

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. Please send prayer requests and feedback to prayer@5icm.org.au.
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Prayer

1. If you like to memorise Scripture verses, and who doesn't 😊, here is a good one to learn and use in your prayers for revival in the Illawarra this year.

Psalm 85:6-7 (NRSV)

- ⁶ Will you not revive us again,
so that your people may rejoice in you?
⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

2. **Waringarri Aboriginal Fellowship. Joy Berglund**, co-pastor with husband, Phil, of **New Wine Life Fellowship**, Kembla Grange, emailed that their church plant in Warrawong for local aborigines is now standing on its own feet (see below). Pray for God's blessing on this new church in the Illawarra and also New Wine Life Fellowship which now has 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. services.

We have handed the leadership of Waringarri Aboriginal Fellowship to the Aboriginal Elders from the Waddi Waddi tribe originating from Hill 60. There is one other Aboriginal Elder from a tribe in Warrawong and the elders from Waddi Waddi have accepted him into their tribe! They are now born again, baptised in water and baptised in the Holy Spirit! We have left the church in Aboriginal Style leadership with the elders running the church functioning as Pastors. It works better in their culture. Phil and I will stay in touch with them in the background until they grow stronger! ... It is a great miracle that our God has done!

God bless,
Joy

3. Pray over the change of Catholic Bishop to the Wollongong Diocese. **Bishop Peter Ingham** retires after 16 years as Bishop of Wollongong. **Bishop-elect Brian Mascord**, who comes from the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, is to be ordained and installed as Bishop at 7:00 pm Thursday 22nd February at St Francis Xavier's Catholic Cathedral, Wollongong.

News and Feedback

1. **Bruce Fairhall** of Dapto Uniting Church is calling for registrations for the [Christian Copyright Licensing Incorporated](#) (CCLI) Seminar on Saturday 10th March from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registrations are required by Saturday 10th February ([download letter](#)). Fifty registrations are required for the seminar to proceed. Those who submitted an expression of interest last year should now register.
2. **Wollongong Gospel Choir** are planning their events for 2018. Please contact [John Sandercock](#) if you would like the choir to sing at your event. There is no cost. New choir members are always wanted, but the start of a new year is a good time to join. Rehearsals for 2018 commence on Tuesday 6th February starting at 7pm and are held at Wollongong Senior Citizens Centre, 192 Gipps Road, Gwynneville. Everyone is welcome to come and check them out to see if you might like to join.

- 3. Church personnel changes:** At **Austinmer Anglican** – Elliott Gordon to be commissioned as Children’s minister, 21/1/18 and Nathan Sandon’s commencement service as senior minister, 24/1/18. At **Dapto Anglican**, Matt Stanley commences as Children’s minister from 28/1/18.
- 4.** I have added to the [5icm Events webpage](#) the 2018 public holidays and special days in the Christian church calendar to assist in planning. Please let me know of any Illawarra ecumenical events or church events that are open to the wider church so I can include them on the Events page. You are welcome to advertise local church events or discuss matters of interest to Illawarra Christians on the [Illawarra Christians Facebook group](#), which now has 600 members.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,
Illawarra Prayer Network

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