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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.

Distribution of this edition: **3,793**

Prayer

1. The passing of Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September has come as a shock, since only a few days earlier we saw her on TV swearing in the new UK Prime Minister, Liz Truss. Two weeks of mourning have been declared in Australia with a memorial service and public holiday scheduled for Thursday 22nd September. There will be a Requiem Mass at St Francis Xavier Catholic Cathedral at 12:20 pm 15th September. There will also be a memorial service at St Michael's Anglican Cathedral at a date to be advised. After 70 years of prayer for the Queen, we now have a King.

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NRSV)

"... offer pleasing sacrifices to the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king and his children." Ezra 6:10 (NRSV)

2. For many Illawarra churches, attendance after Covid lockdowns has not bounced back to pre-Covid levels. Some smaller churches have closed. The 2021 census shows that Christianity in Australia decreased by more than one million people to 43.9% followed closely by "no religion" at 38.9%. Pray that the church's proclamation of the gospel will come with the power it has to redeem the lost.

Illawarra Church News

1. **Ps Peter Watson** from **Northern Beaches Church of Christ** has suggested establishing a group of churches that will share resources.

Are you interested in having guest items in your worship service? (Songs, musical items, testimonies, etc.)

I'm looking to develop a group of churches who are willing to share resources with each other. For example, you might have a singer who would like to share their gift as a guest in another church in the area.

If you are interested in sharing and receiving guests then contact Pastor Peter Watson at peter.watson@impactfacilitation.com.au or 0407 278 175.

2. **Ps Adetayo of Testimony Church** has informed me that his church is now meeting at the University of Wollongong, Building 11, Northfields Ave. Rev. David Esdale finished up at **Corrimal Anglican Church** in February 2022 and the church is now part of **St Michael's Anglican Cathedral** parish. **Jennifer Almond of Keiraview Uniting Church** emailed that Eden Playtime and Gardening for little ones and their carers now meets on Tuesdays at the

church. Please let me know of any changes to regular events that are advertised on the [5icm Events page](#) and for church details show in the church lists [downloadable](#) from 5icm.

5icm News

- 1. Wollongong Gospel Choir** is singing as usual on Tuesdays from 7pm. If you are interested in going along to sing (no audition is required) just turn up at a rehearsal and have some fun (see details below). Choir bookings are free and they perform at fund-raising events, weddings, nursing homes, etc. They prefer to keep Sunday mornings free for their members to attend their own churches. For further information, see the WGC [Facebook group](#) or [website](#).
- 2. Gary Hetherington's** wife, Kim, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer which reduces life expectancy to as little as three months. Please pray for Kim, Gary and their family. Gary's daughter, Tahlea, has started a [GoFundMe](#) appeal to raise funds for medication. This devastating news will impact Gary's planned outreach at Canowindra and his weekly Zoom prayer meetings. Visit [Gary's Facebook page](#) for details and contact him via Facebook messenger.
- 3.** The next issue of ***Clearing the Way for Jesus* newsletter** will be sent on **Tuesday 11th October**. Please email me any items for the next newsletter prior to that date. The next 5icm meeting is the AGM which is set for Monday 14/11/22. Advertise ecumenical events on the [5icm website](#) by emailing me the details. To subscribe to this newsletter please email or message me on Facebook with your email address.

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 17th September, National Grandparent Conference

Details: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. online and in person at Figtree Anglican Church, 4-10 Gibsons Rd Figtree

Cost: \$48 Early Bird to 12/8/22, then \$55 (\$20 online). For more information and to register online go to ngmlegacy.com.au or phone 4272 1322

18-25 September, [UCI World Championships](#)

This major cycling race is an opportunity for the Illawarra to come together in support of an international event.

Saturday 22nd October, High Tea – CWL

Port Kembla Catholic Women's League is hosting a High Tea (Gatsby Theme - optional). Men welcome.

Details: 2pm to 4pm, St Patrick's Parish Hall, 39 Kembla St Port Kembla.

Cost: \$25 per head, RSVP 8/10/22 to Bernadette McNamara 0409 319 685.

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