



–Anglican Parish of Hamilton Fourth Sunday of Easter 26th April 2026

Sentence: John 10.11

‘I am the good shepherd,’ says the Lord. ‘The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.’

Collect

God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep: send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, 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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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 Peter’s Glenthompson St Mark’s Cavendish All Saints’ Penshurst

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

1. The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
2. **He will make me lie down in green pastures: and lead me beside still waters.**
3. He will refresh my soul: and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.
4. **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.**
5. You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me: you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
6. **Surely your goodness and loving-**

kindness will follow me all the days of my life: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2.1-10

¹ Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' ⁷ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', ⁸ and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia

I am the good shepherd. I know my own
and my own know me

Alleluia

The Holy Gospel: John 10.1-10

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

¹ ‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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:

Good Shepherd...is...help us to hear your
voice

Good Shepherd...**help us to hear your
voice**

Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd, we thank you for calling us by name, for leading us in paths of righteousness, and the assurance of your presence with us in this life and the next.

We pray for your Church that You have established and built, stone by stone, each one of us with a role and purpose in your kingdom. We pray that we might be prompted by your Holy Spirit to use the talents that you have bestowed upon us, in confidence of your continuous provision. We pray for Bishop Gary, Bishop Scott, David our Priest and Jannie our Deacon, and your people in Hamilton. Lead us daily to live together in the love of Christ.

*Good Shepherd...help us to hear your
voice*

We pray for the world, remembering the conflicts in Isreal and the Middle East, Ukraine and Russia, and the many countries in the African southern Sahara suffering persecution in the hands of the Islamist push. Give wisdom and grace to the leaders of the nations, and to those of our country and states, and continue to raise up leaders answerable to You. For all those who serve in the armed forces, in the emergency services, caring services and

education, that they may be always sustained by your presence.

Good Shepherd...help us to hear your voice

We pray for those in need; the sick, the lonely, the outcast, and those in fear. Lay your hands of love and healing upon all who call upon your name, we pray O Lord, and for those whom we name in our hearts at this time.....

Good Shepherd...help us to hear your voice

We remember those who have gone before us, and thank you for the love, care and guidance that we have received, and for the shared hope that we have in your resurrected life, Lord Jesus.

These things we ask you Father, Son and Holy Spirit, our God who hears and loves and delivers our souls from death into a glorious life with You. **Amen**

For Your Prayers This Week

For the sick and in need and those who are preparing for surgery:

Bishop Garry, Vivian McKellar, Bishop Scott & his family, Lorraine, Sharon, Judy Trompf.

For Those Who Have Died

Years Mind

Ruby Mapleback, Olga Gould, Leslie Rush, Patricia Giles, Dorothy Wilmett, Annabel McKirdy, Elizabeth Ross, Shirlee Rowland, Thelma Grace, Stephen Worthy, Rebecca Worthy, Neil Munro, Melville Campbell, Ethel Hore, James Tully, Helen Dougall, Leslie Harlow, All those who have fallen in war.

For The Wider Church and Its Ministry

- The Diocese of Washington – The Episcopal Church
- West Moorabool: Jonathan Sturman
- All Souls’ Lae
- Migrants; Refugees; Asylum seekers and others.

Today's Homily

Affirmation part 2.

Address 2 on Affirmation

Today I would like to offer a couple of examples of how others have affirmed me.

Years after I was ordained Bishop John Hazlewood

Reflected that “I was like a little puppy dog falling all over itself in a rush to get to the altar.”

His imagery of a little puppy dog was astute and incisive for puppy dogs are not just, abounding in limitless enthusiasm and marvellous fun, but they also make lots of little puddly messes. Sadly it is the lot of a Bishop to quietly and discreetly do the mopping up and wiping down.

Towards the end of this necessary cleaning process, Bishop John also said “Please don’t be too hard on yourself. Our Lord knew what he was getting with you whilst you were still in the womb.”

He was doing at least two things here.

First he echoed a reassuring biblical reference.

Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I

consecrated you;”

While I was still kicking and squirming around in my mum’s womb, Our Lord had plans for me and one of them was to be here at Hamilton with you today. What an undeserved and thrilling treat.

Secondly he affirmed that I had always been God’s even before I knew this myself. Even when I am in the middle of yet another puddly, piddly mess, he is right there with me.

This is what affirmation looks like. It is what affirmation sounds like. It is what affirmation feels like. To know that God is involved in every second of your life, even when and especially when it doesn’t feel like it, or you are forgetful of it.

Bishop John also ordained one Fr. Peter Treloar who had many gifts and affirmation was just one.

Fr. Peter once said “Dave You have a wonderful gift for loving people...” I beamed and blushed. But then he added “and it will pain you for the rest of your priesthood.” And as I reflect upon it he was right.

Affirmation must always be authentic and Fr. Peter’s words were. I know this now not just on a cerebral, academic level, but on a daily, existential, emotional level.

This double edged sword of joy and piercing is something that I am privileged to experience on a weekly if not daily basis. How insightful of Fr. Peter to see it in me, to articulate it and also to foreshadow that a sword will pierce my own heart as well. Perhaps the ministry of affirmation is also to say the hard things

graciously and lovingly. To tell the whole truth about the other’s gifts and that some gifts come with a hefty price tag.

Finally a piece of affirmation which came from a parishioner.

Their name of course is quite lost to me as is the context of our conversation but I can still hear them saying.

“ You have grown into your priesthood Fr. David”.

