



No. 412 19/9/23

## 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: **4,080**

### Church of the Week

“Pray for **All Saints Albion Park**. This Anglican church is located at 253 Tongarra Rd, Albion Park and Services are on Sundays 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 6:00 pm, with various other ministries across the week for all ages. Senior Minister, Rev. Robin Vonk is assisted by Steve Inman (Youth Minister), Meagan Ho (Children's Ministry worker) and Val O'Regan (Parish Administrator - as well as a large army of volunteers. Please pray especially that we would be passionate and effective in reaching our community with the gospel of Jesus, that we would be intentional in nourishing faith, and that our community would be loving and authentic.”

### Church of the Week (next week)

Please pray for **Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church**. The church is located at 80 Denise St, Lake Heights and Services are on Sundays at 10:00 am. The Senior Minister is Fr Loubnan Tarabay. Earlier in September the Lake Heights church welcomed [the relics](#) of St Maroun (founding father of the Maronites, died 410 CE), St Charbel, St Rafqua, St Nehmetallah, and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (the relic is a piece of her 1914 coffin). The relics serve as a reminder of faithful Christians who have gone before.

### Church News

- Fr Bill Milsted** has come to minister in the **Lumen Christi Catholic Parish**. Fr Bill ministered in the Surry Hills parish for 20 years to 2019 and then has enjoyed ministering as a supply priest in country NSW.
- Ps Steve and Angella Cathcart** of **Southern Church** (Southern Illawarra Church of Christ) have commenced four months sabbatical and leave, returning at the end of January.

### 5icm News

- Illawarra Seniors' Band**. If you are interested in joining this ecumenical brass band (you don't have to be a senior, just available for day-time performances), please contact [Jill White](#), the Secretary.
- The [Illawarra Christian Choir](#) is selecting Christmas carols to learn for end of year events. New members are welcome. The choir rehearses at 3/10 George St, Warilla, the all-age choir meets 4-5pm Saturdays, and the youth choir follows from 5-6pm.
- Emmanuel Bakenga** messaged: “I am still in Africa until the end of September. I started a not for profit ministry called **Equip Africa Australia**. Our aim is to help Equip the leadership of the growing African churches and help marginalised individuals fight poverty. I went to Africa for the following purposes:
  - Annual conference for church leaders that I created last year. Recent statistics shows that in many parts of Africa, the Church is growing rapidly, and new Christians rise quickly to leadership positions. According to updated data for 2021, there are now nearly 685 million

Christians in Africa, with 760 million expected by 2025. Churches cannot cope with this kind of growth. Therefore, some churches only gathered in a classroom or under a tree but continue to grow! But this powerful church faces discipleship and leadership issues. More than 208 million Christians in Africa do not have a Bible. Up to 80% of African pastoralists have no training or education. More than 500 million Christians in Africa need trained pastors, especially local pastors.

2. Establishing a free Sewing project for marginalised individuals to help them fight poverty. I came with a shipping container full of donated items including sewing machines donated by generous Aussies to start this project. Please checkout our website for more details:

[www.equipafriaustralia.org](http://www.equipafriaustralia.org)"

- 4. Gary Hetherington** is planning another outreach in Canowindra. Anyone interested in volunteering to join the team should apply by email to [revivalministries@outlook.com.au](mailto:revivalministries@outlook.com.au).
- 5.** The next issue of ***Clearing the Way for Jesus* newsletter** will be sent on **Tuesday 3rd October**. Email me your church news for sharing with Christians of the Illawarra. To subscribe, please email or message me on Facebook with your email address.

God bless,  
Derek Thompson,  
Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc., a registered charity.

Website: [www.5icm.org.au](http://www.5icm.org.au) | email: [ficm@spin.net.au](mailto:ficm@spin.net.au) | phone: 4256 5780 | 

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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.

### **Saturdays, Illawarra Christian Choir Rehearsals**

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

### **Wed-Fri 27, 28 & 29 September, Kid's Fun Days**

*Details:* 9am - 3pm K-6 at Woonona Presbyterian Community Church

*Cost:* \$40/child, \$80/family (for all 3 days) [Register here](#).

*Contact:* Karen 0403 984 754 [ed.karen08@gmail.com](mailto:ed.karen08@gmail.com)

### **Wednesday 30th Sept, Illawarra Seniors Band Concert**

*Details:* 10:30 a.m. Kiama Anglican Church

### **Monday 23rd Oct, Five Islands Christian Ministries AGM**

This is for member ministries, supporters and anyone interested in ecumenical ministries in the Illawarra.

*Details:* 7:30 p.m. 1 O'Gorman St, Albion Park

*Contact:* [Derek Thompson](#) 4256 5780

### **Wednesday 25th Oct, Illawarra Seniors Band Concert**

*Details:* 10:30 a.m. Warrigal, Shellcove

### **Saturday 28th October, [Word in Song Conference](#)**

Practical seminars presented by Emu Music to help leaders, musicians and sound technicians grow and develop their skills and gifts.

*Details:* 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Figtree Anglican Church, 4-10 Gibsons Rd, Figtree

*Cost:* \$80 (earlybird until 2/9/23), BYO lunch. [Register here](#).

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