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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: **4,017**

Church of the Week

Keiraview Uniting Church, 34 Fisher St, West Wollongong. Senior Minister: Rev. David Stuart. The last time we prayed for all the churches of the Illawarra, Keiraview posted the church of the week in its weekly church newsletter, so I thought they deserved to lead us out this time. In April, a group of about 15 members of this church went to Chiang Mai in Thailand to help out at the Agape Children's home. From Keiraview: "Pray for the children and staff at the Agape Children's Home in Thailand."

Church of the Week (next week)

Serbian Orthodox Church, Dapto - 20 Dale St, Dapto. Senior Minister: Very Rev. Ljupko Cubrilovic. You can see Fr Ljupko on the 2020 SBS documentary, filmed in November 2019, "Where are you really from" on SBS on demand. Also, on the documentary is the Wollongong Serbian Orthodox Church which we will pray for at another time. The Albion Park White Eagles soccer team is well known, but it would be good if the Serbians from the Dapto and Wollongong Orthodox churches fielded a team in the Illawarra Combined Churches Soccer Association competition (just a suggestion).

Illawarra Church News

1. In contacting churches to pray for, I discovered Joy Church of the Nazarene that used to meet in Unanderra, has closed and that the minister, Rev. Douglas Carolisen, is now ministering in a church in South Africa.
2. **Lumen Christi Catholic Parish** reported the results of a census of Mass attendance in November last year as an average of 685 each weekend, which is down 45% on the 2016 census. Since last November attendance has steadily been increasing. Many churches in the Illawarra have experienced a slow recovery of attendance after the Covid-19 shutdowns.

5icm News

1. **Wollongong Gospel Choir** has decided to close for a number of reasons. The choir joined 5icm when they commenced in 2006. They performed at many churches and fund-raising events in the Illawarra and ventured further afield to places such as Lithgow Gaol and Lithgow Baptist Church, Ballina and Moruya Jazz Festivals, and Bowral Tulip Festival. The choir also sung at weddings, nursing homes, and Christmas events. We thank Phillip Newton, the Music Director, John Sandercocock, the Secretary (and point of contact for 5icm), and Val Coutts-Smith, the Treasurer (who provided me with annual financial statements). We also thank the many choir members over the years. The choir usually had about 25 members.

2. **Illawarra Seniors Band** has found another benefit of 5icm membership, they opened a financial sub-account under 5icm so they didn't have to produce unincorporated association rules and meeting minutes. The ISB bank account is operated by their own members.
3. **Gary Hetherington** plans to plant a church in Canowindra after accommodation and financial issues are resolved. If you want to join his team or can help in other ways, [contact Gary](#). In the meantime, he has launched a free Zoom school on the Holy Spirit on Saturdays at 7:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting ID: 7094534980, Password: daystar3
4. The next issue of **Clearing the Way for Jesus newsletter** will be sent on **Tuesday 16th May**. If your church would like to be a **Church of the Week** at a particular time, just contact me. Church news items, prayer requests, and combined church events can be included in the newsletter for sharing with Christians of the Illawarra. 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

Illawarra Seniors Band rehearsals are once a month on a Tuesday morning at 10.30am (these currently vary) at the Port Kembla Senior Citizens Community Hall.

Next Engagements:

Saturday 20th May, "Under Two Flags" Seniors Week Concert

Wollongong City Brass & Wind Band plus Illawarra Seniors Band.

Details: 2:00 p.m. Figtree Anglican Church Auditorium

Monday 22nd May, Illawarra Seniors Band Concert

This is a University of the 3rd Age Event

Details: 11:00 a.m. at The Salvation Army, 11-13 Burelli St, Wollongong

Thursday 4th May, CMS Illawarra Connect

Speakers: Ian and Jenny Wood on their missionary work in northern Australia.

Details: 12:30-2:00 p.m. Fairy Meadow Anglican Church, cnr Princes Hwy & Jardine St. BYO lunch. Tea & coffee provided.

21st to 28th May, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The [National Council of Churches in Australia](#) website has resources (Service, Poster, Sermon notes, etc.) to download. *Theme:* "Do good; seek justice." (Isaiah 1:17)

Monday 22nd May, 5icm Mid-year Meeting

This is not a business meeting, but a chance to encourage the member ministries in their activities and plans for the future. *Details:* 7:30 p.m. 1 O'Gorman St, Albion Park.

Friday 26th May, Illawarra Prayer Breakfast

Speaker: Wendy Francis of Australian Christian Lobby

Venue: 6:30am Shellharbour Civic Centre (Note change of venue). *Cost:* \$60.

Pentecost Sunday 28th May

Musical Afternoon Celebration supporting the cost of sending Shoeboxes

Fundraiser for Samaritan's Purse - community singing, special musical items, speaker from Operation Christmas Child, trading tables. [Download flyer](#) for further information.

Venue: 2:00 p.m. Albion Park Uniting Church, cnr Terry & Russell Sts, Albion Park.

Cost: \$10 (includes afternoon tea) *Contacts:* Lyn Brown 0425 219 233

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