



No. 389, 14/6/22

## 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: **3,756**

### Prayer

1. Christ is the head of the church.

#### **Colossians 1:18 (NRSV)**

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

The church, the body of Christ, is one and should provide a unified witness to the world.

#### **John 17:22-23 (NRSV)**

22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Let us pray that the Lord will so unify his church that the world will see passed the many denominations to a people who love one another and proclaim a glorious gospel.

### Illawarra Church News

1. **Rev DooAh Leeming** is a minister at Wollongong Uniting Church Mission on the Mall and a chaplain at the University of Wollongong. She holds a weekly Bible Study via Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. if anyone is interested in joining contact DooAh (also known as Debbie) on 0416 491 531 or by emailing [revdooah@gmail.com](mailto:revdooah@gmail.com).
2. **Rev. Mark Smith** commenced as Senior Canon at St Michael's Anglican Cathedral on 28th May. "Mark and his wife Anna have five children, and together they have been serving for the past 10 years at the Anglican churches in Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland."
3. **Emeritus Bishop Peter Ingham** was awarded the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for significant service to the Catholic Church. 'He said he was "so surprised" to receive the honour and wanted to dedicate it to the people of the Diocese of Wollongong.' He said that as a Bishop he liked to loiter with intent. "The loitering is the hanging around after Masses and school functions, Confirmations and whatever. And the intent is the witness to the Gospel; getting to know people and mixing with them and treating them as equals so that when they did have something they wanted to talk to you about they didn't have an inhibition about approaching you." (Source: The Catholic Weekly)
4. A fundraiser for **Samaritan's Purse** will be held on **Saturday 25th June** at Albion Park Uniting Church (see details below). Those who purchased tickets for the fundraiser that was to be held at Dapto Anglican which was cancelled because of Covid-19 may use their tickets for this event. If you no longer have your ticket, there will be a list of ticket holders at the door. Samaritan's Purse provides relief for those hurting from natural disasters (including the

recent flooding in NSW and Qld), wars (including that in Ukraine) and shoeboxes of Christmas gifts for children of the very poor ([download information](#)).

## **5icm News**

**1. The 5icm mid-year meeting** discussed the progress of the member ministries during a difficult year, the abrupt closure of Albion Park Community Church, and the subsequent formation of a house church to care for the remaining church members. The house church will operate as a ministry under 5icm.

Anyone involved in, or considering commencing a Christian ministry in the Illawarra that is open to Christians of any church background should contact Derek Thompson for a list of benefits of joining 5icm. Membership is free.

**2. Wollongong Gospel Choir** resumed its regular Tuesday night rehearsals from 7th June after a break of a couple of weeks. The choir sang at a wedding in May. Songs included some of the "Sister Act" classics like Oh Happy Day, Joyful Joyful, I Will Follow Him and a special song called " In This Very Room". 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](#).

**3. Gary Hetherington** is still running weekly Zoom prayer meetings for his forthcoming ministry at Canowindra with team members and Christians from the central west of NSW. Visit [Gary's Facebook page](#) for the latest details and to contact him via Facebook messenger if you are interested in helping. Gary's Zoom meeting details are on the [5icm website](#).

**4.** The next issue of the monthly ***Clearing the Way for Jesus* newsletter** will be sent on **Tuesday 12th July**. Please email me any items for the next newsletter prior to that date. Regular events are listed on the [5icm website](#). Let me know 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

**Saturday 25th June, Samaritan's Purse fundraiser**

Market stalls, light entertainment, BBQ/sausage sizzle, Car wash, Fashion Parade.

[Download flyer](#) [Samaritan's Purse Information](#)

*Details:* 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Albion Park Uniting Church, cnr Terry and Russell Sts, Albion Park.

*Cost:* \$10 each includes Devonshire tea, bottomless tea/coffee/cordial

*Contacts:* Lyn Brown 0425 219 233, Daphne Chapman 4262 2314,

Dianne Avery 0403 990 384.

See the [5icm Events page](#) for more events and the **Regular Events** list.