



No. 379, 6/7/21

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

Please send news items, prayer requests and comments to [admin@5icm.org.au](mailto:admin@5icm.org.au).

Distribution of this edition: **3,604**

### Illawarra Church News

- 1. Sue Meehan** emailed, "**Australian Church Women Inc.** seeks to unite Christian women across denominational boundaries to promote peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in one God, Father Son and Holy Spirit." Details of the Illawarra Branches upcoming event are given below. It is good to see the women of the region promoting church unity.
- 2. Testimony Church** had just relocated Services to Berkeley Neighbourhood Centre, 10:00 a.m. Sundays after a Covid break when the latest restrictions again interrupted them. They have gone online.
- 3. Rev. Joshua McPaul** has been inducted as senior minister of **Northern Illawarra Uniting Church**. Welcome to the Illawarra, Josh.
- 4. Mrs Meg McAlister** has been appointed as the Catholic Wollongong Diocesan Youth Minister.
- 5. Fr Geoff Allen** died Thursday, 24 June aged 80. From the funeral booklet: "Fr Geoff Allen worked in the Police Force for 40 years from 1958 to 1998. He began his journey to the Priesthood with the Diocese of Broken Bay in 2006, spending time in formation for the Priesthood at the Beda College, Rome. After completing his Master's Degree in Theology at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, he undertook priestly formation at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd at Homebush (Sydney.) Fr Geoff continued his pathway to Ordination with the Diocese of Wollongong, completing pastoral placements at St Frances Xavier's Cathedral, Wollongong, and St Therese Parish, West Wollongong. Upon being ordained Deacon, he served at Holy Cross Parish, Helensburgh. Following his Ordination to the Priesthood on 17 December 2011, Fr Geoff ministered in the following parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong: All Saints Catholic Parish, Shellharbour City Assistant Priest, 2012; St Paul's Parish, Albion Park Assistant Priest, 2014; Northern Illawarra Parishes – Bulli, Corrimal, Thirroul Assistant Priest, 2016. During his years as priest, Fr Geoff served as a member of the Wollongong Professional Standards Resource Group, incorporating the Child Protection Review & Planning Team, as well as being appointed at Part-time Chaplain to minister to NSW Police Force employees."
- 6. Ps. John Terrell**, after serving as senior pastor at **Horsley Christian Church** for five years, was farewelled last week and has left the country.
- 7. Sr Petra Dorothy** made her Solemn Monastic Profession on 29th June at Jamberoo Abbey. The ceremony is on [Youtube](#).
- 8.** The present NSW Government's [Covid-19 requirements](#) prevent us from leaving our homes without a reasonable excuse. So, churches in Wollongong and Shellharbour will not be able to meet. On Friday 9th July, the restrictions will be re-evaluated. In Kiama, the restrictions are a bit more lenient ([see here](#)).

## Sicm News

- 1. Wollongong Gospel Choir** is rehearsing for the choir's concert at Albion Park Community Church's Christmas-in-July community outreach. The choir is seeking new members. No audition required. Please check their [Facebook group](#) for details.
- 2. Albion Park Community Church**, if Covid-19 restrictions allow, will have Capt. Robyn Black of Tarrawanna Salvation Army Corp as guest speaker on Saturday 10th July. Robyn will speak on the history of the Salvation Army. On 24th July, APCC is hosting a **Christmas in July** event to be held in Centenary Hall, Tongarra Rd, Albion Park. Free tickets at [Eventbrite](#).
- 3.** The second edition of my book **Achieving Atonement** has been published in digital format, the hard copy is still to be printed. Comments on the original version have been incorporated and some additional material and clarifications made. It was pleasing to hear that the book is being used as a textbook in a Barbados Bible College. You can download a free copy in ePub or pdf formats from the [Sicm Resources page](#).
- 4.** The next issue of the monthly **Clearing the Way for Jesus newsletter** will be sent on **10th August**. Please email me any items for the next newsletter prior to that date.

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 on Tuesdays during school term times.**

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

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

### **Friday 30th July (Note changed date)**

#### **[Australian Church Women](#) Annual Fellowship Day**

The Illawarra Branch of *Australian Church Women* seeks to unite Christian Women across denominational boundaries and is hosting an ecumenical service followed by morning tea.

*Speaker:* Trish McCarthy on "Holiness in the Ordinary"

*Venue:* 10:00 a.m. Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church, 47 Balmoral St, Balgownie

*RSVP (to assist with numbers for catering):* Sue Meehan 0422 614 522

### **Saturday 21st August**

#### **[Wollongong Women's Conference 2021](#)**

Hosted by The Gospel Coalition Australia, Illawarra Chapter.

Clare Deeves will speak on the book of Hebrews.

*Venue:* 9:30am - 3:30pm (Doors open at 9am) Uni Hall, University of Wollongong, Northfields Avenue, Wollongong

*Cost:* \$55 (\$50 Early Bird until 1/7/21), \$40 concession, \$30 high schoolers

*Tickets:* [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com)

### **Saturday 28th August (Note changed date)**

#### **Walking Between Worlds Workshop**

Learn how to offer better support for LGBTI+ people and do less harm.

*Speaker:* Anthony Venn-Brown OAM.

*Venue:* 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Central Church, 4 Fitzwilliam St, Port Kembla

*Cost:* \$30 per person (includes morning tea). [Download flyer](#).

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