

## **Clearing the Way for Jesus**

The newsletter of the Illawarra Prayer Network links Christians and churches from Helensburgh to Gerroa, promotes prayer and facilitates church unity. A printer-friendly 2 x A4 PDF file of this newsletter is available at [www.5icm.org.au/index\\_files/ipn.html](http://www.5icm.org.au/index_files/ipn.html). Please send prayer requests and feedback to [prayer@5icm.org.au](mailto:prayer@5icm.org.au).  
*Distribution of this edition: 3,543*

### **Prayer**

**1. Karen Steward**, the Church Secretary of **Port Kembla Baptist Church** emailed:-

It is with the greatest pleasure and all praise to our Lord that Port Kembla Baptist announce that Pastor Gordon Barr is now the permanent Pastor at our church after being the Interim for the past 12 months. We, as a church, look forward to our future with Gordon as our Pastor.

**2. Gordon Barr** emailed the following for prayer.

I am Gordon Barr Pastor of **Port Kembla Baptist Church** and we encourage you to join us in praise to our Lord for a great year. We started a new youth ministry called Revolution Youth and have enjoyed the development & growth of that. We have also started a 2nd service in Swahili for the influx of Congolese Refugees. God is good! Please pray for us as we are now trying to make inroads into the public schools of Port Kembla & Warrawong High. Particularly Warrawong High which has no Christian input whatsoever. Please pray as Nehemiah did for favour with the leadership. Thanks!

**3.** Pray over the change of Catholic Bishop to the Wollongong Diocese. **Bishop Peter Ingham** retires after 16 years as Bishop of Wollongong and **Bishop-elect Brian Mascord** comes from the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese to be ordained and installed sometime in the next three months.

### **Pray without ceasing**

The first ten week's exercises are now on the [IPN webpage](#).

#### **Week 9**

- 1.** The life of prayer reduces the temptation to sin as you become more aware you are living in the presence of a holy God. Meditate on 2 Chron 7:14; Mt 26:41; 1 Jn 1:7-9.
- 2.** Continue to use Andrew Murray's [Pray Without Ceasing](#) guide and your prayer journal in your main prayer times.
- 3.** Pray to God throughout the day as matters arise.

#### **Week 10**

- 1.** Study these verses on mission: Mt 28:19; Mk 16:15; Lk 10:2; Jn 20:21; 1 Pet 2:9-10.
- 2.** Read the last chapter of [The Prayer Mission](#) and continue to use Andrew Murray's [Pray Without Ceasing](#) guide and your prayer journal to spend time listening to God in your main prayer times.
- 3.** Pray without ceasing. Conduct your life before God in the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember, hearing God's voice is a skill to be learnt. Keep practising this in the weeks to come.

## **News and Feedback**

- 1. Soldiers of the Cross Bible Ministries** is now accepting applications for the accredited Diploma in Ministry online Bible College course. SOTC partners with the Australian College of Ministry to offer Illawarra student support services for those wishing to gain this qualification. Please pray for an increase in future qualified leaders to deliver effective ministries across the Illawarra. Contact: Rodney Osborne 0410 911 097, [soldierscmc@gmail.com](mailto:soldierscmc@gmail.com). [Download flyer](#).
- 2. Bruce Fairhall**, who is organising the **CCLI Copyright Seminar** at Dapto Uniting Church on Saturday 10th March 2018, said he now has received 53 replies, which is sufficient for the seminar to go ahead. More details will be advertised in January.
- 3. Jon Seccombe** of **Austinmer Anglican Church** has released a new Christmas carol. You can listen and download all of Jon's music for free from [www.jonseccombemusic.com](http://www.jonseccombemusic.com).
- 4. Fr George Condookala** has moved from St Patrick's Catholic Church, Port Kembla to the role of Hospital Chaplain of Wollongong Public and Private Hospitals. Fr Colin Fowler will pastor at St Patrick's until a new parish priest is appointed.

