



No. 374, 16/2/21

Clearing the Way for Jesus

The newsletter of *Five Islands Christian Ministries* links Christians and churches from Helensburgh to Gerroa to promote church unity. Printer-friendly 2 x A4 PDF files of the newsletter may be downloaded from www.5icm.org.au/index_files/ctwfj.html. Please send news items, prayer requests and comments to admin@5icm.org.au.
Distribution of this edition: 3,559

Prayer

1. Pray for the future of the **Illawarra Prayer Network** as it now comes under *Together for the Illawarra*. A subscriber sign-up page has been set up here: <http://eepurl.com/daSM1r>. The sign-up page has been set up under the *Illawarra Prayer Breakfast* account. *Together for the Illawarra* intends producing one newsletter for *Kingdom Connections Illawarra*, *Illawarra Prayer Breakfast* and the *Illawarra Prayer Network*.
2. Tomorrow is **Ash Wednesday** and the beginning of **Lent**. Many Christians fast from something to help them focus on the Lord. If you want to be more positive spend time each day in prayer and reflection on the Gospels. Try praying Scripture using the Psalms, e.g. Psalm 85:6-10 (NRSV):

"Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other."

Feedback

1. In spite of our prayers for water safety over the holiday period three men drowned off Port Kembla and last week another two men drowned in the same place.
2. **Lyn Brown**, who attends Albion Park Uniting Church, thanks everyone who contributed to the Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes. Due to Covid-19 restrictions many of the shoeboxes did not get sent until after Christmas. The shoeboxes were sent to Malawi, Fiji, Madagascar and Cambodia. More are leaving shortly to the Solomon Islands and Cambodia. Lyn wrote:

"Thank you to all the Churches and individuals who have supported **Operation Christmas Child**, this past year, and some over many years. You have blessed many children, their families and their communities.

2020 – a difficult year for most charities, as it was for OCC and yet God always has His almighty hand on us, lovingly guiding each of us in MINISTRY for the Kingdom. So here is what happened numbers wise last year...

2020 we sent 214,301 gifts, considering Victoria was in full lockdown for most of the pre-collection period and travel was almost non-existent for everyone else, this is simply a miraculous result – praise the Lord!

NSW and ACT – 2019 sent 96,530

2020 total for NSW was 81,277. Again, a phenomenal result in a very difficult year.

Globally in 2019 - 10.5 million gifts were sent

In 2020 – 9.1 million gifts were delivered – in the past 26 years 187 million gifts have been delivered to over 100 countries.

Unfortunately, it is a little bit too early to have “The Greatest Journey Bible Study Course” figures. This is a twelve-week Course available to all the children who receive a shoebox, where it is permitted in the country.

Please pray that millions will still be able to know and understand God’s love and will accept Him as Lord.

Lyn Brown Ph. 4256 1487 Mobile 0425 219 233

Robyn Johnson Ph.0414 307 910”

Illawarra Church News

- 1. St Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church** agreed last November to re-join the Greek Orthodox church based in Constantinople. Previously they were an Autocephalic Greek Orthodox Church, which has an independent congregational structure.
- 2. Rev. Graham Anson** has commenced as senior minister at **Corrimal Region Uniting Church**. Mrs Vicki Osten has become the senior minister at **Grace Church, Shellharbour**. Rev. Rob Sharp has resigned as senior minister of **Harbour Church** and Michael Blake is the Acting Rector.
- 4. Most Rev. Philip Wilson**, who was the Catholic Bishop of Wollongong 1996-2001, died 17/1/21, aged 70. **Darryl Stewart**, the Convenor of *Kingdom Connections Illawarra* 2010-2021, died 12/1/21 aged 73. **Bishop Emeritus Peter Ingham**, Catholic Bishop of Wollongong 2001-2018, celebrated his 80th birthday online last month.
- 5. The NSW Government’s [Covid-19 requirements for places of worship](#)** have changed several times since our last newsletter. The current NSW regulations restrict the number of people, including children, at a church service to the 2 sq m rule (note that up to 25 people are allowed before the 2 sq m rule applies). Face masks are not mandatory.

