

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. **Craig Langstaff**, the Assistant Minister at **St Mark's Anglican Church** West Wollongong submitted the following for prayer.

"Pray that churches in the Illawarra are able to reflect on what they have learnt during this recent period of on-line Sunday gatherings & consider how they might incorporate positive lessons from this period into their resumed gatherings face-to-face."

2. **Dianne Avery** of **Albion Park Uniting Church** sent the following for prayer.

"Dianne Avery and Lyn Brown ask for prayer that volunteer workers and helpers are soon able to return and re-commence packing the **Operation Christmas Child** shoe boxes, and that many Illawarra Churches, Schools, organisations and individuals will support the project again, as one more shoe box gift means that one more child will get the opportunity to hear and learn about Jesus."

News and Feedback

1. The **Illawarra Prayer Network** has been praying for 20 years, having been formed after the Harvest 2000 outreach. The network of prayer warriors from many churches and denominations raises local issues with God. If you think God might be calling you to this ministry, please email me. The position of President has been vacant since 2006. Other areas you can serve are editing the newsletter, administering the *Illawarra Christians* Facebook group, and maintaining the 5icm website. Or you might have other relevant areas of expertise such as running Zoom prayer meetings. All positions are voluntary.
2. **Covid-19 restrictions** on church meetings are as follows.
 - Churches must have a **Covid-19 Safety Plan** ([download here](#) or develop your own).
 - Up to 20 visitors may visit another **household** at any one time, provided physical distancing is maintained.
 - **Weddings** can have up to 20 guests plus the celebrant/s, the couple, a photographer, and a videographer.
 - **Funerals** can have up to 50 mourners plus minister and funeral directors.
 - Religious gatherings and **places of worship can have up to 50 worshippers plus the minister/s**. Places of worship are asked to find alternatives to practices that might spread the virus like singing, sharing books and passing around the collection plate to reduce infection risks. A small number of singers at the front, and at least 3m away from the congregation, is allowed. Churches with halls or outdoor areas cannot simultaneously have 50 people in each separate area. See the Government [checklist here](#).
 - **Places of public worship** may be used for other purposes, e.g. classes or organised events, but a maximum of 20 people plus the person/s conducting the event are allowed. All such classes and events need to have a COVID-19 safety plan in place.

- Churches that meet in a **school hall** will need to contact the school and sign an agreement to comply with current expectations.

Note that these guidelines require 1.5m distancing, and more than 4 sq m/person in a room for indoor gatherings, good hygiene practices, contact tracing provisions, and if you are at all unwell you must stay at home.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,
Illawarra Prayer Network

A member of the registered charity, **Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.**

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