



No. 407 11/7/23

## 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](http://www.5icm.org.au/resources.html).

Distribution of this edition: **4,040**

### Church of the Week

This week, pray for [St Osthathiose Jacobite Church Wollongong](#) which presently meets every second and fourth Sunday of the month at Berkely Community hall from 8:30 am to 12pm. The church is a member of the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch in Australia denomination. The senior minister is Fr. Joseph Kunnappillil who said, "We are planning to move to our own building, Unit 55/401 West Dapto Road, Horsley, NSW 2530 by 27th October 2023 as the building work is currently progressing". The church was founded "by a bunch of believers who migrated from Kerala, Southern India." They are advertising fund raising on the church [Facebook page](#).

### Church of the Week (next week)

For prayer next week, is [St Mark's Anglican Church](#) at 429 Crown St, West Wollongong. Services are held each Sunday 8:00 am Trad, 10:00 am & 5:00pm. The Sydney Anglican magazine, Southern Cross, reported:

"Following 5½ years in Melbourne as an assistant minister at St Jude's, Carlton, the **Rev Alex Zunica** begins a new role in the Sydney Diocese on July 17 as rector of St Mark's, West Wollongong."

Victoria Cowling, who attends the church, suggested the following prayer.

"Please pray that Alex, Liz and their daughters would settle in well at home, in ministry and at school. That they would be quick to form deep friendships, walk closely with God and continue to grow in him, lead the church well."

Craig Langstaff, the Assistant Minister, emailed:

"St Mark's is looking forward to its next stage of ministry under our new rector Alex Zunica as we continue to share the good news of Jesus with all people and build one another up in Him.

1. Pray for increased activity and community engagement through our cafe, Saints Espresso, which is open to the public each midweek morning from 7:30a.m.-12noon. Pray for wisdom and provision as we consider extending its operating hours to 1:30p.m from the end of July to provide greater lunch options and better opportunity for community engagement.
2. Pray for Alex Zunica and his family as they settle into church, schools and the local community. Pray for Alex to lead by providing a godly example.
3. Pray for ongoing 'Christianity Explored' courses being run on Sunday afternoons and for at least 2 people who have come to faith through this ministry in the last year.
4. Pray for wisdom, creativity, and faithfulness as we begin to plan our Christmas services and outreach for the end of the year."

## Sicm News

1. I attended the **Illawarra Seniors Band** concert at Kiama Uniting Church last week and was very impressed. If you are interested in joining them, I noticed they do not have a percussionist or saxophonist, and they only have one trombone. If you are interested in joining the band (you don't have to be a senior, just available for day-time performances), please contact Jill White, the Secretary (email: [I.S.Band@hotmail.com](mailto:I.S.Band@hotmail.com)).
2. **Illawarra Christian Choir** will hold a Launch on 22nd July (see below). There are two choirs, an all-age choir, and a choir for young people (14-30 years). Rehearsals are at 3/10 George St, Warilla. The all-age choir meets 4:00pm to 5:00pm Saturdays, and the youth choir follows from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Contact [Jessica](#) for more details.
3. My eBook "**Walk by the Spirit: The Message of Galatians**" is available for free download in pdf format from [here](#) and in eReader formats from [Smashwords](#) and other eBook retailers.
4. The next issue of **Clearing the Way for Jesus** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 25th July**. Send me any church news items, prayer requests, and combined church events for inclusion in the newsletter to share 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.

### **Saturday 22nd July, Illawarra Christian Choir Launch**

Details: 4:00 p.m. 3/10 George St, Warilla. Contact: [Jessica](#)

### **Wednesday 26th July, Illawarra Seniors Band Concert**

Details: 10:30 a.m. Marco Polo Aged Care, Wollongong.

### **Wednesday 26th July, Lunchtime Bible Talks**

Every Wednesday from 26/7 to 14/9/23. Bring your own lunch, tea/coffee provided. A 30 minute talk for office workers and anyone else who wants to come.

Speaker: Bishop Reg Piper on the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:1-7-28)

Details: 12:45-1:15p.m. (doors open 12:30pm) at St Michael's Anglican Cathedral Hall.

### **Wednesday 26th July, YWAM Winter Worship Nights**

Details: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (includes 1hr worship + a cuppa) at Central Church, 4 Fitzwilliam St, Port Kembla. [Download flyer](#).

### **Sunday 13th August, [Listen to the Heart, Justice Workshop](#)**

Larissa Minniecon of "Christians for Voice & Justice" will lead a workshop on the upcoming referendum on the Voice to Parliament and speak at Central Church Service at 9:30 a.m.

Details: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 4 Fitzwilliam St, Port Kembla

### **Saturday 19th August, [Wollongong Women's Conference](#)**

Speaker: Clare Deeves, Assistant Minister at Kallaroo Anglican Church, Perth.

Details: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at University Hall, Wollongong Uni, Northfields Ave.

Cost: \$75 (\$60 concession) until 10/8/23 (includes morning tea and lunch).

[Register online](#) by 10th August.

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