



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: **3,546**

Prayer

- 1. Jeanette Erickson** of the **5icm Management Committee** last week suggested prayer that "the people of the Illawarra be calm and not stress too much over the coronavirus affecting shopping and food supplies." And now we can add being isolated from the church. Remember Christians are not cut adrift in the world, Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit and we can talk to him anytime. The **World Council of Churches** suggested the following COVID-19 prayer.

WCC member church, The United Church of Canada posted "[A Prayer During Times of COVID-19](#)." It reads in part,

"In this time of COVID-19, we pray:

When we aren't sure, God, help us be calm;

when information comes from all sides, correct and not, help us to discern;

when fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day, slow us down, God;

help us to reach out with our hearts, when we can't touch with our hands;

help us to be socially connected, when we have to be socially distant;

help us to love as perfectly as we can, knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

- 2. Trevor Lucas** of **Jamberoo Anglican** sent the following prayer request.

"... a most pressing matter for Illawarra Anglicans is for the Wollongong Region Jesus is... Mission, taking place over the coming month, in which, through publicity by T-shirts, badges etc, we seek to engage people to talk about Jesus. I said for Anglicans but I suppose that anyone known to be a Christian might be asked what it is all about. We pray for opportunities to let people know who Jesus really is in the face of much popular ignorance and misunderstanding."

News

- 1.** Most Illawarra churches transitioned their Worship Services to online last Sunday after the Government restricted public meetings of up to 100 people to 4 square metres per person. Some churches had technical problems and some presentations were not very professional, but there was little time to prepare. On the plus side, the videos of the Services can be viewed at a time to suit the congregational member and they can "attend" any number of Services online.
- 2.** As of yesterday, the Government restricted all church services and meetings (in enclosed spaces or outdoors) other than very small groups and where the one person per four square meter rule applies (see [here](#)).

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.

Rehearsals **CANCELLED**.

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@5icm.org.au) 0499 444 151

Care Cafe **CANCELLED** - 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.](#)

Good Friday - 10 April

Easter - Sunday, 12 April

VMTC Ministry Training School, Gerringong **CANCELLED** - Thurs 16th to Sun 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

ANZAC Day - Saturday, 25 April

Kiama Uniting Church Hymnsing **CANCELLED** - Sunday 26th April

Sing favourite hymns for one hour followed by afternoon tea.

Details: 2:00 p.m. Kiama Uniting Church, 19 Bong Bong Rd, cnr Manning St.

Contact for hymn requests and further information: Phone Gail on 4232 1630 or Reuben on 4233 2490.

CMS Illawarra Meeting **CANCELLED** - Thursday 7th May

Hear from missionaries about their work. BYO Lunch and mug, tea and coffee provided.

Venue and time: 12:30-2:00p.m., St Mark's Anglican Church, West Wollongong

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

[Illawarra Prayer Breakfast](#) **CANCELLED** - Friday 29th May

Speaker: Mark McCrindle of McCrindle Research

Cost: Early Bird \$450 per table before 20/3/20 (\$500 after).

See the [5icm Events page](#) for more events, the **Regular Events** list, and latest cancellations.