I, of course, had been unable to discern this googly, developing, unfolding, mystery. To my shame I have seldom made the time to step outside myself, look back, reflect and realise that this growth has been happening. I guess it’s like a garden. For sometime you diligently just work away at it. The work goes on and you don’t realise what you have accomplished until you get a visitor; you are showing them around and they make a Costa ‘Gardening Australia’ type compliment. ‘Oh yeah... I hadn’t realised’.

It’s one of the reasons why I get to confession at least once a year. The poor old confessor can see and discern the things that are too close to me. Sometimes you have to get an industrial strength guru to deal with the sludge that has insidiously, indiscernibly been building up over time.

For your reflection you might like to think about those gifts that are blitheringly obvious to you but are hidden from the other. And if you are very brave you might like to gently point out to them the sparkle that you see but which they might be blind to.

You could start with something gentle

like...

“Esmeralda,... I wonder if you have ever given any thought to the possibility that ...when you polish the brass you do such a great job I can see my face in it”

We can also affirm others by offering listening silence with them. One of the most affirming questions I ever heard came from my son in law as he was speaking to one of his work colleagues on the phone. He simply asked ‘Where would you like to start?’ He was making it very clear that this work conversation is not about me telling you what to do. It is about you and what you need and how I can help you to do a great job and be productive.

Perhaps in our affirming conversations we should begin with the attitude and or words... ‘Where would you like to start?’

I have prattled on about a couple of people who have affirmed me, so three quick questions to take home.

Who has affirmed you?

How did they do it?

What was your reaction and why?

Next Weeks Homily

God of the unlikely - hear our prayer.

dNews

Each week. There is a new free complimentary dNews.

Fr. David's easy quiz

Fr. David is....

- On the board of electors
- On the list to become the next Bishop of Ballarat
- On Bishop in Council
- Chair of property and finance

- All of the Above
- None of the above..

Fr. David's hard quiz

In many cases, one of the first objects of interest seen by the visitor to an English country church will be the lych-gate, a porch-like gateway giving access to the churchyard. What is the original meaning of the word "lych"?

- small
- entrance
- corpse
- welcome
- access

The answers from last week's quiz were:

Easy quiz: 3 and 2 supplementary

Hard quiz: 4 and 2 supplementary

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union

New song of praise

‘Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise’ (Psalm 51:15)

Recently, I have been trying to include thanksgiving far more frequently in my life. So, when I am in the open air I thank God for the wonders of creation; when I arrive at a destination, I thank him for safety in travel; when I hear some good news I thank God for his kindness; of course, I thank him for his gracious mercy to us in Jesus. Thanksgiving is a form of praise, but I also find that singing great songs of praise as I go about the day gives me words that I may not have myself. This I know, that praise leads to joy and prepares us for eternal life with Jesus.

Question for thought:

Can I develop a habit of praise and thanksgiving?

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the ministry of members in the Diocese of York in the UK with over 900 members in 59 branches. Pray for the opportunities they have to share God's love through parenting groups, refugee groups, and in providing caravan holidays to those in need, as well as projects in their individual branches. We also pray for members in the Diocese of Northern Territory and thank you for Pam Powell's faithfulness in leading the branch. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Cuppa and chatter

Cuppa and chatter is on and happening on Thursdays. Ladies to Lemon Myrtle from 2.15pm until 3.00pm and Gents to Thommo's 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 Day on Sunday May 10th 2026

This year St Peter's Church is celebrating a special Mother's Day Holy Communion service at 8:30am. The invitation is extended to all Christian people in Glenthompson and Dunkeld to join with us for the service and afterwards for a glass of "Bubbly" tea or coffee and a piece of Simnel cake (a traditional Mothering Sunday treat).

The Anglican Bishop Garry of Ballarat will preside and preach along with Father David Oulton.

On Sunday 12th of April

a parish meeting happened to discern what our book fair might look like in 2027.

An august committee was collected of Ian and Heather Hartley, Robyn Wilken, Judy Pickett, Betty Lacy, Todd Venning and Gavin Wallis. We hope that Peter Walscott will continue with the generous lending of his shed. Others may be co opted for various roles.

The final decision of the dispersal of the Book Fair funds will be made at Parish Council's December meeting.

If you would like to be on Parish Council at that time to make the final decision, then please nominate for Parish Council and be elected at our AGM on Sunday July 26th. Parish Council also looks forward to, warmly encourages and will get excited about, any suggestions leading up to the December Parish Council meeting.

BOOK FAIR THANKYOU

An afternoon tea to thank all that have helped with the Book Fair – this year and in previous years- Will be held on MONDAY 4th of May commencing at 2pm in the Church Hall. Please come along and enjoy the fellowship and our gratitude.
Susan M 0408528781

2 dates to keep in Mind for St. Peter's Glenthompson.

- Sunday May 10th. Mothers Day /birthday. Special starting time at 8:30am.
- St. Peter's Day Sunday June 28th

Of Thursday May 21st at 5:30pm.

Parish Council meets.

MU Meeting

Our next meeting is at 1.30pm on Monday 4th May to be followed by our thank you afternoon tea at 2pm for all those who helped with the Book Fair.

Happy Birthday to
Lauren Shrive (April 27th)
Stewart Otton (April 28th)
From all the Parish Family

TODAY'S HYMNS

661 466 369 310

Services for this week

Wednesday	29th April	Holy Communion 10.00am	Christ Church Hamilton
Saturday	2nd May	Vigil 5.00pm	Christ Church Hamilton
Sunday	3rd May	Eucharist 9.00am	St Mark's Cavendish
		Eucharist 10.30am	Christ Church Hamilton

Reader 1: Susan *Reader 2:* Gladys *Intercessor:* Judy T *Sidesmen:* Helen & Illford

Eucharist Assistant: Heather