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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.
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Prayer

1. The **Illawarra Prayer Network** now comes under *Together for the Illawarra*. You may subscribe to the Illawarra Prayer Breakfast newsletter here: <http://eepurl.com/daSM1r>.
2. **Easter** is approaching. Pray for the Services on Palm Sunday (28/3/21), Maundy Thursday (1/4/21), Good Friday (2/4/21) and Easter Sunday (4/4/21) to be outstanding times of people in the Illawarra coming together to honour our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
3. A year has passed since the WHO declared **Covid-19** a global pandemic. The [World Council of Churches](#) has called for a **week of prayer from 22nd to 27th March**.

"A global online prayer service with participation from the eight WCC regions will be convened during the week, and a collection of resources will be made available on the WCC website by 18 March 2021, in English, French, German and Spanish."

Feedback

1. The **World Day of Prayer** was celebrated across the Illawarra with Services held in seven churches.

Illawarra Church News

1. Melbourne's [City on a Hill Church](#) is to plant a church in Wollongong. **Ps Joel Deacon** has been sent to Wollongong to plant the new church. Joel is familiar with the Illawarra since he was an assistant pastor at Wollongong Baptist Church before he moved to Melbourne in July 2018. The new church is expected to start public services in October.

I met with Joel to discuss church planting. The number of churches in the Illawarra (currently 168) has not been keeping up with the growth in population, let alone winning a greater percentage of people to Christ. We welcome all the help we can get.

2. **Fr Victor Vincent** of **St Francis Xavier Cathedral** is to be farewelled on 21st March as he leaves to become Assistant Priest of Camden Catholic Parish.
3. The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong is seeking a [Youth Ministry Coordinator](#). Applications are due by 16th March.
4. I noticed on the Internet that Ps Andrew Cartledge who founded [Hillsong Church Wollongong](#) has moved on to Victoria. Ps Nathan & Jess McLean are now the Wollongong Campus Pastors.

5. The NSW Government's [Covid-19 requirements for places of worship](#) continue to be amended, so please check with the website. The current NSW regulations restrict the number of people, including children, at a church service to the 2 sq m rule with up to 30 singers allowed, facing the congregation and spaced 5m from them. Face masks are not mandatory but recommended. If the congregation is allowed to sing, all members of the congregation over 12 years of age, and who are not otherwise exempt, must wear face masks and the 4 sq m rule applies while the singing is in progress. This may mean for those churches that allow the children to go out to Kids Church at some point in the Service, the remaining congregants can then put on face masks and sing. For outdoor settings, there is no limit on the number of people that can sing but it is recommended to wear face masks.

Singers facing forward must 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.

The number of people allowed to visit a home is 50. Weddings and funerals are limited to a maximum of 300 people subject to the 2 sq m rule. [In regional areas](#), events held outside in a public place are restricted to 100 people, but in [Wollongong](#) it is 50.

Sicm News

1. **Wollongong Gospel Choir** are hopeful that Covid restrictions will be relaxed sufficiently to allow singing so that they can recommence rehearsals in second term (19/4/21). Please check their [Facebook group](#) for an announcement at the end of March. The choir's next proposed concert at Albion Park Community Church is tentatively booked for July.
2. **Albion Park Community Church**, which usually meets in the Albion Park HACC Centre for its Saturday evening Services, will meet in the adjacent Centenary Hall this Saturday 13/3/21 due to a larger anticipated attendance with Andrew Fisher leading the worship and Andrew McLaughlan as guest after-dinner speaker. All welcome. The Service includes a free meal. To help the church know the numbers for catering, please let [Mel Moore](#) know if you are coming with a group of people.
3. **Gary Hetherington** of **Revival Ministries** has been holding Zoom prayer meetings for his proposed outreach in Canowindra and the central west of the State. Gary is patiently waiting on God's timing for the outreach tour.
4. The next issue of the monthly CTWFJ newsletter will be sent on **13th April**. Please email me any items for the newsletter prior to that date.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,

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