God bless,  
Derek Thompson,  
Illawarra Prayer Network

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## ***Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra***

### **Wollongong Gospel Choir Rehearsal – Tuesdays during school terms – all welcome.**

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm at Wollongong Senior Citizens Centre, 192 Gipps Road, Gwynneville

Contact: [John Sandercock](#) 0499 444 151

### **Shellharbour Carols by Candlelight - Friday 8th December**

*Details:* 5:30pm, carols 6:30-8:30pm, fireworks 8:30p.m. Reddall Reserve, Lake Illawarra.

### **Handel's Messiah - Saturday 9th December**

*Details:* 2:00 p.m. Wollongong Town Hall. Choir conducted by Meryl Jackson-Kew.

*Cost:* \$30, Children under 16: \$10, Students: \$25, Con. Pen. Sen.: \$25.

### **Berkeley Community Carols - Saturday 9th December**

*Details:* 5pm family activities, 7pm Carols, afterwards an outdoor Christmas movie, at Community Park, Winnima Way, Berkeley. Hosted by Berkeley Life Centre.

### **Figtree Community Carols - Saturday 9th December**

Hosted by Figtree Anglican Church. [Facebook Events page.](#)

*Details:* 5:30-9:30p.m. Figtree High School.

### **Santa Fest - Sunday 10th December.**

Featuring Trent Bowater, family fun, carols 5:30pm, fireworks.

*Details:* from 3pm Lang Park, Wollongong. Hosted by Salvation Army & Disability Trust.

### **Albion Park Community Carols - Tuesday 12th December**

*Details:* 6:00 p.m. family activities and BBQ, 7:30 p.m. Carols.

*Venue:* Albion Park High School, 120 Church St. Hosted by local combined churches

### **Carols in the Park @ Kiama - Wednesday 13th December**

Featuring Collin Buchanan

*Details:* 7-9pm, Hindmarsh Park, Terralong St (wet weather: the Pavilion, Kiama Showground)

### **Taizé Prayer Around the Cross - Friday 15th December - last day of school Term 4**

Ecumenical worship and prayer in the Taizé style.

*Details:* 7:00 p.m. Berry Uniting Church, 77 Albert St, Berry

### **Christmas Carols in Tullimbar - Friday 15th December**

Hosted by Increase Church.

*Details:* 7:30-9:30pm The Community Garden, Tullimbah Village.

### **Carols by the Harbour - Saturday 16th December**

Free family festival, including face painting, crafts, carols and finishes with fireworks display.

*Details:* 5:00-9:00p.m. Little Park, Shellharbour Village. Hosted by local combined churches.

### **Combined Churches Carols in the Burgh - Saturday 16th December**

*Details:* 6:00-9:00p.m. Rex Jackson Oval, Helensburgh.

### **Keiraview Uniting Church Christmas Celebration - Sunday 17th December**

*Details:* 5:30pm-7:00pm fun activities, jumping castle, food; 7:00pm-8:00pm Carols Service.

### **Port Kembla "Carols in the Carpark" - Sunday 17th December**

Animals of Bethlehem petting zoo, free sausage sizzle, carols, Glo candles (\$2), Santa Claus.

*Details:* 6:00 p.m. Port Kembla Baptist Church, 81 Illawarra St

### **Taizé Advent Prayer Evening - Sunday 17th December**

Taizé style prayer and song. [Download flyer.](#)

*Details:* 6pm St Paul's Catholic Church, 251 Tongarra Rd, Albion Park.

### **Carols by the Sea - Austinmer Beach Park - Sunday 17th December**

*Details:* 7pm - 9pm Hosted by Austinmer & Thirroul Anglican Church

### **Carols on Crown - Wednesday 20th December**

Featuring Gateway City Church Choir, Wesley Church singers.

*Details:* 6:00-9:00p.m. upper Crown St Mall, Wollongong.

See the [Sicm Events page](#) for more events and regular events list.