



Anglican Parish of Hamilton

Fifth Sunday of Easter

3rd May 2026

Sentence: John 14.6

‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life,’ says the Lord. ‘No one comes to the Father except through me.’

Collect

Everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life; 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

PARISH PRIEST	Fr David Oulton	03 5571 1317 (Rectorry & Office) Email: droulton72@gmail.com PH:0435 867 040 39 Griffin Street Facetime, Messenger, Skype
PARISH OFFICE	9.00am – 12.00pm	03 5571 1317 (office & Rectorry) office@hamiltonanglican.org.au PO Box 474
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 Peter’s Glenthompson St Mark’s Cavendish All Saints’ Penshurst

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 31.1-5; 31.17-18

1. To you, Lord, have I come for shelter: let me never be put to shame.
2. **O deliver me in your righteousness: incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.**
3. Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me: for you are my high rock and my stronghold.
4. **Lead me and guide me for your name’s sake: bring me out of the net that they have secretly laid for me, for you are my strength.**
5. Into your hands I commit my spirit: you will redeem me, O Lord God of truth.
17. **All my days are in your hand: O**

deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors.

18. Make your face to shine upon your servant: and save me for your mercy’s sake.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2.11-25

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. ¹² Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge. ¹³ For the Lord’s sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God’s will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. ¹⁶ As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. ¹⁷ Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor. ¹⁸ Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²² ‘He committed no sin, and no

deceit was found in his mouth.’²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls..

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia

Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me

Alleluia

The Holy Gospel: John 14.1-14

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 ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.’² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.’⁵ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are

going. How can we know the way?’⁶ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’⁸ Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’⁹ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”?’¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it

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:
Guide us in your ways Lord Is
So all may come to know you

Guide us in your ways Lord
So all may come to know you

We pray for Bishops Garry and Scott as they lead our Diocese through this new year. For Fr David as he looks after and guides all in our parish along with Deacon Jannie

Guide us in your ways Lord

So all may come to know you

Guide all the clergy in our Diocese to faithfully proclaim your message of forgiveness and redemption through our Lord Jesus Christ

Guide us in your ways Lord

So all may come to know you

Thank you for the technology we enjoy. Help us to use it wisely for the good of all.

Help us Lord to think of others who struggle with and are fearful of the technical services we may take for granted and that the government and institutions make it easier for them to access information and services.

Guide us in your ways Lord

So all may come to know you

Let us not neglect our meeting together...but encourage one another. Hebrew 10:25

When we meet together help us to remember and pray for those who are not with us, whether it be through illness, broken relationships or those who have turned away.

Guide us in your ways Lord

So all may come to know you

Lord comfort and support all people of the world who have been injured, whose loved ones have been killed or maimed through wars or natural disasters. For all who have lost homes and livelihoods or precious pets. For farming families whose animals and crops have been destroyed. Wrap them in your loving arms and give them hope and comfort. For all wild life as they try to escape fires and floods.

Guide us in your ways Lord

So all may come to know you

Guide us in your ways Lord

Lord welcome all who have died into your heavenly home

Guide us in your ways Lord

So all may come to know you

Heavenly Father fill us with your love and give us the courage to reach out to all people.

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

Clarice Jones, Elizabeth Coles, William Richards, Walter Doueal, Ian Kennett, Susan Neal, Harry Baker, John Critten, Brian Taggart, Emily Weise, John Cuming, Julian Morris, Amy Mitchell, Phyllis Baker, John Kenesey, Daniel Hodgson, Albert Hyde, Hugh Lewis, Harold Kennett

For The Wider Church and Its Ministry

- The Church of North India
- Armidale: Rod Chiswell
Bathurst: Mark Calder
- St Paul's Ballarat. Thomas Edayal.
Diocesan Missionary Council - Alice Knight
- Aiome & Ainong
- Victims and perpetrators of violence in the home.

Today's Homily

God of the unlikely - hear our prayer.

Usually the first lesson at the Sunday Eucharist is normally from the Old Testament, during Eastertide the first lesson is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. It's the story of the early

Church as reported by Luke and we do this to enhance the underlying theme of ‘New life’ during the Easter tide. In today’s first lesson we have the macabre death of St. Stephen. A guy who was well thought of by the local worshipping community and was ‘full of the Holy Spirit’. He was pre-selected and then ordained deacon. He was full of God’s grace and performed (and I quote) ‘great wonders and signs among the people’.

Now you would have thought that having someone like this would ensure that all would be well in the Church of God. Further Stephen would have a deliciously swimmingly sumptuous life and convert lots of people. He would then go on to become a wise old sage, offering counsel, advice and absolution to an uncountable cast of enthralled Christians. He did, after all, have the face of an angel.

But...it seems that not everyone was enraptured with Stephen and his message. They started malicious rumours about him. We’d call it a smear campaign today.

The rumour they spread was that Stephen had spoken blasphemous words against Moses and God. The opposition stirred up the people, the elders and teachers of the law and they seized Him and brought him before the Sanhedrin.

They produced false witnesses, who testified, “We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us.”

So Stephen in his defence gives them a wide ranging Old Testament lecture and I get the sense that he had almost talked them around. But right at the end he lambasts the Sanhedrin with these words.

“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who

predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”

And so we get today’s first lesson where St. Stephen is martyred. The first adult person who died for his faith in our Lord.

Before that we have to go back to the Holy innocents that Herod martyred in his paranoia shortly after the magi had dropped in for a cuppa. God of the unlikely - hear our prayer.