Up to five singers facing forward are allowed provided they maintain 5m spacing with the congregation/conductor. Singers and musicians alike are to maintain a 1.5m physical distance between each other.

Churches need to have a registered Covid-19 Safety Plan and keep an attendance record by QR Code, electronic or paper sign in.

- 6. Soul Recovery**, a 12-step support group for those struggling with addictions to drugs, alcohol, gambling, sex & love, over-eating, co-dependency, etc., is meeting at 8:00 p.m. Monday nights at Central Church, 4 Fitzwilliam St, Port Kembla. Contact: Jonathan Hyratt on 0412 174 181 or email life_recovery@hotmail.com. Jonathan is the associate minister of Corrimal Community Church.

- 7. Spirituality in the Pub** is on Tuesday 23rd February at Woonona RSL Club from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The guest speaker is Capt. Robyn Black of the Tarrawanna Salvation Army Corp speaking on "The Beginnings and Mission of the Salvation Army". Enquiries to Ann on 0427 235 955 or email wollsip@gmail.com. All welcome.
- 8. The annual World Day of Prayer** is on Friday 5th March. The services in the Illawarra are listed below under Events. If you can't get to one of these, there will be online alternatives such as [here](#).

Sicm News

- 1. Wollongong Gospel Choir** was to recommence rehearsals this month, but Covid restrictions did not allow singing. Their next proposed concert at Albion Park Community Church has been postponed a second time.
- 2. Albion Park Community Church**, due to the relaxing of Covid spacing rules, has relocated to the Albion Park HACC Centre for regular Saturday evening Services. However, whenever an attendance of over 40 people is anticipated the Service will be held in the larger Centenary Hall which is adjacent.
- 3. The CTWFJ newsletter** is now monthly, the next issue to be sent on **9th March**. Please email me items for the newsletter a few days earlier to give me time to prepare.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,

Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.
A registered charity.

website: www.5icm.org.au | email: admin@5icm.org.au | phone: 4256 5780 |   [Tweet](#)

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Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra

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

Rehearsals **CANCELLED until further notice.**

Contact: [John Sandercock](mailto:John.Sandercock@wollongongcongregation.com.au) 0499 444 151

Friday 5th March

World Day of Prayer - "Build on a Strong Foundation"

Order of Service prepared by women of Vanuatu.

Illawarra Services:

Hope Church

6/17 Cemetery Rd, Helensburgh

Contact: 0404 803 055

Corrimal Region Uniting Church

10:00 a.m. 4 Russell St, Corrimal

Contact: 4283 2439

St Marks Anglican Church

10:00 a.m. Crown St, West Wollongong

Contact: 0403 194 577

Wollongong Congregational Church

10:00 a.m. 33 Market St, Wollongong

RSVP: 4229 5248, wollongongcongregation@gmail.com

Port Kembla Baptist Church

Cancelled - may be held online

Contact: 0419 479 250

Dapto Baptist Church

10:00 a.m. Emerson Rd, Dapto

Contact: 0403 511 490

Shellharbour Uniting Church

10:00 a.m. Mary St, Shellharbour Village

Contact: 0438 026 846

Scott's Presbyterian Church

10:30 a.m. Terralong St, Kiama

Contact: 4232 1020

St George Anglican Church

Fern St, Gerringong

Contact: 4234 2346

Saturday 6th March

Keiraview Uniting Church Market Day

Fund raiser for Agape Children's Home in Thailand. There will be stalls for cakes, plants, books, trash and treasure, a sausage sizzle, Thai food, Devonshire Teas and kid's activities.

Details: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 34 Fisher St, West Wollongong

Friday 12th March

Illawarra Prayer Breakfast 2021 Launch

See the [Sicm Events page](#) for latest information on events and for Regular Events.