

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. Anzac Day. The Sydney Morning Herald Editorial on Easter Sunday noted a similarity between Easter and ANZAC Day: -

“Yet it is worth taking the opportunity to consider what Easter and Anzac Day have in common. Both are about people coming together and honouring the sacrifices others made. Both are about death, and serve as a reminder our time on earth is fleeting. Both are about the courage to stand for your convictions in the face of overwhelming, even insurmountable odds. They are a reminder that what is right is often difficult, and what is important can come at a significant personal cost.”

It is also an opportunity to consider the significant difference between the sacrifices. Jesus is the Son of God in human form (Phil 2:7). He could have won any battle by calling on his Father to send 12 legions of angels (Matt 26:53). But to do so would be to exploit his relationship with the Father (Phil 2:6). Satan’s temptation of Jesus to misuse his connections would have achieved worldly success but spiritual failure (Lk 4:1-13; Mk 15:32; Lk 23:36, 37 & 39). Jesus’ sacrifice of his life maintained his righteousness and resulted in the reward of resurrection, both for him and all who believe in him. The love of others that Jesus commanded may involve us, too, in making sacrifices. Take this up with God.

2. Jane Thomas, a long-term prayer network member, requested prayer support for **Anglicare**, where she works.

“Anglicare’s Community Services in the Illawarra care for those experiencing financial, housing, relationship and emotional/mental health stress. Food and Financial Assistance, Counselling, and access to affordable groceries via our Mobile Food Pantry are some of the supports available through Anglicare. Please pray for those in our community who are experiencing distress and trauma. May the ministries of Anglicare bring honour to Jesus as we love and value precious human beings in these practical ways, and promote dignity and hope amongst those experiencing hardship in our Illawarra community.”

3. Vicky Osten of the **Victorious Ministry Through Christ** healing ministry requested prayer.

“Appreciate your prayers for the VMTC school next week. 41 attendees coming from several local churches and interstate. Additional people are coming in for ministry as well, so many ministry sessions! We are looking forward to what God has in store.”

News

1. Keeping up with Illawarra church changes: The name of **Raw Faith Ministries** has been changed to **Signs, Wonders and Miracles Church, Wollongong**. **Rev Rob and Thea Buchan**, the Senior pastors at **Kiama and Jamberoo Uniting Church**, will be farewelled on Sunday 28th April. **Ps Allen Bierschbach** is the senior pastor at **Illawarra Seventh Day Adventist Church**, which now has three campuses: Corrimal, Wollongong and Dapto.

Northern Beaches Church of Christ has welcomed new worship and youth leader, **Shane Teinaki**. Let me know of any other recent changes that I have not already reported.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,
Illawarra Prayer Network

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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@5icm.org.au) 0499 444 151

ANZAC Day 25th April Public Holiday

Orthodox Good Friday 26th April

VMTC Healing Training School - Friday 26th to Sunday 28th April

Venue: Chittick Lodge, Gerringong

Cost: \$260 for meals & accommodation, \$60 registration.

Contact: [Andrea Gibbons](mailto:Andrea.Gibbons@5icm.org.au) 0407 169 708.

[Download flyer.](#)

Orthodox Easter Sunday 28th April

Kiama HymnSing - Sunday 28th April

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)

CMS Illawarra Connection Meeting - Thursday 2nd May

Speakers: Martin & Julia Field on *Ministry Amidst Frustration*. They have ministered amongst University students for 11 years in Cordoba, Argentina.

Details: 12:30-2pm St Mark's Anglican Church, 429 Crown St, West Wollongong. BYO lunch and mug, tea/coffee provided. Park in grounds.

Contact: [Beverley Defty](mailto:Beverley.Defty@5icm.org.au)

Mother's Day - Sunday 12th May

Illawarra Prayer Breakfast - Friday 24th May

National Day of Thanks - Saturday 25th May

A day for all Australians to pause as a nation and say thank you to God and to each other.

National Sorry Day - Sunday 26th May

Reconciliation Day - Monday 27th May

Ascension Day - Thursday 30th May

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Sunday 2nd to Sunday 9th June

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 and resources see the [National Council of Churches in Australia](http://www.nationalcouncilofchurchesinaustralia.org.au).

South Coast Mental Health Discovery Day - Saturday 15th June

Hosted by C3 Church Shellharbour with clinical psychologist Krystiyna Kidson focussing on managing stress and preventing burn out.

Venue: Albion Park Bowling Club, 32-52 Taylor Rd, Albion Park

Cost: \$19.50 Tickets from www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=475812

Contact: Ps Jason Kent jasonkent@c3churchshellharbour.com.au

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