



Anglican Parish of Hamilton

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

12th July 2026

Sentence: John 6.63, 68

The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life.

Collect

Bountiful God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word: by your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy, and to live according to it, that we may grow in faith and hope and love; through Jesus Christ our 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 39 Griffin Street Facetime, Messenger, Skype
PARISH OFFICE	9.00am – 12.00pm	03 5571 1317 (office & Rectory) 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' Peshurst

¹⁹ These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²² The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the Lord. ²³ And the Lord said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.' ²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. ²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸ Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. ²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' ³² Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' ³³ Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

105. Your word is a lantern to my feet: and a light to my path.
- 106. I have vowed and sworn an oath: to keep your righteous judgements.**
107. I have been afflicted beyond measure: Lord, give me life according to your word.
- 108. Accept, O Lord, the freewill offerings of my mouth: and teach me your judgements.**
109. I take my life in my hands continually: yet I do not forget your law.
- 110. The wicked have laid a snare for me: but I have not strayed from your precepts.**
111. Your commands are my inheritance for ever: they are the joy of my heart.
- 112. I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes: always, even to the end.**

2nd Reading: Romans 8.1-11

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not

submit to God's law—indeed it cannot,⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you..

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia

I am the light of the world, says the Lord. whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

Alleluia

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13.1-9; 13.18-23

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

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns

grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!' ¹⁸ 'Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Intercessions for the Eucharist and for you to say at home

The respond to the bidding:

Lord Jesus..... is ...receive our prayers

Lord Jesus.....**receive our prayers**

We pray for the church for Bishop Garry, Bishop Scott, Fr David our vicar and all others who serve in the Diocese of Ballarat. May they be led by your Holy Spirit and cheerfully proclaim your glorious salvation.

*Lord Jesus.....**receive our prayers***

For all students as they return to school for Term 3. May they be focused in their learning and social interactions. For all teachers in their responsibility and guidance of students.

*Lord Jesus.....**receive our prayers***

For all those working in Emergency services, the Police, Paramedics and Firemen. Protect and keep them alert and safe in their duties.

*Lord Jesus.....**receive our prayers***

For all health workers serving our community. Give them strength, integrity and compassion in their duties.

*Lord Jesus.....**receive our prayers***

We commend our families into your loving care. Help us to work together in harmony and love.

*Lord Jesus.....**receive our prayers***

We pray for all who are suffering, the sick, the poor and the homeless. Please minister to them according to their needs.

*Lord Jesus.....**receive our prayers***

We pray for Peace throughout the world and for a general thirst for Truth and Wisdom.

*Lord Jesus.....**receive our prayers***

We give thanks for those who have gone before

us whom we commend into your gracious hands.

*Lord Jesus.....**receive our prayers***

All these things we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who loves and cares for us.

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, Linda

For Those Who Have Died

Years Mind

Kate Gabriel, Robert Drummond, Alfred Slater, Brank Brillely, Derek Hawker, Florence Wright, Kevin Thonas, John MacDonald, Elvina Carpenter, Harriette Moynan, Lynette Ellis, Norman Nicholas, William Porter, Elsie Annett

For The Wider Church and Its Ministry

- Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
- North Queensland: Keith Joseph
- Glenelg Wannan: Those offering locum ministry.
Kowree: Those offering locum ministry.
- Kenainj
- Our local hospitals and all who work in health care.

Today's Homily

Hairy and Grabber

Usually in the homily we go straight to the gospel reading and have a bit of think and play there.

Today's first reading however, is a cracking story about a family with all its sparkle, joy,

failings and contentions. As such it is a good story for us for we all belong to this parish family to say nothing of our own families. So let us begin.

Rebekah, the matron of the story, is barren, but after a prayer from Isaac, she conceives a child. But instead of one child, she discovers that without the aid of an ultrasound, she is to give birth to twins. How clever! She finds this out, because, literally, “The boys were crushing one another within her” Rebekah’s response to this crushing agony inside her is to confront God, who reveals to her that “two nations are in your womb” (Gen.25:23). Well, no wonder she feels crushed! Two nations!

