

## **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: 3,520*

### **Prayer**

1. It's **Shrove Tuesday** (Pancake Day) and tomorrow **Ash Wednesday** which marks the beginning of **Lent**, the 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter (or Holy) Saturday. The Great Lent for Orthodox churches begins on 19th February. The 40 day period in the church calendar recalls the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and praying. The ashes at the start of the season are symbolic of repentance and conversion.

The **South Australian Council of Churches** has issued a 30-page [Ecumenical Lenten Resource](#) that gives Gospel readings, prayers, icons, art, discussion questions, and reflections for group or personal use by Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Christians during Lent. We recommend its use. If you download it, please [email](#) Geraldine Hawkes, the Ecumenical Facilitator, with the church you attend so they know how widely it is being used.

2. **Simon Godden**, who attends Gerringong Anglican Church and is the Operations Manager at Shellharbour Anglican College, emailed us the following for prayer.

Please pray for a settled start to the school year and for ongoing opportunities to share the gospel with our school community. Give thanks for our Chaplain, Dan Odell and for his effective ministry in Chapel and Christian Studies classes. Pray for our three returning 2017 Yr 12 students who are undertaking the Year 13 program through Anglican Youthworks College. We are very thankful for their ongoing involvement with the College and pray for them as they mentor students at Crusaders (lunchtime Christian fellowship group) and seek opportunities to grow that effective ministry. We give thanks for the growth in numbers at Crusaders over the last few years and pray that that ministry will continue to bear gospel fruit.

3. **Gary Hetherington** has requested prayer for an ecumenical [Breakthrough](#) meeting that he is hosting at Fairy Meadow Community Centre on Saturday 17th Feb (more details below).

### **News**

1. **Rev. Andrew Watts** will be inducted into the position of Mayflower Gerringong Chaplain at a service at 2:15 p.m. on Thursday 1st March. RSVP to [Susan Cann](#), Uniting Church Chaplaincy Convenor Sydney Central/South. Andrew is presently the Supply Minister at Keiraview Uniting Church.
2. **The World Day of Prayer** is on Friday 2nd March. This year's theme is *All God's Creation is Very Good*. Please let me know the details of the WDP Services in your area so I can advertise them in the next newsletter.

God bless,  
Derek Thompson,  
Illawarra Prayer Network

website: [www.5icm.org.au](http://www.5icm.org.au) | email: [prayer@5icm.org.au](mailto:prayer@5icm.org.au) | phone: 4256 5780 |  

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This message was sent to !\*EMAIL\*!

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

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

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

Contact: [John Sandercock](mailto:John.Sandercock@wollongonggospelchoir.org.au) 0499 444 151

### **Lunch Time Bible Talks - Ash Wednesday, Valentine's Day, 14th February**

Speaker: Bishop Reg Piper

Details: 12:45 to 1:15 p.m. sharp, Ocean Rm, Wollongong Town Hall cnr Kembla & Crown Sts.

[Download flyer.](#)

### **Kiama Pre-Easter Service - Thursday 15th February**

There will be a cameo play on the Easter theme and a talk by Fr Paul Gurr, a Carmelite priest at Jamberoo Abbey.

Details: 10:00 a.m. for morning tea followed by service at 10:30 a.m.

Venue: Kiama Uniting Church, 19 Bong Bong Rd, cnr Manning St.

### **Breakthrough / Prophetic Ministry - Saturday 17th February**

Hosted by Gary Hetherington of Revival Ministries. [Download flyer.](#)

Speakers: [Ps Peter & Val Mitchison](#) from New Zealand; Ps Steve & Jane Ryan, prophetic worship leaders.

Details: 2:00 p.m. at Fairy Meadow Community Centre, cnr Princes Hwy & Cambridge Ave, Fairy Meadow. Free event.

Contact: [Gary Hetherington](mailto:Gary.Hetherington@revivalministries.org.au)

### **Ordination of Catholic Bishop-elect Brian Mascord - Thursday 22nd February**

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

Tickets and Information: [Catholic Diocese of Wollongong](http://www.catholicdioceseofwollongong.com.au), 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](mailto:Mary.Clarke@wollongonggospelchoir.org.au)

### **Hymnsing at Kiama - Sunday 25th February**

All welcome for Hymn and chorus singing. [Further details](#)

Details: 2:00 p.m. Kiama Uniting Church Fellowship Centre, 19 Bong Bong Rd, cnr Manning St Kiama. Sing for one hour then have afternoon tea.

Requests: Phone Gail on 4232 1630 or Reuben on 4233 2490

### **World Day of Prayer – Friday 2nd March**

#### **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](mailto:Bruce.Fairhall@ccli.org.au) or phone him on 4261 2424. [Download letter.](#)

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