



Anglican Parish of Hamilton

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

8th February 2026

**At Christ Church Hamilton this morning we warmly welcome
Fr. Keith Romanis all the way from Ballarat. Enjoy!**

Sentence: Isaiah 58.6

‘Is not this the fast that I choose,’ says the Lord: ‘to loose the bonds of injustice, and to let the oppressed go free?’

Collect

Faithful God, you have appointed us your witnesses, to be a light that shines in the world: let us not hide the bright hope you have given us, but tell everyone your love, revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of 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

PARISH PRIEST	Fr David Oulton	03 5571 1317 (Rectory & Office) Email: droulton72@gmail.com PH: 0435 867 040
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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 Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. ³ ‘Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’ Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 112

1. O praise the Lord. Blessed are they that fear the Lord: and greatly delight in his commandments.

2. **Their children shall be mighty in the land: an upright race who will be blessed.**
3. Riches and plenty shall be in their house: and their righteousness shall stand for ever.
4. **Light arises in darkness for the upright: gracious and merciful are the righteous.**
5. It goes well with those who act generously and lend: who guide their affairs with justice.
6. **Surely they shall never be moved: the righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance.**
7. They will not fear bad tidings: their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
8. **Their hearts are confident and will not fear: they will see the downfall of their enemies.**
9. They give freely to the poor: their righteousness stands for ever, their head is uplifted in glory.
10. **The wicked shall see it and be angry: they shall gnash their teeth and consume away; and the hope of the wicked shall fail**

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of

power,⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish.⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.⁹ But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him'—¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.¹¹ For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia:

'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

Alleluia

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5.13-20

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 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.¹⁷ 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil.¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven..

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:

"Bread of life" ...is... "Nourish us today".

"Bread of life" ... **"Nourish us today"**

We pray That our Church may nourish and sustain all who are spiritually hungry. For Garry and Scott our Bishops and for Fr. Matthew in his ministry in the parish of Camperdown. For those who come seeking the bread of reconciliation and new hope
Bread of life ... Nourish us today

For the world impoverished by bitterness and disappointment. That all people may be given

the bread of justice by their leaders. We pray for our National service men and women.

Bread of life ... Nourish us today

For those who will go hungry today and for those who will use the services of Anglicare this week. For those who will assist them and for the gifts of skill and compassion

Bread of life ... Nourish us today

For a just and equitable distribution of the world's resources and those places which have been affected by fire this summer. For all who have been called out to serve others. We give thanks for the bread of their willingness and service.

Bread of life ... Nourish us today

That our departed loved ones may come to the full banquet of God's Kingdom. Especially departed national service men and women and the recently departed

Bread of life ... Nourish us today

Bread of life sustain us in our efforts to replenish those who are hungry and provide your nurture to those whose lives we encounter. For you are our God forever and ever 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, Lorraine, Sharon

For Those Who Have Died

Years Mind

Claire Due, Charlotte Stanley, Vincent Thorn, Cecil Annett, Bina Kelly, Joseph McCabe, Bessie Williams, Jane Hamence, Enid Walter, (Ian Innes, Pat Piperno, Peter Hodkinson,

friends of Dorothy Ryan), Benjamin Payne, Arthur Thorn, Alan Riddle, David Hopkins, John Walker, Gwendoline Marchant, Annie Harris, Stephan Brimacombe, Esme Brewis, aria Day, Eilee Elkins, Marlyn Day, Peter Greed

For The Wider Church and Its Ministry

- Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui
- St Peter's Ballarat: Michael O'Brien, Barry Wells and Bill Peacock (assisting) All those who minister to the sick throughout the Diocese.
- Goroka
- Peace between nations, especially Ukraine & the Holy Land.

Today's Homily Of Light

Last week I printed a homily by Lisa Kelly on the beatitudes.

She made the point that usually when we read the beatitudes we identify as one of the crowd on the mountain listening to Jesus rattle off all the "Blessed be's". Blessed are the peacemakers, (not Blessed are the cheesemakers as some dubious scholars have suggested), blessed are those who mourn etc. And as we sit there listening there is a part in all of us that is wanting to shout ' Pick me! Pick me! I want to be pure in heart and see God, I too am mourning and long to be comforted.

