

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.
Distribution of this edition: 3,580

Prayer

- 1. Linda O'Rourke of St Paul's Catholic Church, Albion Park** suggests we start off the new year with prayer for those who do not know Christ in the Illawarra.

"My prayer request is for more people turning to God and realising He is the Real Thing, you cannot buy Him, His love is real, He is knocking at everyone's door but we have to open it. Let's pray that more doors are opened up to Jesus this year."

- 2. Rev. Dave Esdale** has been the Senior Minister for more than 9 years at **Corrimal Anglican Church**. He loves serving the Lord in the Corrimal area, where he lives, and longs to think of ways in which he can make sure he doesn't get in the way of what God wants for the area. Dave's challenge for the last little while has been to separate his value and worth from how the church is going, be it times of growth or times of difficulties. Dave writes:

"Please pray for our 'hub' ministry at Corrimal. Without going into great detail, it is a number of ministries that meet in a space that is converted from a church building to a café. We are expanding on the ministry that God has used to impact a number of lives with his good news. Pray also for while God is doing some wonderful things before our eyes, we have stretched ourselves financially. While we have been able to absorb not making budget previously, 2019 seems to be the crunch year. If we don't make budget this year, it will impact upon ministry, which has the potential to crush some human spirits. Pray for both God's provision financially and dependence upon him no matter what the outcome."

- 3. [St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Unanderra](#)** ceased holding Services at the end of 2018 after 117 years and will hold a ceremonial closing and thanksgiving service on Sunday 27th January at 3:00 p.m. RSVP to [Stewart Levee](#), who emailed:

"We would appreciate prayer, as our members move on and search for a new church home. Our Minister [Rev. Andrew Matthews] and his family are working on a few different options, but I'm sure he would appreciate prayer."

Andrew said "the property in Unanderra will be under the control of the Illawarra Presbytery until a decision is made about its long term fate."

- 4. Jillian and Ian Wilson of Kiama Baptist Church** raised the following matter for prayer.

"As we approach significant times for the governing of our nation and state, we ask people to pray for those Christians of our region who will seek leadership through election to our parliaments, that God might provide them the strength, ability and clarity of purpose to engage the community in a manner honouring to God and enthusing to all who hear them."

- 5. Kerry Morrison of Keiraview Uniting Church** requested prayer for her church.

We pray for the Redevelopment Project at Keiraview Uniting Church, that the new facility will enable the Church to conduct its Mission and reach out to the community, sharing God's hope and love in the world.

News

Hope Church 2505 (Port Kembla) launches at 5:00 p.m. Sunday 20/1/19 at Senior Citizen Centre, Allan St, Port Kembla. The pastor is Emmanuel Bakenga who came to Australia in 2012. He comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo where 6 of his siblings and both parents were murdered during the civil war. He lived for 7 years as a refugee, went through a marriage break up and recovered from severe depression and anxiety. He says "Don't lose hope". The church has been planted out of Hope Church 2508 (Helensburgh) and runs the Hope Community Kitchen every Friday to provide meals for local people.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,
Illawarra Prayer Network

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

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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

13th to 21st January 2019

Albion Park Scripture Union Family Mission

Details: All Saints Anglican Church, 253 Tongarra Rd, Albion Park
Contact: **Lucy Mayer of SUFM** by [email](mailto:lucymayer@albpark.org.au) or phone 0468 797 445

Leading up to 26th January 2019

[Change the Heart Prayer Services](#)

[Common Grace](#) is a non-denominational ministry that organises prayer services for justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders leading up to the 26th January.

Details of local Services:

Saturday 19th Jan 7:00 p.m. Central Church, 4 Fitzwilliam St, Port Kembla.

Sunday 20th January 7:00 p.m. Berry Uniting Church, 77 Albert St, Berry [Download flyer](#).

Contact: [Rev. Andrew Watts](mailto:Rev.Andrew.Watts@changeheart.org.au) 0400 059 191

18th - 25th January 2019

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The theme for the week of prayer in 2019, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue ..." is inspired by Deuteronomy 16:18-20. The resources for the week have been prepared by members of different churches in Indonesia. For details see World Council of Churches [website](http://www.wccco.org). In the southern hemisphere this is also celebrated around Pentecost.

Friday 1st February

Healing Service and Mass

All welcome. Mass will be celebrated for Catholics by Fr George Condoakala. Payer for healing by Fr George and Derek Thompson of the Illawarra Prayer Network

Details: 10:30 a.m. Patients Lounge, Level 3, Wollongong Private Hospital.

Friday 22nd Feb

Prayer Breakfast Launch & Illawarra Business Hub breakfast meeting

Sunday 24th February

Kiama HymnSing

Hymn and chorus singing followed by afternoon tea.

Details: 2:00 p.m. Kiama Uniting Church cnr Manning & Bong Bong Sts.

Contact for song requests: Reuben (4233 2490) or Gail (4232 1630)

See the [5icm Events page](#) for more events and regular events list.