



No. 387, 12/4/22

## 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: **3,725**

### Easter, Church Unity and Prayer

1. The leaders of Christian churches in Australia have posted their Easter messages on the **National Council of Churches in Australia** [website](#).
2. Ray Williamson's paper "The Ecumenical Movement: Theological Foundations" and other papers on the history of the movement are available for free download from the **NSW Ecumenical Council** [website here](#).
3. **A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will be on 29th May to 5th June in Australia. In the northern hemisphere the week is held in January. The National Council of Churches in Australia has posted resources on its [website here](#). The resources include the following Christian Prayer for Unity.

One only Holy Spirit of Father and Son in whom all are baptized, one giver of many gifts, one tree of many fruits one speaker of every tongue, renew in our day the wonders of Pentecost, grant that people of every race and nation may understand one another, and as one, proclaim the praises of God. Grant that all may be one as you, Spirit, with the Father and the Son are one God, one Lord. Grant unity to the Body of Christ; grant unity to the human family. Sole breath of every living thing, may all be one who, in you, live and move and have their being.

### Illawarra Church News

1. Catholic Bishop Brian Mascord has appointed **Fr John Stork** to help in Lumen Christi Parish as Hospital Chaplain at Wollongong Hospital and Wollongong Private Hospital. **Fr George Condookala**, who was previously hospital chaplain, has been appointed Supply Priest to the Diocese of Wollongong and will continue to help in Lumen Christi as he especially cares for Mater Dolorosa, Balgownie.
2. **Emmanuel Bookshop** is holding a closing down sale at Shellharbour Village Uniting Church hall in Mary Street 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday 18th May. No EFTPOS, payments in cash or cheque or bank transfer. Contact [Albert Abel](#) on 4297 7161.
3. **City on a Hill, Wollongong** will have its official launch on Easter Sunday at BlueScope Visitor Centre at 10:00 a.m. Ps Joel Deacon, the senior minister, wrote "We're planting a new church because new churches are an effective way to build God's kingdom and deepen the faith of God's saints."
4. The **Jesus All About Life** campaign is on this Easter. If your church still has a banner from the last campaign, you might like to put it up. You can download electronic resources from the [Bible Society website](#).

## **Sicm News**

- 1. Wollongong Gospel Choir** has recommenced its regular Tuesday night rehearsals. If you are interested in joining (no audition required) just turn up at the rehearsals. For further information, see their [Facebook group](#) or [website](#).
- 2. Albion Park Community Church** is a member of Sicm for incorporation and charity status as well as the other benefits of membership. Mel Moore-Foye has stood down as senior pastor and Eddie Zeballos will fill in for Easter. The next guest after-dinner speaker will be Carolyn Meers, the senior pastor of Central Church, Port Kembla on Saturday 30th April. Meetings are held on Saturdays 5pm to 7pm at the Albion Park HACC Centre and include fellowship over a free meal. Anyone interested in pastoring the church should contact me.
- 3. Gary Hetherington** is seeking volunteers to help with the upcoming Canowindra outreach. Gary 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 and to contact him via Facebook messenger. 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 **Tuesday 10th May**. Please email me any items for the next newsletter prior to that date. With regular events beginning to return to normal, please check the regular events list on the [Sicm website](#) and inform me of any changes.

God bless,  
Derek Thompson,

*Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.*  
A registered charity.

Website: [www.5icm.org.au](http://www.5icm.org.au) | email: [thompson@idx.com.au](mailto:thompson@idx.com.au) | phone: 4256 5780 | 

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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 23rd April**

#### **Closing Service of Towradgi Congregational Church**

A celebratory service recognising over 70 years of service to the community.

*Details:* 2pm at 8 Carters Lane, Towradgi. The service will be followed by afternoon tea.

*Contact:* Narelle Morris on 0402 059 612

### **Thursday 5th May, CMS Illawarra Meeting**

*Venue:* Fairy Meadow Anglican Church

*Details:* 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. BYO lunch, Tea/Coffee provided. Car parking in grounds.

*Contact:* Beverley Defty 0400 497 236

### **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

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