

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: 3,540

Prayer

1. Victoria Cowling of **St Mark's Anglican Church**, West Wollongong, emailed: -

"Please pray for the church leaders in the Illawarra as they endeavour to lead their congregations during this time of isolation. May God give them wisdom as they think of creative ways to point the church to Jesus."

2. Bishop Reg Piper has requested prayer for his **Wollongong City Bible Talks** that he is doing online (see details below). Reg says that a few people outside the Illawarra intend to join online.

3. Towradgi Congregational Church Deacons will be meeting with the Committee of the Fellowship of Congregational Churches to determine the future of this church.

4. Karen Royters, a Teacher's Aide at **Calderwood Christian School**, sent the following for prayer.

"I would like to give great thanks and praise for our new Principal, Mr Darren Hutton, at Calderwood Christian School, CCS, (known previously as Tongarra Christian School). Darren took up the appointment of Principal at the beginning of 2020 and as we have all come to know, it has been a year like no other!

Darren has shown Godly and wise leadership, especially during COVID, and has done a fantastic job of following government and health authorities' advice in protecting our school community and keeping Staff and families informed, valued and safe during this challenging time. From Monday, 25th May (Week 5 Term 2) we are very excited to welcome the full-time return of all our students back to CCS. We would value prayer for students who are feeling anxious and overwhelmed as they return to school, and that we, as Staff, would support families and students well in their transition, and as we partner with them in Christian Education.

Please pray also for the Staff to honour God with our work at CCS, as we work well for the Lord (Colossians 3:23), and that we would be growing in our faith and actively serving the Lord in our local churches, with all of our God-given gifts and talents.

And please pray too that our God honouring school would grow with the new families in our area, and those who are resettling in the Calderwood Valley subdivision, as we shine as a beacon of hope pointing to our Lord Jesus here at CCS.

I have been blessed to be part of Illawarra Christian Education for over 25 years now, and thank God for CCS.

Many thanks, Karen Royters."

5. Adele Latu emailed the following prayer request.

"Prayer request is for families -

For Christian's to see the need AND act upon it - to teach their children the Word of God.

To praise and pray IN THE HOME!!"

News and Feedback

1. In the midst of a pandemic, **Rev. David Rietveld** arrived as the new rector of **Dapto Anglican Church**. "David Rietveld [was] the Senior Pastor at New Peninsula Baptist Church – a larger Baptist Church south east of Melbourne. Before that David was the Rector of Wellspring Anglican Church in Hobart, Tasmania. Before that an Associate Minister, and the Youth and Young Adults Minister at Figtree Anglican. David was ordained in Sydney, and trained at Moore College." Welcome to the prayer network.
2. The **National Day of Thanks** is on **Saturday 30th May**. Send an electronic *Thank You* or post a card to someone you want to thank. Michelle Mitchell, an NDOT Ambassador and family psychologist, has been interviewed on [YouTube](#) about coping with Covid-19 restrictions.
3. **Fr George Mankuzhikary** has been farewelled from Wollongong Catholic Diocese as he goes to the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes. Fr George ministered to the Syro-Malabar people in Wollongong Diocese.
4. **Covid-19 restrictions on meetings** continue to affect church meetings with only the following allowed.
 - Outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people,
 - **Up to 5 visitors may visit another household** at any one time,
 - Weddings can have up to 10 guests plus the celebrant and couple,
 - Indoor funerals can have up to 20 mourners and outdoor funerals up to 30,
 - Religious gatherings and **places of worship can have up to 10 worshippers**.Note that since these guidelines assume 1.5m distancing, and 4m²/person in a room for indoor gatherings, along with good hygiene practices, and contact tracing provisions, home group meetings will still be difficult. And of course, if you are at all unwell you must stay at home.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,
Illawarra Prayer Network

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Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra

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

Rehearsals **CANCELLED**. Contact: [John Sandercock](#) 0499 444 151

Wollongong Uniting Church Bible Study - Wednesdays from 13th May

Details: 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Zoom. All welcome.

Contact: Doo Ah Leeming on 0416 491 531

Gerringong/Kiama/Jamberoo Bible Society Action Group

Annual Prayer Morning - Tuesday 19th May

Details: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. on Zoom

Contact: Barb Mathie by [email](#) or phone 4234 1576 or 0411 212 874 for the Zoom link, etc.

Wollongong City Bible Talks - Thursdays to 25th June

Bishop Reg Piper will be teaching on 2 Corinthians.

Details: 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. All welcome.

Contact: [Reg Piper](#) 0408 029 379 or 4284 1128.

[National Day of Thanks](#) - Saturday 30th May

Pentecost Sunday 31st May

Queen's Birthday - Monday, 8 June 2020

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