Odd, isn’t it, that the plot never seems to go exactly as you would think and certainly not as we would like. Not for the Magi, not for Herod, not for the Sanhedrin and certainly not for St. Stephen.

There He was, rising through the ranks when his life was ominously cut short and his fan club was crushed just as surely as St. Stephen himself.

But there is something healthy about worshipping a God who’s story takes us on unforeseen adventures, disappointments, joys, flotsam and jetsam; good quality red wine at a wedding, the aching, desperate loneliness of the garden of Gethsemane and broken bread.

The God I am getting to know is both reliable and unlikely. Unrelenting and unambiguous. The good news is that the plot is not ours to write and that should be liberating for us. The Master is uncontainable or and uncontrolled. You can tell him to wash his hands before dinner or raise an eyebrow at the grubby company he keeps. Goodness you can even put Him in a cold tomb with a gargantuan boulder to keep him there ... but he is unstoppable and unrestrainable.

We often construct a mental image of God as a distant, predictable force of pure power. Yet, our faith reveals a God who is surprising—a God who chose a humble virgin in a small town, rather than a queen in a palace, to bring

salvation into the world. This "unlikely God" operates in "God-incidences" rather than human convenience. He is found in the everyday, the small, and often in the midst of messiness, contradicting our need for logical order.

Our "unlikely God" requires us to abandon our need for control and our limiting definitions of how He should act. Our Rabbi friend calls for a childlike trust—a total dependence on God's providence rather than our own efforts. When we stop trying to dictate how God should intervene and instead surrender to His, often unexpected will, we find the peace that comes from knowing God is in control of the "unfathomable" and the unlikely.

Isn't it grand that we have as our friend The master who will nudge us with our new way of thinking, an unthought of perception. The one who will be remarkable purely because he chooses the unremarkable which is startling and confronting in itself. And if you need any further proof, think of the ratty 12, think of St. Stephen's young death, think of the sinful vagabond clergy you know, think of the wine and bread and then look at your friend in the mirror.

God of the unlikely - hear our prayer.

Next Weeks Homily

Windows into Motherhood

dNews

Each week. There is a new free complimentary dNews.

Fr. David's easy quiz

The number of fish the disciples caught in the last chapter of John's Gospel was...

- 144
- 40
- 143
- We're not actually told
- None. (Not even a baby flathead)

Fr. David's hard quiz

The patron saint of gardeners is

- St. Fillibuster
- St. Francis
- St. Faicre
- St. Thomas
- Actually, there is no patron saint for gardeners

The answers from last week's quiz were:

Easy quiz: None of the above

Hard quiz: corpse

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union

Sunday 3rd May 2026

Stewardship, work and grace

'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do' (Ephesians 2:10)

Our good works flow from God's love for us, his grace. It is because God has received us just as the Father embraced the prodigal son, that we have life with him. Now we have been transformed to live a life pleasing to him, not in order to win his favour, but as a response to his love. That is why we love to sing Amazing Grace! I often begin the day with a request to God that he will help me find and do the good works he has prepared for me to walk in that day. It is great to know that he is in charge of my day.

Question for thought:

What do I pray for as the day begins?

Loving Lord, we give you thanks for members in Kigezi Diocese in Uganda and for their commitment to serving you in caring for the many in their community who are suffering from poverty. We pray as they offer pastoral care to families facing challenges of health, lack of education and those needing parenting support, that they will assure them of your care

and love for them. **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 and Todd Venning. 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

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.

The next outreach and Fundraising Committee meeting

is on Thursday May 28th at 1:30pm. All are very welcome to this jovial and enterprising time.

Some dates for your diary.

- Parish AGM Sunday July 26th
- Blessing of Pets Service Sunday October 11th.
- Parish Fete Saturday 8th of November

Snag a Snag

On Saturday morning 30th of May we will be running one of our famous Coles Sausage

sizzles. Come and meet a Master chef, be well nourished and support your parish.

Of Thursday May 21st at 5:30pm. Parish Council meets.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the Parish of Hamilton is scheduled to be held in the Canon Julien Centre on Sunday 26 July 2026 commencing at 11.30am.

Please give thought to nominating for one of the positions which need to be filled. Positions to be filled this year are Churchwardens (3), Councillors (6), Parochial Nominators (3), Supplementary Parochial Nominators (3), Synod Representatives (3) and Alternate Synod Representatives (2).

A reminder that all parishioners are required to re-enrol on the electoral roll to be eligible to fill any of the above positions and to vote at the AGM.

Nomination forms and enrolment forms will be made available in due course.

If you have any enquiries, please contact the Parish Secretary.

Physical Security

Recently some doors to secure areas at Christ Church were found to be open with no one in attendance. All key holders and parishioners accessing church buildings are reminded to please ensure that security doors are properly closed when leaving the premises.

A PRAYER AT THE TIME OF CHOOSING A BISHOP

Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese a shepherd after your own heart

who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people.

Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth.

So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

TODAY'S HYMNS

115 121 724 586

Services for this week

Wednesday	6 th May	Holy Communion 10.00am	Christ Church Hamilton
Saturday	9 th May	Vigil 5.00pm	Christ Church Hamilton
Sunday	10 th May	Eucharist 9.00am	St Peter's Glenthompson
		Eucharist 10.30am	Christ Church Hamilton

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

Eucharist Assistant: Susan