



No. 403 16/5/23

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: **4,011**

Church of the Week

Holy Cross Catholic Church at 4 McMillan St Helensburgh is the most northerly Catholic Church in the Illawarra. Rev. Patrick Vaughan is the Administrator (he is the Parish Priest for St Joseph's, St Michael's and St Columbkille's Catholic Parishes and Chaplain to the Catholic Women's League) and Rev. Paul Clark is the Priest in Residence. Holy Cross Church has a Parish Primary School to promote "excellence in a learning environment based on Gospel values."

Church of the Week (next week)

Gerringong Anglican Church (St George's), 103 Fern St, Gerringong is the southern-most Anglican church in the Illawarra. Rev. Steven Layson is the Senior Minister and Rev. Jon Clare is the Assistant Minister. The church is looking at ways they can provide services and events to which they can invite their neighbours, families and friends.

Illawarra Church News

1. A **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is to be held **21st to 28th May**. Resources for Services can be downloaded from the [National Council of Churches in Australia](http://www.nccca.org.au). The [World Council of Churches](http://www.wccn.org.au) holds a week of prayer in January each year, but in the southern hemisphere it is held between Ascension and Pentecost. The theme this year is "Do good; seek justice (Isaiah 1:17)".
2. **Brooke Prentiss**, an aboriginal Christian leader, is in the Illawarra speaking on the **Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Voice Referendum: Listening and Responding**. There is another opportunity to find out about the upcoming referendum at Kiama Uniting Church (see below for details) and also for a workshop at Berry Uniting Church on Sunday 21st May ([download flyer](#)).

5icm News

1. **Illawarra Seniors Band** has included on the [5icm Events page](#) all their concerts up to the end of the year – about one each month. The band is still taking bookings. Contact the Secretary by email: I.S.Band@hotmail.com
2. The **5icm Mid-Year meeting** will be held **7:30 p.m. Monday 22nd May**. This is a good opportunity to meet those involved in the group of ministries and find out what they are doing. [Email me](#) for further details.
3. The next issue of **Clearing the Way for Jesus** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 30th 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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This message was sent to !*EMAIL*!

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

Sunday 21st May, Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Voice Referendum:

Listening and Responding

Public lecture, Q&A, supper. [Download flyer](#)

Speaker: Brooke Prentis, Aboriginal Christian Leader

Details: 7:00 p.m. Kiama Uniting Church on the Mall

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

Saturday 3rd June, Gong Men's Day 2023

Speaker: Dr Brian Rosner, Principal of Ridley College

Details: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Figtree Anglican Church, 4-10 Gibsons Rd, Figtree

Cost: \$55 / \$45 concession (includes lunch). [Tickets available online](#) until 29/5/23.

Saturday 24th June, Zoe Fundraiser

[Zoe Foundation Australia](#) rescues children from slavery in the sex trade and runs a children's home in Chiang Mai, Thailand

Details: 6:00 p.m. Kiama Baptist Church

Cost: \$80 for a 2-course meal. There will be entertainment and auctions.

Contact: Tony & Margaret Boothroyd 0422 105 533

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