



Anglican Parish of Hamilton

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

5th July 2026

Sentence: Matthew 11.28–29

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest,’ says the Lord. ‘Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart.’

Collect

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of his brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us; yet 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 (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’ Penshurst

1st Reading

Genesis 24.34-38; 24.42-49; 24.58-67

34 So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. 35 The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. 36 And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. 37 My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; 38 but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son." 42 'I came today to the spring, and said, "O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! 43 I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' 44 and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son." 45 'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." 46 She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. 47 Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. 48 Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. 49 Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.'

58 And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' 59 So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.' 61 Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. 62 Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. 63 Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. 64 And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, 65 and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.'

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 45.10-17

10. Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear: forget your own people and your father's house.
11. **The king desires your beauty: he is your lord, therefore bow down before him.**
12. The richest among the people, O daughter of Tyre: shall entreat your favour with gifts.
13. **The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is embroidered cloth-of-gold.**
14. In robes of many colours she is led to you,

O king: and, after her, the virgins that are with her.

15. **They are led with gladness and rejoicing: they enter the palace of the king.**
16. In place of your fathers you shall have sons: and make them princes over all the land.
17. **And I will make known your name to every generation: therefore the peoples shall give you praise for ever.**

2nd Reading: Romans 7.14-25

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia

Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants

Alleluia

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11.15-19; 11.25-30

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

¹⁵ Let anyone with ears listen! ¹⁶ 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, ¹⁷ "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn." ¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.' ²⁵ At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

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.... isPlease listen to and answer our prayers

Dear Lord....**Please listen to and answer our prayers**

We pray for all the people in the world and the animals who are suffering from the effects of war that you Lord help them all to overcome their individual situation and guide the Leaders of these nations to peace.

Dear Lord....Please listen to and answer our prayers

We pray for Bishop Garry, Bishop Scott and all the priests and Deacons in the Diocese of Ballarat that you Lord keep them all healthy and safe from harm.

Dear Lord....Please listen to and answer our prayers

We pray for everyone who is being affected by ill health, especially our friends, that you Lord help them to recover very quickly.

Dear Lord....Please listen to and answer our prayers

We pray for our friends who are travelling within Australia and overseas that you Lord Keep them all healthy and safe from harm.

Dear Lord....Please listen to and answer our prayers

We pray for the recently departed..... and their families that you Lord enfold them in your embrace

Dear Lord....Please listen to and answer our prayers

Lord please keep all the people and animals in the world safe from harm and guide us to do your Will.

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

James Arnold, Norman Purdue, Ida McIntyre, Dorothy Causer, Ruby Cordner, John Hayward, Patrick Hogan, Patrick MacGibbon, Robert Kenny, John Nolte, Graham Smith, Vera Shaw, Dorothy Nicholson, Barbara Mallison, Stuart Cuming, Queenie Smith, Bertha Baker, Lawrence Cordner, Roy Bett

For The Wider Church and Its Ministry

- The Anglican Church of South America
- MU Australia: Felicity Lowrey (Ballarat President)
The Auxiliary of ABM: Alice Knight
Girl's Friendly Society: Wendy Veal
- Bokopai & Bulolo / Wau
- Those suffering through the abuse of drugs.
Those involved in drug rehabilitation.

Today's Homily

The Ragamuffin invitation 5/7/26

Today's gospel offers an invitation, but it is only to a select group of people. In fact if you were going to be snarky, you could argue that the invitation is actually discriminatory. It's not for everyone, and is in fact only for ragamuffins.

I've pinched this Ragamuffin idea of course from someone else.. Today's donor is someone called Brennan Manning and he captures this concept of the Masters targeted invitation in his book called "The Ragamuffin Gospel" The Ragamuffin invitation is for:

“The bedraggled, beat-up, and burnt-out. It is for the sorely burdened who are still shifting the heavy suitcase from one hand to the other. It is for the wobbly and weak-kneed who know they don’t have it altogether. It is for inconsistent, unsteady disciples whose cheese is falling off their cracker. It is for poor, weak, sinful men and women with hereditary faults and limited talents. It is for earthen vessels who shuffle along on feet of clay. It is for the bent and the bruised who feel that their lives are a grave disappointment to God. It is for smart people who know they are stupid and honest disciples who admit they are scallywags and ragamuffins.” The Ragamuffin Gospel, he concludes, is for anyone who has grown weary and discouraged along the Way.

If you identify as a ragamuffin... read on. The terms and conditions of the Ragamuffin invitation are that you are to be fitted with your own yoke and it’s worth knowing a little bit about what you’re getting before it is laid squarely upon your shoulders.

In Palestine, ox-yokes were made of wood; the ox was brought, and the measurements were taken. The yoke was then roughed out, and the ox was brought back to have the yoke tried on. The yoke was carefully adjusted, so that it would fit well, and not gall the neck of the patient beast. The yoke was tailor-made to fit the ox.

So, think about that Ragamuffins. The yoke that Jesus offers is individually tailor-made for you. Which means that it is not a burden for us to live as Christ wants us to live. He doesn’t want it to be a burden. And just as importantly he wants to be yoked with us and with others. We’re not supposed to shoulder it all by our lonesome, solitary self.

