



No. 388, 10/5/22

## 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/resources.html](http://www.5icm.org.au/resources.html).

Distribution of this edition: **3,636**

### Prayer

1. When Ezra the priest read the Scriptures to the returned exiles they realised how far they had wandered from God's law. But Nehemiah perceived the joy of the Lord at what had happened and assured God's people that they could rejoice with the Lord, for He was pleased that his children were released from slavery. Over us too, the Lord rejoices when we repent and are saved. Meditate and pray on this passage.

#### **Nehemiah 8:10 (NRSV)**

<sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

### Illawarra Church News

1. **St Mark's Anglican Church, West Wollongong** is seeking to fill the position of **Cafe Manager** to oversee the midweek operation of our on-site facility Saints Espresso. We are looking for a committed Christian with a passion for coffee, food and hospitality to manage our space to support our ministries and establish a welcoming place for our local community. Further details, including a full job description, can be found at our church website (<https://stmarkswv.org.au>), under the 'About Us' section. Applications close Friday 13th May, 2022.
2. **Rev. Jason Antoniadis** is the new pastor at the Congregational Church, Wollongong.
3. **Rev. James Arblaster** was ordained a Deacon at a joyous Service at St Francis Xavier Catholic Cathedral on 30th April 2022.
4. **NewDay Church** has two positions available: a Families Pastor and an Admin Officer. Details can be downloaded from [fresh hope](#).
5. **Rev. Dr Matthew Wilson**, previously at Nowra Uniting Church will become the Illawarra Presbytery Minister – Mission from 1st June. Rev Grant Bilbey, the present Presbytery Minister will continue in the role of Presbytery Minister – Vital Ministry.
6. **Gedeon Tito Rutabura** and **Justin Ndengeye Bugegeri** were commissioned as Pastors in **Wollongong Mission Uniting Church** on 30/1/22 and are holding a multilingual service on Sunday afternoons at the church for others who have fled persecution in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Ten DRC families have joined them. Both Gedeon and Justin have experience in ministering in DRC.
7. **Rev. Steve Everist** was commissioned as minister of **Gerringong Uniting Church** on 11/12/22.

## **Sicm News**

- 1. Wollongong Gospel Choir** has recommenced its regular Tuesday night rehearsals. If you are interested in joining (no audition is required) just turn up at a rehearsal. For further information, see the WGC [Facebook group](#) or [website](#).
- 2. Albion Park Community Church** has ceased its public meetings and is in the process of winding up. The church was a bold experiment in pursuing Mel Moore-Foye's vision for an inclusive church that sought to feed the poor. Unfortunately, the poor of the area did not come, neither did any LGBTQ+ people, and many Christians were unable to accept worshipping alongside Christians of dissimilar beliefs (Catholic/Protestant/Pentecostal, LGBTQ+).  
  
Thanks to all those who attended any of the 84 Services (average attendance was 23.5) and thanks also to the 17 guest speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds. A few of the remaining members are continuing to meet at my place. Contact me if you are interested in another church experiment, this time an organic house church where members are learning to move in the gifts of the Spirit.
- 3. Gary Hetherington** now has several volunteers to help with the upcoming Canowindra outreach but more are welcome to join him. Gary holds Zoom meetings each week for the Canowindra and central west of NSW. Visit [Gary's Facebook page](#) for the latest details and to contact him via Facebook messenger. Gary's Zoom meeting details are on the [Sicm website](#).
- 4.** The next issue of the monthly ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 14th June**. Please email me any items for the next newsletter prior to that date. Regular events are listed on the [Sicm website](#). Please inform me of any changes.

God bless,  
Derek Thompson,  
*Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.*  
A registered charity.

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## **Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra**

### **Wollongong Gospel Choir – Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays during school terms.**

7:00 pm. At Wollongong Senior Citizens Centre, 192 Gipps Road, Gwynneville.

Contact: [John Sandercock](#) 0499 444 151

### **Wednesday 18th May, Emmanuel Bookshop Closing Down Sale**

The former mobile bookshop of OutBack Ministries is selling its stock of books, DVDs, etc.

Note: no EFTPOS available.

Details: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Shellharbour Village Uniting Church hall in Mary Street, Shellharbour Village.

Contact: [Albert Abel](#) 4297 7161

### **Friday 20th May, Mary Help of Christians Walk for Australia**

"We walk to raise prayers for Australia for all life issues, the day before the Federal Election. You are warmly welcome to join us in our tenth year, praying along the Kiama Coastal Walk to Gerringong (13km). BYO lunch, snacks, water and hat. Support vehicle provided all the way, shuttle cars return pilgrims to Kiama."

Details: Starts at 9:30 a.m. with a Mass for Catholics at Kiama Catholic Church. Finishes 3:30 p.m. Gerringong Catholic Church

Contacts: Sue Hill 0435 336 195 and Gabriella De Battista 4261 2500.

See the [Sicm Events page](#) for more events and the **Regular Events** list.