Finally, the big day arrives, and “the first one comes out red covered with hair like a cloak, so they named him Esau,” a name which sounds like the word for “hair.” In families we often give each other nicknames so I’m going to call him “Hairy.” Then out came his brother, with “his hand grabbing Hairy’s heel, so they named him Jacob,” a name based directly on the word for “heel.” I’ll call him Grabber since that is what Jacob will do subsequently in his life; he will grab for everything he can get, as today’s first lesson demonstrates!

Hairy and Grabber quickly grow up; Hairy is “a hunter, an outdoorsy guy,” think of the Leyland brothers. Grabber on the other hand is “a simple man, a tent dweller”.

Interesting, isn’t it, that two siblings from the same gene pool, with the same upbringing, with the same parents, born on the same day could turn out to be so different. Perhaps you know of siblings like that.

Sadly it seems that the parents Isaac and Rebekah, have favourites. Another family quirk you might have noticed in families. Daddy Isaac favours ‘Hairy’ the outdoorsy hunter, whilst Mother Rebekah favours ‘Grabber’ who stays at home and helps with the washing up, the cooking and the laundry. The author is keen to contrast the two boys

wildly: one is a vigorous outdoor hunter while the other is a mummy’s boy, living inside much of the time. Grabber will also reveal his true nature as a master of deception and trickery. One day, Grabber is putting the finishing touches on a stew. It smells fantastic and Hairy rushes into the tent famished. It has apparently been a poor hunting day, and he simply must eat. “Quick let me have some of that stew,” he shouts, “for I am starving”. Adroit and astute, quick thinking Grabber sees an opportunity and says “Sure; but first, sell me your birth-rite”. The birth-rite is of course Hairy’s rights as the first born, the right to property, goods, and all the future promise of leadership of the tribe. It is in short, his complete future existence.

His reply to this outrageous request is about as stupid and absurd as it can be! “Oh Well, look! I suppose one day I’m going to die anyway, so what the heck. What in the world is a birthright to me? Besides that, I’m really hungry and the stew smells delicious.

“But, not so fast!” Grabber says, “Swear to me now” demanding from his gullible brother the ancient equivalent of a stat dec.

With no hesitation, the doltish Hairy swears to him and thus gives him the birthright. The text then markedly speeds up. “Grabber gave Hairy bread and lentil stew; he ate, drank, got up, and left” One can imagine a burp of satisfaction as he rushes from the tent. Thus Hairy “poured contempt on his birthright.” This sad tale is marked by both deception and naivety; Grabber gets what he wants, the right of the firstborn, and Hairy is deceived and left alone in the field.

No one comes out of this story smelling of daphne and perfume.

The parents both have their own favourite son. Hairy is ruled by his tummy and doesn’t understand what he is giving away. Grabber is deceptive and self-serving. Yet it is out of this family and its descendants that the Almighty

makes a great nation from which our Lord was descended, and therefore you and I as well. We get another reference to this in the first line in Matthew's gospel. In his genealogy Matthew has...

"Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob."

And if you are very brave and open up that genealogy wardrobe a little more you'll discover a few more shadowy goings on and skeletons.

'David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife'. Mmm It's almost as if our loving Father makes a conscious choice to use the most appalling families to bring about his greatest triumphs. But then, human beings are all he was to work with. People like you and I, who if we are honest, can see a little bit of ourselves in Isaac, Rebekah, Hairy and Grabber. Human nature has not changed that much over the years, but then neither has God's love and willingness to transform the wreckage of family relationships into angels and archangels, seraphim and saints. And that my friends is very good news indeed.

Next Weeks Homily

The sin of certainty...The holiness of doubt ...

dNews

Each week. There is a new free complimentary dNews.

Fr. David's easy quiz

King David in the old Testament had a 'relationship' with

- Rebekah
- Ruth
- Naomi
- Bathsheeba
- Actually... he kept himself nice.

Fr. David's hard quiz

The guest speaker on August 9th is...