We consistently and frequently make this yoke more complex, heavier, cumbersome and difficult than we need to. When we over-think it, the yoke of gentleness and rest disappears in a puff of logic. And there is also a hiddenness

to this yoke.

And I think this Hiddenness is what our brother rabbi was getting at when he said ““I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.”

Mmm. It reads like God actually makes a deliberate and conscious decision to hide things from the wise and learned and chooses instead to reveal them to little children.

Why? My guesses are

Because, ... He wants to show us that you don’t have to be wise and learned to have Him as your friend. You don’t have to have an alphabet after your name in order to know the mysteries of the kingdom.

Because,... there are some things that we aren’t quite ready for. Perhaps they are just far too dazzlingly beautiful and we are not quite prepared for His stunning exquisiteness.

Because,... we are not quite mature enough to grasp them. In much the same way as a loving parent must choose the right time to explain and reveal some of the tricky facts of life to a child. Like falling in and out of love, like birth and death, like the bitter truth that sometimes life disappoints and is not altogether to our liking and horror of horrors, that our actions do have consequences after all.

But the Ragamuffin yoke is more than just an unseeable object made of wood. I make the outrageous proposal that the spiritual yoke that is laid upon us is actually His divinity. This is the yoke that is crafted for us and made to fit us. The yoke of his divinity which is both knotty sadness and the heart warming, cheek glow of giggling after a few red cordials. Every emotion on the spectrum of our humanity. So we get...

‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance;

we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

When we share this carpenter fitted yoke, we

learn that he has already been sharing our tears and our chortling. He's the one who has been pouring the wine for us over dinner. Goodness me, he's probably been dancing with us too. When we look at our yoke, we discover to our delight that what we thought was just our boring sawdust humanity stuff is actually the very stuff of God.

When we learn this from Him, of Him and in Him, when we live it out, then our yoke becomes easy and our burden is light. We are given rest, we can become gentle and humble of heart.

So he says to us Ragamuffins today 'Come to me'... and so we come to him at the altar. We arrive at that oasis of rest and peace, humbleness and gentleness. Dear Ragamuffin ...Come...shoulder the yoke which is His yoke, which is our yoke, which is your yoke for ever and ever amen.

Next Weeks Homily

Hairy and Grabber

dNews

Each week. There is a new free complimentary dNews.

Fr. David's easy quiz

St. Joseph the carpenter used to knock up yokes at a cost of ...???

- 4 denarius
- 5 silver shekels
- buy one, get one for 50% + GST
- Actually he never made yokes
- We're not told.

Fr. David's hard quiz

The latest person to be ordained a deacon is

- Jannie Ryan
- Fr. David
- Fiona Holland
- Marjorie Keeble

The answers from last week's quiz were:

Easy quiz: Simon

Hard quiz: Crucified upside down

Thought of the week from Mothers' Union

Sunday 5th July 2026

Sharing our faith story

'In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do so with gentleness and respect.' (1 Peter 3:15)

As believers, we know our future – it is to be with Jesus. Who better? This is our hope. It is not mere optimism or a vague feeling. It is as real as Jesus is real. Someone may ask you about your hope and Peter tells us to be ready to share our faith in Jesus with gentleness and respect. It is a wonderful thing when a Christian person is filled with assurance about their future, even when they are very ill. It is a great testimony, not to ourselves but to Jesus and a blessing to the person who can see Jesus in us and through us.

Question for thought: Am I ready to share the reason for my hope?

Almighty Heavenly Father, our hearts are stirred by the challenges faced in Butere in Kenya. We pray for the Lord's wisdom as our members seek to help those facing unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity, and give them courage to continue to share the hope they have in Jesus. 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.

AGM forms at Christ

Church Hamilton can be found in the gadget that looks like a toaster rack at the back of the Church. White form to sign up for the Electoral roll, Blue form for Parish Council and Yellow for people's warden. There is a box with a hole in the lid to put your completed forms in. Thanks everyone.

Invitation from Anglicare

Everyone in the parish is invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Anglicare Warrnambool, to be held at the Hammond Fellowship Centre, Christ Church, Henna Street, Warrnambool on Tuesday 21st July 2026 at 2.00pm The Guest Speaker will be the recently appointed new Chief Executive Officer for W.R.A.D, Mr Alister Stevic.

Afternoon tea will be served at the conclusion of the annual meeting.

R.S.V.P. please by 17th July 2026 to

Email: anaglicanparishw@bigpond.com

Telephone: 03 5561 1687

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.

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.

On Sunday 9th of August

at Christ Church Hamilton....

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

TODAY'S HYMNS

263 331 527 220

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.

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**

Happy Birthday to
Jenny Rankin (July 4th)
From all the Parish Family

Services for this week

Wednesday	8th July	Holy Communion 10.00am	Christ Church Hamilton
Saturday	11th July	Vigil 5.00pm	Christ Church Hamilton
Sunday	12th July	Eucharist 9.00am	St Mark's Cavendish
		Eucharist 10.30am	Christ Church Hamilton

Reader 1: Todd *Reader 2:* John *Intercessor:* Heather *Sidesmen:* Jenny & Glenis
Eucharist Assistant: Susan