



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: 3,535

Prayer

1. People in the prayer network have not forgotten the prayer needs of those affected by the recent bushfires.

"I submit an anonymous prayer request for healing for the entire South Coast. I'm thinking of all the people (and the land, and the animals) affected by the bushfires in particular, including the Illawarra but also stretching out to the Southern Highlands, Braidwood, and all the way down the coast to Eden."

2. Pray for this year's new pastors and their congregations, including: Ps Noel & Lynette Wraight at [Shellharbour City Baptist Church](#), Rev. Katherine Merrifield at [Kiama Jamberoo Uniting Church](#), Ps Paolo Dicembre at [Windang Transforming Waters Church](#) and Ps Michael Plaedge at [Salt Church, Wollongong](#).

News

1. **Illawarra Churches** are responding to the spread of the **Covid-19 virus** in a range of ways:

Catholic Bishop Brian Mascord issued directives to diocesan churches to no longer distribute Holy Communion in both kinds (only the bread), give communion in the hand, not to shake hands during the sign of peace, ministers of communion to use hand sanitisers, and holy water fonts to be emptied.

The advice from the **Anglican Archbishop Glenn Davies** regarding Holy Communion is not to use a common cup and for no passing of trays or plates. For children's ministries to suspend communal morning teas where children touch the food, and to serve each child individually with tongs, don't use a common sign-in pen. Food service guidelines include replacing open plates of food with individual wrapped items or food served by one server only. Similarly, tea and coffee to be prepared and served to individuals. Refrain from handshakes and other contact like kissing on the cheek.

Other churches have decided to not implement any special precautions at this stage, but are monitoring the situation.

Prayer that the Coronavirus does not spread to the Illawarra is a precaution all churches are urging.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,
Illawarra Prayer Network

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This message was sent to !*EMAIL*!

Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra

Wollongong Gospel Choir - Rehearsals on Tuesdays during school term times.

7:00 pm **Due to renovations of the WSC Centre, rehearsals will temporarily be at Cafe Essay at the Salvation Army, 11 Burelli St, Wollongong.**

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

Paddle Against Poverty - Saturday 14th March

Christian Surfers fundraiser. The paddle takes about 3 hours.

Details: 7:00 a.m. at either Wollongong Harbour or Stanwell Park depending on wind direction. [Check here.](#)

Port Kembla Baptist Mini Fete - Saturday 14th March

Devonshire Tea, sausage sizzle, cake stall, white elephant, pre-loved clothes, plants, books.

Details: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Port Kembla Baptist Church cnr Illawarra and Cowper Sts.

Day of Evangelism - Together for the Illawarra - Saturday 14th March

Details: 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Living Water Lutheran Church, 15 Burelli St, Wollongong

Christians Against Poverty Course - Tuesdays 17th, 24th & 31st March

Learn how to manage your money

Details: 7:00 p.m. Kiama Uniting Church, cnr Manning & Bong Bong Sts.

Contact: Marion Ratray on 4233 2490

Keiraview Uniting Church Market Day - Saturday 21st March

Fundraising for maintenance work to Agape Children's Home in Chiang Mail, Thailand.

Details: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Keiraview Uniting Church, Fisher St, West Wollongong.

Jim McLaughlan of Enlarge Ministries - Saturday 21st March

Hosted by River of Life Church, Jim McLaughlan is a pastor from Gaggalah Church, Tweed Heads and has a prophetic ministry.

Details: 6:00 p.m. Koonawarra Community Centre

Contact: Ps May Housler 0413 488 496

Mission to Seafarers AGM - Sunday 22nd March

Details: 2:00 p.m. Mission Hall, 55 Darcy Rd, Port Kembla

RSVP to [Louise Del Rio](mailto:Louise.DelRio@missiontoseafarers.org.au) 4274 6498 by 13/3/20 for afternoon tea.

Care Cafe - Tuesday 24th March

Speaker: retired geriatrician Dr Russell Clark on "Ageing is an Enigma: should I laugh or cry?"

Details: 4:00 p.m. Church Point Centre, Kiama Anglican Church, 2 Terralong St, Kiama

RSVP for afternoon tea catering: office@kiamaanglican.org.au or ph 4232 2066 by 23/03/20

[Download flyer.](#)

School Term 1 ends - Thursday 9th April

Good Friday - 10 April

Easter - Sunday, 12 April

VMTC Ministry Training School, Gerringong - Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th April

Four days of practical training, worship, & personal ministry

Cost: Live in \$335 pp; Registration fee \$60.

Apply online: www.vmtc.org.au/ministry/training-schools

Othodox Easter - Sunday, 19 April

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