

Clearing the Way for Jesus

The newsletter of the Illawarra Prayer Network and 5icm 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/jpn.html. Please send prayer requests and feedback to prayer@5icm.org.au.
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Prayer

- 1. Rev. Jodie McNeil**, the senior minister of **Jamberoo Anglican Church** contributed the following for prayer which would apply to a number of churches that are streaming their services online.

"Please pray that the many people who have joined us via Facebook for the totally-live broadcast of Jamberoo Anglican Church might continue to engage with God in his word by his Spirit through these online gatherings, and then, God willing, join us face-to-face when they feel ready. We're praying that many people would find Christ through this crisis, to his glory!"

- 2. Ian Wiley** of **Southern Illawarra Church of Christ** emailed:

"Heavenly Father,

A PRAYER FOR CONTINUED PROTECTION AGAINST COVID-19

We thank you for the continuing protection we have been given in this region against COVID-19. Lord, we look across state borders and see how easily this virus can spread. We look to other nations and see how deadly this virus can be without the level of governance we are blessed with in this country. Lord, we thank you that we are in a "safe spot", and not a "hot spot". We ask your blessing on our health workers as they strive to save lives, and on our researchers as they seek out a vaccine to safeguard our nation. Please keep us safe.

In Jesus' Name we pray – Amen."

- 3. Luke Fields**, a teacher at **Edmund Rice College** said his "local community of Kiama / Gerringong have had multiple suicides of young people over the last month." Luke suggested for prayer:

"God, we celebrate the gift of life for each person.

We commit to nurturing the wellbeing of each person here. We know for some, life is a burden filled with suffering.

Help us to talk about our fears, our anger, and our despair with someone we trust.

We celebrate that life has purpose and meaning. For some, purpose and meaning are like dry bones, dead and lifeless.

Remind us that You know us by name.

You know our place and purpose in this world. We are created to live in community. Some feel alone, unloved and disconnected.

Give us courage to reach out with love to someone who needs us. May we be Your presence with them. Teach us to be gentle and non-judgmental.

We remember those who ended their life before it was time.

Comfort those who grieve and bring healing."

News and Feedback

1. Our survey indicated that the majority (39%) of respondents would prefer the *Illawarra Prayer Network* to be transferred to *Together for the Illawarra*. Hengki Widjaja has indicated that *Together for the Illawarra* has agreed to explore the transition. In the meantime, I will continue to seek prayer requests for this newsletter, which will now become **monthly**. There has been an expression of interest in the position of IPN President from Greg Bondar of Sutherland Shire, which I have forwarded to Hengki.
2. The internal renewal work at **St Francis Xavier's Catholic Cathedral** is nearing completion and the Cathedral will be reopened at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday 30th August with a live streamed Mass.
3. **Brett Davis** emailed about the **Men's Bootcamp** being conducted online and at various northern Illawarra venues. See www.niccbootcamp2020.com.au for details.
4. **Covid-19 restrictions** relevant to churches have not changed since 24th July.
 - Churches must have a 24th July version **Covid-19 Safety Plan** ([download from NSW Government website here](#) or develop your own) and [register](#) as a **COVID Safe venue**.
 - **Religious gatherings and places of worship** are limited a maximum of **100** people. It is recommended that the congregation wears face masks. Places of worship are asked to find alternatives to practices that might spread the virus such as, sharing books and passing around a collection plate/bag. Congregational singing is not allowed. Only one or two (physically distanced) singers at the front, and at least 3m away from the congregation, is allowed. Online giving is recommended.
 - **Weddings** are limited to a maximum of **150** people, except for a wedding in a place of worship, which can have up to **100** people.
 - **Funerals** are limited to a maximum of **100** people.

Note that these guidelines require 1.5m distancing and no more than one person per 4 sq m, good hygiene practices, contact tracing provisions, and if you are at all unwell you must stay at home and if you have flu-like symptoms, get tested.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,

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Illawarra Prayer Network and

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A registered charity.

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