

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. It's the time of year when churches present their visions and plans for the year ahead. Often churches forget to include in their plans any association with other churches in the area. Remember Jesus' vision and prayer for the church.

²⁰ "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

John 17:20-21 (NRSV)

Let us pray that the leaders of Illawarra churches see the vision of Jesus goes beyond their congregation, denomination, and theologically like-minded churches.

2. The **school** year starts this week. Pray for students, teachers, Scripture teachers, school chaplains, ancillary staff, Kiama Board for Employing Christian Education Teachers, Wollongong Combined Churches Education Board, Northern Illawarra Combined Churches Education Board, Catholic Education Office, and the many private and public schools.
3. Pray also for **tertiary education students and institutions** including University of Wollongong, the AFES/ECU, Catholic, Orthodox, and Pentecostal groups at Wollongong University, and TAFE Colleges. Most of these commence in three week's time.

News

1. **Shivani Tambyah** of **Keiraville International Church** has prepared a **Wollongong Botanical Gardens Prayer Walk** booklet which may be downloaded for free from the [5icm Resources webpage](#). The prayer walk is designed to take you through the garden collections and pause for prayer and reflection at each of the designated areas. A map of the gardens is included in the 16 A4-page booklet.
2. **Daniel Hopper**, the Director of Media and Communications for the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong, said up to 4,500 people are expected at the ordination of **Bishop-elect Brian Mascord** as the fifth Bishop of Wollongong at WIN Entertainment Centre on Thursday 22nd February. Archbishop Anthony Fisher, the Archbishop of Sydney, will be the principal consecrator assisted by Bishop Peter Ingham, the Apostolic Administrator of the DoW, and Bishop William Wright, the Bishop of Newcastle-Maitland. Everyone is invited to attend. RSVP via www.ordination.dow.org.au.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,
Illawarra Prayer Network

website: www.5icm.org.au | email: prayer@5icm.org.au | phone: 4256 5780 |   Tweet

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Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra

Wollongong Gospel Choir Rehearsals from 6/2/18 – 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

CMC Illawarra Mission Connection - Thursday 1st February

Speaker: Tony Wright on "Life & Ministry in Fiji". Tony is on staff at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

Details: 12:30-2:00 p.m. St Mark's Anglican Church, West Wollongong, BYO lunch, tea/coffee provided. All welcome.

Contact: [Bev Defty](#).

National Day of Prayer & Fasting - Saturday 10th February

Warwick Marsh, Hengki Widjaja & Angela Cook have organised a local prayer meeting in association with the [NDOPE](#). All welcome.

Details: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Shellharbour Community Church.

Thursday 22nd February

Ordination of Catholic Bishop-elect Brian Mascord

Details: 7:00 p.m. WIN Entertainment Centre Wollongong

Tickets and Information: [Catholic Diocese of Wollongong](#), 4222 2400.

Friday 23rd February

Illawarra Prayer Breakfast Launch

This meeting is a prelude to the annual prayer breakfast. The organisers are Warwick Marsh, Hengki Widjaja, Wayne Morris, Rod Denniss and Jude Hennessy.

Reflecting on the Human Jesus - Saturday 24th February

Speaker: Laurie Woods, who lectured in biblical studies for 25 years at the Australian Catholic University Strathfield campus.

Details: 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St Matthew's Church, 22 Chapel Lane, Jamberoo

Donation towards costs: \$15 per person, \$20 per couple, includes morning tea and light lunch.

[Download flyer](#)

RSVP: Mary Clarke by phone 4232 2970, or email [Gabrielle Fogarty](#)

Port Kembla Baptist Church Mini Fete - Saturday 3rd March

Sausage sizzle, Devonshire tea, pre-loved clothing, toys, plants, books, cakes, white elephant stall, etc.

Details: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. cnr Illawarra & Cowper St, Port Kembla.

CCLI Church Copyright Seminar - Saturday 10th March

Details: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dapto Uniting Church, 122 Princes Hwy.

Register: email [Bruce Fairhall](#) or phone him on 4261 2424. [Download letter](#).

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