- Bishop Gary
- Reverend Robyn Shackell
- Bishop Scott
- Felicity Lowrey
- Sister Raphael
- Actually we're not having one. it's just plain ol Fr. David

The answers from last week's quiz were:

Easy quiz: We're not told

Hard quiz: Fiona Holland

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union

Sunday July 12th 2026

Sharing Hope for a troubled world

'No, in all these things we are more than conquerors though him who loved us.' (Romans 8:37)

In this world, being a Christian believer does not save you from trouble, sorrow, pain and distress. Indeed, in some places Christians are persecuted and even murdered for their faith. And yet, we are called 'more than conquerors'. How is this true? Through Jesus and his promise that he will always be with us. How do we know that we can trust him? Because of his love. But notice that this verse says 'loved'. It does not mean that he once loved and does so no more. It means that the greatest expression of his love is his death on the cross. In the midst of all our troubles, look to the cross and be assured of his love.

Question for thought: What does the cross of Jesus mean to me?

Gracious Lord, we pray for members in Toliara, Madagascar as they care and support those who have suffered through droughts and storms. May they encourage them to come to the weekly activities including Bible studies and learning practical skills to help them overcome adversity, poverty and very little education. 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.

What Anglicare needs for the cooler months.

Clothing: Socks, tracksuit pants, gloves and warmer tops (even waterproof ones).

Food items: school snacks, spreads (vegemite and peanut butter) and some easy to eat snacks (muesli bars/biscuits/crackers).

Toiletries: bottles of shampoo and roll on deodorant are among some of the toiletries.

Forethought for our Fete

So it's probably time that we gave some forethought to our Fete. We will start thinking and planning on Saturday July 25th at 10am in our meeting room. All are very welcome with ideas, refinements and suggestions.

Please find the new roster at the back of Christ Church

Due to the time of year when people are away or for other various reasons, you may be on the roster more than usual. If you are not on the roster but would like to volunteer please contact Jenny Rankin. It would be most appreciated.

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.

Completed Nomination Forms are to be handed to the Rector, Secretary or left in the box at the rear of Christ Church. Nomination Forms from outlying churches should be handed to Fr David. Nomination Forms are to be received by 12pm Sunday 12 July 2026.

Electoral Enrolment Forms are to be handed to the Secretary or left in the box at the rear of Christ Church. Enrolment Forms from outlying churches should be handed to Fr David. Nomination Forms are to be received by 12pm Sunday 19 July 2026.

Notes for completing each form are contained on the back of the form. Any form not correctly completed, signed and dated cannot be accepted.

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

ALL FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN ALL CHURCHES.

Annual Reports to be presented at the Annual General Meeting should be received by **5pm Monday 13 July 2026**

All annual reports should be forwarded to the Secretary s an attachment to an email addressed to loftyandsue@bigpond.com The report should be in Word format (.docx).

Any reports received in another format, or that are handwritten, cannot be processed.

2 things by the end of August

Thing 1

There is an idea that when there is a 5th Sunday in the month, that the Sunday morning service be rotated around our centres. Trying to think through the practicalities of this... it would need a cheerful willingness for folk to travel to another centre for worship. Please let Fr. David know if you would be prepared to do this ... By the end of August.

Thing 2

Your local trusty Parish Council would like to purchase a defibrillator for Christ Church Hamilton. Hopefully we would never need to use it but it would be important to have it there. The cost is between \$1500 and \$2000. If you would like to make a contribution to this venture please put some cash in the plate in an envelope marked 'defibrillator' or electronically transfer your donation with the reference 'defibrillator'.... By the end of August.

The MU AGM will be held following the church service on Sunday July 12th.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Shirley

Parish Council next meets on this Thursday 16th at 5:30pm.

Outreach and fundraising committee meets on the same day at 1:30pm.

Hey Ho ... did you know...

for today only you can use the blue form to be nominated for a Parish Councillor, or Synod rep, or parochial nominator.

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

644 569 369 568

Services for this week

Wednesday	15th July	Holy Communion 10.00am	Christ Church Hamilton
Saturday	18th July	Vigil 5.00pm	Christ Church Hamilton
Sunday	19th July	Eucharist 9.00am	St Peter's Glenthompson
		Eucharist 10.30am	Christ Church Hamilton

Reader 1: Gladys *Reader 2:* David B *Intercessor:* Meredith *Sidesmen:* Helen & Illford
Eucharist Assistant: Lofty or fill in