, only Luke does.

Fr. David's hard quiz

In 2026 Jeanine and Fr. David will be...

- Taking Tuesday as their day off
- Will be taking Monday as their day off
- In line with community expectations they will be taking two days off each week. Monday and Tuesday.
- Will be taking Sundays off.

The answers from last weeks quiz were:

Easy quiz: River Jordan

Hard quiz: Warracknabeal

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.

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union

Sunday 18th January 2026

Journeying Together

'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace'

(Ephesians 4:2-3)

Church Unity always seems above us, a matter for the church authorities to negotiate. But actually, as the word of God says here, it begins with the local church. That means that it is the responsibility of us all. We are to be humble, gentle, patient, and loving towards the people we see Sunday by Sunday and at other times. Too

many churches are scenes of criticism and quarrels and even division. Even if we need to disagree with one another, it needs to be done with love, forgiveness and every effort to 'keep the unity of the Spirit'. This is God's plan for us.

Questions for thought:

Does my church live in unity? Do I make every effort to foster love and care for one another? Am I habitually critical?

God of mercy and grace, we give thanks that the nation of Rwanda has been able to rebuild from the genocide 12 years ago.

We pray for members in the Dioceses of Butare and Gazebo as they endeavour to help those in need spiritually and in their daily lives through programs on health and nutrition, parenting, literacy and vocational training. We also pray for members in Bathurst Diocese and for Lorraine Mitchell the Diocesan President, as they encourage Christian family life in their churches. In Jesus name, Amen

Cuppa and chatter

Cuppa and chatter is back on and happening on Thursdays. Ladies to Lemon Myrtle from 2pm onwards and Gents to Thommos Tavern at 3:00pm. All are welcome.

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.

Mothers' Union Planning Meeting

Our annual planning meeting will be held following the 10.30am church service on Sunday 18th January.

Please come prepared with lots of ideas and your annual fees

Are You Interested?

I am seeking any ladies who are interested in attending a Ladies Breakfast. The breakfast will be held in the Canon Julian Centre on a Saturday morning and would consist of a continental breakfast menu. The event would commence at around 9.00am and cost \$5.00 per head.

A list will be placed in the back of Christ Church, and all ladies are invited (not just church ladies) – let me know on the list if it is something you would like to do.

Sue Mustow

Jeanine and Fr. David will be on 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 this year is on the 18th of February. Stations of the cross start at 9:15am, Masses are at 10am and 7:00pm.

The first Parish Council meeting for 2026 is on Thursday 19th of February at 5:30pm.

January ... is the month to bring back your palm crosses and spy out any confirmees.

Anglicare at this time are looking for things like long life milk, biscuits, pasta, pasta sauce, meals in a can, sandwich spreads, breakfast cereals (other than weetbix). These would all be greatly appreciated.

Happy Birthday to
Linley Bramall (January 19th)
From all the Parish Family

TODAY'S HYMNS
234 259 328 447

Services for this week

Wednesday	21st January	Holy Communion	10.00am	Christ Church Hamilton
Saturday	24th January	Vigil	6.00pm	Christ Church Hamilton
Sunday	25th January	Eucharist	9.00am	St Peter's Glenthompson
		Eucharist	10.30am	Christ Church Hamilton
		Eucharist	5.00pm	All Saints' Penshurst

Reader 1: Betty Reader 2: John Intercessor: Judy T Sidesmen: Jenny & Glenis W
Eucharist Assistant: John