But what if we are actually Jesus in the story and we are looking at others and seeing in them their 'Blessedness?' I know that you are mourning, I know that you are a peacemaker, I can see that you hunger and thirst for righteousness.'

Today I would like to use a similar technique with the verse from the gospel 'You are the

light of the world.'

Over the course of my little life and a few flimsy decades of ministry I have had the privilege of enjoying many 'lights'. They have inspired, guided, nudged, goaded and lit the rocky path that needs to be trodden but which has more potholes than some of our roads. These people have lit up my world and I shall always be grateful to them, for them. I am also beholden to the Master who first called them and sent them to me because He knew that I needed them. It still didn't stop me from making some spectacular blunders, but I probably didn't make nearly as many if they had not been there for me. Many of them caught me, dusted me off and wiped away the dust and the tears.

Most have been uncomplicated parish clergy. Priests that just simply said their prayers, got on with it, failed in dazzling ways, laughed, ate and drank. They were captivating and inspiring precisely because they weren't glitz, smooth, polished, glib and suave. They were refreshingly snotty, grotty knotty, gnarly and lined. Most of the time their hopes and dreams were not realised, but they understood that the darkness of despair and despondency are the weapons of hairy legs, not the One who is the light Himself. They were and are lights to me because I figured that if they could do it, then maybe, just maybe...

Many more lights were and are folk exactly like you. Folk who fronted up to hear dud sermons and read crazy quizzes in the pew sheet. Brave courageous, faithful souls who understood long before I did that it was never about the person in the collar, it was always about Him. And that's why they came and that's why they continue to come.

Some of my laity lights became clergy and their ministry was recognised and celebrated. When they were ordained the whole world lit up with triumph and such indescribable,

limitless joy, that tears of bliss was the only correct liturgical response.

My hope for you brothers and sisters, is that you too have such lights in your world. That you might know clergy and laity who have shone brightly, sometimes at least, to show you something of Him who is THE light of the world.

There are traps though. One of them that Our lord alludes to in today's gospel.

"No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Those who have been and are lights for me and possibly you, have a disarming way of not seeing how much light they give off. And when it is pointed out to them, they can be self defacing and modest.

I think that it is this abashment that Our Lord is referring to in his line about hiding our light under a lamp stand, or a bushel or whatever translation you happen to have to hand.

Wouldn't it be better to simply just accept graciously and let the light shine for the whole household of God to see and enjoy?

The other trap is to be so dazzled by someone else that you find yourself asking 'Why can't I do that? How come I can't leap tall buildings in a single bound, wear my inner garments on the outside and save the universe? And thus we find ourselves again covering up with the sack of envy the beautiful light that we all carry and are called to share.

It's right to read the gospel and to give thanks and rejoice in the lights that have shone around us over the years, but watch what happens when we use Lisa Kelly's trick and flip it over. What if the person in the mirror, you, your very self are a light for others?

What might happen if you claimed the Messiah's words for yourself and simply, convincingly and with affirmation said.

I am the light of the world.... I am the light of the world

Next Weeks Homily

The Red Hire Ute

dNews

Each week. There is a new free complimentary dNews.

Fr. David's easy quiz

For therapy Fr. David used to make

- Croissants
- Sourdough bread
- Wholemeal bread
- All of the above
- None of the above. He just played with plasticine.

Fr. David's hard quiz

What is the forbidden word during Lent

- Gospel
- Joyful
- Alleluia
- Ash
- Yippee!

The answers from last weeks quiz were:

Easy quiz: Last year's palm crosses

Hard quiz: February 4th

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union

Sunday 8th February 2026

Generous Love of Christ

'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty may become rich' (2 Corinthians 8:9) Generosity and grace go hand in hand. The truly generous person gives in abundance

beyond any obligation. And generosity does not have to be in money. The generous person forgives when they are sinned against. Why should Christians be generous? Because of the supreme act of generosity to us, when Jesus left the untold glory of heaven to enter this world 'to seek and to save the lost' It is the supreme act of generosity.

Question for thought:

Do I understand who Jesus is and what he has done?

God Almighty, we are greatly encouraged to see how vibrant Mothers Union is in Tanzania. We pray for the Diocese of Morogoro and pray that members will be strengthened in their faith and trust in you. Give them wisdom in facing challenges of poverty and unemployment. We thank you for the support they give to those struggling. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Cuppa and chatter

Cuppa and chatter is back on and happening on Thursdays. Ladies to Lemon Myrtle from 2.15pm until 3.00pm 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.

