



No. 385, 8/2/22

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.

Please send news items, prayer requests and comments to admin@5icm.org.au.

Distribution of this edition: **3,693**

Prayer

The **World Day of Prayer** is on Friday 4th March. If you can't get to one of the Services in the Illawarra, you can download the Service resources from the [WDP Website](#).

Illawarra Church News

1. A thank you message from the **Operation Christmas Child** team.

"Thank you to individuals and Churches who took part in Operation Christmas Child 'Shoeboxes of Love' last year.

We made up 8,161 shoeboxes from our workshed in Albion Park. 63,346 came from NSW, and 205,506 from Australia/New Zealand. Due to the problems we had with Covid, this was a very exciting final figure. The countries they have gone to are Fiji, Cambodia, Solomon Islands, Madagascar, Malawi & Papua New Guinea.

As you know, once a shoebox is given, other needs in their communities are then identified and resourced, such as clean water, schools and education needs, agriculture and health.

The gifts enable Samaritan's Purse to share not only a shoe box of love, but also the greatest gift ever given – Jesus.

We are truly blessed to have your support. Thank you.

Lyn Brown - 0425 219 233

Robyn Johnson - 0414 307 910"

2. **Clergy moves.** **Fr Anthony Crook** has been appointed as Priest to the Parishes of St Columbkille's, Corrimal and St Joseph's, Bulli, working with Parish Priest Rev Fr Patrick Vaughan. **Major Robyn Black** has been relocated from Tarrawanna Salvation Army Corp to Auburn and **Lieut.-Colonel Lyn Edge** has commenced at Wollongong Corp replacing Majors Phil & Rebecca Inglis who have gone to Victoria. **Rev. David Esdale** has been farewelled from Corrimal Anglican church.

3. **Church moves.** **True Worship Church** has relocated from Windang to the former Council Library building in Warilla.

4. The State Government's [Covid-19 restrictions](#) allow anyone to attend church services regardless of vaccination status but face masks still need to be worn, and the 2 sq m rule density limit applies. Singing is allowed. Anyone who might have Covid-19 should not attend.

Sicm News

- 1. Wollongong Gospel Choir's** regular Tuesday night rehearsals haven't been held since the Covid restrictions prevented them last year. John Sandercock emailed last week, "However, with the current uncertainty in regard to group singing, we have decided to delay the recommencement of our rehearsals and will review the situation again at the end of February." Details will be provided on their [website](#) and [Facebook group](#).
- 2. Albion Park Community Church** is an ecumenical church and a member of Sicm. We have guest speakers from a wide range of churches. On 12th February **Jade Jordan of YWAM** will be the speaker. Young people who are interested in taking a YWAM course are warmly invited to attend. On Saturday 26th February, **James Arblaster**, a Catholic Seminarian, will be the guest speaker. Catholics are welcome to come to encourage this trainee for the priesthood.

It would be helpful for catering if visitors from other churches informed Ps. Mel Moore-Foye on 0401 646 610 or mel@albionparkcommunitychurch.com. Meetings are on Saturdays 5pm to 7pm at the Albion Park HACC Centre and include a free community dinner.
- 3. Gary Hetherington's Revival Ministries** is still holding five Zoom meetings each week: Two prayer meetings for Canowindra and the central west of NSW, one prayer meeting for the nation, a teaching class on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and a Communion service on Sundays at 11: 00 a.m. Visit [Gary's Facebook page](#) for latest details. The 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 **8th March**. Please email me any items for the next newsletter prior to that date.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,

Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.
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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

Saturday 26th February (Note: change of 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](#). [Facebook page](#).

Friday 4th March, World Day of Prayer

Theme: I Know the Plans I have for You

Organising Country: England/Wales/Northern Ireland

10 a.m. St Mary's Star of the Sea, 166 Fern (cnr Jupiter St) Gerringong

9:30 a.m. Kiama Uniting Church, 19 Bong Bong Rd, cnr Manning St, Kiama followed by morning tea

11:00 a.m. Port Kembla Baptist Church, 81 Illawarra St Port Kembla, followed by BYO lunch in hall. Contact email.

10:00 a.m. St Mark's Anglican Church, 429 Crown St, West Wollongong

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