



No. 414 17/10/23

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: **4,072**

Day of Prayer

The World Council of Churches and the Jerusalem Heads of Churches have called for a Global Day of Prayer today regarding the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. See [WCC website](#).

Church of the Week

Dapto Uniting Church, 122 Princes Hwy Dapto, Services Sundays 9:30 a.m. The senior minister is Rev. Keun-il Ko. The church holds a market each first Saturday of the month, except January and has an Op Shop located behind Dapto Pub. The church supports a range of ministries including Dapto High School Scripture Board, local primary school scripture, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Wollongong Mission, and Uniting World overseas aid.

Les Smith emailed:

"Dapto Uniting Church is planning to have a dynamic and inclusive intergenerational community service starting in February next year. This gathering will be held on Fridays to explore the meaning of life stages given by the Lord. So we invite Illawarra Christian communities to join our prayer for this new gathering."

Church of the Week (next week)

St Michael's Catholic Church, 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Thirroul. The senior minister is Fr Patrick Vaughan. Thirroul. Judy Bull, for the St Michael's Centenary committee, emailed a request for prayer support:

"**St Michael's Catholic Church, Thirroul** will be celebrating the **Centenary of the parish**, 1923-2023, on the 28th October. We give thanks for the many blessings we have received in the years from 1923 to 2023 and pray that with God's help we will continue to grow as a faith community in our church and our school. All are welcome in this community."

Details from the Parish newsletter:

Mass with Bishop Brian will be held at 17:30 on Saturday, 28 October, followed by a community gathering: a BBQ in the school grounds for all. A 100 Year Anniversary Book has been produced as well as other mementos of the occasion.

Church News

- 1. Cedars Christian College** will be launching a new school within its bounds called **ASPIRE** for children with an intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- 2.** In updating the church lists I found that the **Christian Reformed Church of Wollongong** has a new pastor, **Ps Dan Kroon**. Thank you everyone who emailed me updated information for your church. The church lists on the [5icm website](#) have been updated.

Sicm News

- 1. Five Islands Christian Ministries AGM** is on Monday 23rd October (see details below). We will deal with the legal requirements for a charity but also share what each of the member ministries has been doing. Visitors are welcome.
- 2. Emmanuel Bakenga** of **Illawarra Christians Connect** is back from Africa. I asked him what support he needed. He wrote: "I need financial support to keep both the Annual rural Pastors' conference AND the SEWING project going. The sewing program in Congo needs food, materials, rent, etc, to help sure learners start and finish training successfully. Pastors need food and training materials. My wife and I are currently doing it by faith with very little financial support. I will send you a more detailed budget for next year's mission."
- 3. Gary Hetherington's** wife has been in and out of hospital recently with bronchitis. Please pray for **Kim**. Gary's Canowindra outreach is on hold.
- 4.** The next issue of **Clearing the Way for Jesus newsletter** will be sent on **Tuesday 31st 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 | email: ficm@spin.net.au | phone: 4256 5780 | 

If you want to [subscribe](#) or [unsubscribe](#) from this newsletter, or you are [changing email address](#), please email us. 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 vary, [contact ISB](#)) 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](#)

Monday 23rd Oct, Five Islands Christian Ministries AGM

This is for member ministries and supporters of 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 for leaders, musicians and sound technicians.

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

Cost: \$90, BYO lunch. [Register here](#).

Thursday 2nd November, CMS Illawarra Mission Connect

Speakers: Missionaries Ian and Narelle Hadfield on what God is doing in South East Asia.

Venue: 12:30-2:00 p.m. Fairy Meadow Anglican Church. BYO lunch, tea/ coffee provided.

Saturday 25th November, One Music Festival

A music and arts Festival run by local churches and Scripture Union on the South coast.

Details: 2pm-9pm Kiama Showground and Pavilion

Cost: [tickets available online](#).

Contact: onemusicfestival.sc@gmail.com

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