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 Saturday morning the **28th February at 9.00am** 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

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.

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

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

Anglicare

A huge thank you to everyone who supports Anglicare with goodies to share. The volunteers are extremely grateful.

Much needed items: Milo, coffee, vegemite, tuna, peanut butter, sardines, pet food

St Mary's Dunkeld

Last week it was announced that St. Mary's Dunkeld has been sold. There is a fine and helpful document prepared by Mike Robins, the Chair of The Property and Finance available for your collection today. If you have further questions please do not hesitate to see Fr. David or even better contact Mike himself. mike.robins@bigpond.com

Settlement is on the 26th of February. A service of Deconsecration needs to be organised with Bishop Garry or Scott early afternoon Sunday 15th February. The funds are dispersed to address our parish debt, to go to the redress scheme and towards ministry for our parish

It will mean that the cost of insurance, rates and upkeep for St. Mary's Dunkeld will be no longer.

Our normal day to day costs to run the parish continue

Most importantly please remember those who have worshipped in the past.

(IF you are going and IF you are able to bring a plate of food, this would be gratefully appreciated)

More to follow

~~Of The Fundraising Committee~~

The Outreach and Fundraising Committee

Well it's official! The Fundraising Committee has changed its name from The Fundraising Committee to the Outreach and Fundraising Committee. This is to highlight the mission and outreach aspect of its work.

There are few things that we hope to achieve in the first half of this year.

A Bowls afternoon / evening

Fashion parade and lunch on the 16th of April Coles Sausage sizzle on a Saturday in May.

We would really get excited if others came to join the meetings to support the outreach of our parish into the community. The next meeting is on Thursday 26th of February at 1:30pm.

A Heffalump and Wooly Mammoth  sized Thank you to all those who continue to use the recycle bin in the hall so that the parish can receive multiples of 10 cents.

Some Lenten things

Ash Wednesday is on the 18th of February.

There are two masses. 10am and 7:00pm.

Stations of the cross will be celebrated at 9:15am each Wednesday beginning on Ash Wednesday.

The theme for the lenten homilies will be 'Instruments of Resurrection'.

Time to play... Spot the clergy.

Thursday 19th of February.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Tea

Our traditional pancake tea will be held on Tuesday 17th February in the church hall commencing at 6pm.

The cost is still just \$10 per person with primary age children free.

There is a list at the back of the church- please indicate if you are planning to come

BOOK FAIR 2026

The Book Fair will run from Monday 23rd February through to April 1st this year.

SETTING UP- with the assistance of the Hamilton Raiders Soccer Club will be on Saturday the 21st of February- commencing at 8.30am.

VENUE: Our usual shops in the Hub, Hamilton.

ASSISTANCE: we need helpers to transport the furniture and books from Peter's shed and people to help place the books onto the trestles etc.

ROSTER: please consider putting your name on the roster to sell the books. The first week's roster will be in the church hall from the 14th of February.

DONATIONS of good quality books are always welcome.

PROCEEDS: This year's donations will be given to a worthy local project, nationally to BLAZE AID for help in the fire ravaged communities and our International cause this year is **EVERY DAUGHTER MATTERS**.

As always we rely on everyone in the parish to continue to make this event the success that it is. Over the last 35+ years we have become an annual looked for event in Hamilton and have given over \$350,000 to many worthwhile causes. However small your contribution is- it is always welcomed and appreciated.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Susan M. 0408528781 Judy P. 0428712591

Happy Birthday to
Violet Shrive (February 10th)
Jan Roe (February 11th)
Trinh Nguyen (February 11th)
From all the Parish Family

TODAY'S HYMNS
119 350 272 675

Services for this week

Wednesday	11th February	Holy Communion	10.00am	Christ Church Hamilton
Saturday	14th February	Vigil	6.00pm	Christ Church Hamilton
Sunday	15th February	Eucharist	9.00am	St Mark's Cavendish
			10.30am	Christ Church Hamilton

Reader 1: Nicole Reader 2: Stewart Intercessor: Susan Sidesmen: Jenny & Glenis

Eucharist Assistant: Lofty