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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: **4,154**

Church of the Week

Wollongong Mission - The Church on the Mall at 116 Crown St, Wollongong. There are two groups that meet each Sunday in Wesley Church, which are identified as "Faith Communities" under Uniting Church rules: one meeting at 9:00 a.m. in Wesley Church and the other made up of refugees (largely from the Democratic Republic of the Congo) which meets at 11:30 a.m. in the Wesley Church auditorium. The pastor of the refugee community is Ps Gedeon Rutabura. The other faith community includes a retired minister, and its services are organised by the Illawarra Presbytery. The Presbytery also administers the Wollongong Community Centre (which distributes meals) and Lifeline South Coast.

Church of the Week (next week)

"St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church at 166 Fern St (Cnr Jupiter St) Gerringong is part of Kiama Catholic Parish, whose senior minister is Fr Chris Roberts. The church celebrated its 140th anniversary in August 2022. Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 9.30am, and this little church on the hill overlooking the sea is a popular venue for weddings and retreats. St Mary's is a vibrant, welcoming community which is getting older, so we would like to pray for younger, newer members to help continue the many vibrant ministries so that the Gospel can continue to spread."

Church News

1. "Kathryn Martens from Kingdom Leaders is currently offering **free** 1:1 Professional Pastoral Supervision sessions for those in ministry. This can include part-time, full-time or volunteer positions, i.e. Church leaders at any level, chaplains, pastoral carers, evangelists What is Pastoral Supervision? It is a safe, confidential and supportive space for those who minister to others to engage in reflective practice under the guidance of a trained professional. Common topics discussed include avoiding burn-out, how to handle conflict, and staying spiritually alive yourself while encouraging others. Sessions can either be face-to-face or online. To contact Kathryn, email: kathryn@kingdomleaders.au (Note: Session will only be free for a limited time)".
2. **LifeWay Wollongong Lutheran Church** has sold its property in Burelli St to the neighbouring **Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church** (whose church faces Stewart St), and moved their Services to 1/8 Kenny St, Wollongong, at 10:30 a.m. Sundays. **Lifeway Oak Flats Lutheran Church** meets at 43 Griffith St, Oak Flats on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. They describe the two congregations as small but vibrant.

5icm News

1. **Illawarra Seniors' Band** is still looking for new members. Prospective members will need to supply their own instrument (brass) and be fairly competent. Contact i.s.band@hotmail.com.

- 3. Illawarra Christian Choir.** If you are interested in singing in an informal choir with an ecumenical group of Christians, please contact [Jessica Soden](#). The re-start date for the choir is still to be decided.
- 4. The Gospel F.A.C.T.S.** method of presenting the gospel to a postmodern generation is now available at gospelfacts.au. I prepared it for Christians to use in sharing the gospel and reverse the decline in church attendance, but the website might also be useful for non-Christians wanting to find out about Christianity. The website is linked to the 5icm website to make it easy for you to find. It contains resources and a 20-minute video which can be viewed or downloaded. The video is hosted on [Vimeo](#) and will soon be available on YouTube. Additional resources and videos will be added in the future. Let's take the gospel to our generation.
- 5. The next issue of the *Clearing the Way for Jesus* newsletter will be sent on Tuesday 2nd April.** Please email me your church news for sharing with Christians of the Illawarra and submit any church events that invite Christians from other churches. 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 on the third Tuesday of each month from 10.30am at the Port Kembla Senior Citizens Community Hall. *Contact:* [Jill White](#), the Secretary.

Saturday 23rd March, Bands in the Round

A fundraising concert to support the music ministries in The Salvation Army Kenya East Territory.

Salvation Army Bands: Blacktown, Sydney Salvation Brass, Lighthouse Big Band and Wollongong

Tickets: \$15 (includes afternoon tea), under 16 years free - Trybooking.com

Details: 2:30-4:30pm, 13 Burelli St, Wollongong.

Holy Saturday 30th March

Figtree Community Easter Egg Hunt

NewDay church are hosting a family day and Easter egg hunt kids aged 0-10 years, with over 9000 eggs, Matilda's Farmyard, and much more, A great for the whole family!

Details: 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 25 O'Brien's Rd, Figtree

Cost: \$10 per child

Register: www.newdaychurch.com.au/events/

Wednesday 3rd April, Illawarra Seniors' Band Concert

Details: 2:00 p.m. IRT Woonona Aged Care, 4-6 Popes Rd, Woonona

17-20th April, VMTC Prayer Ministry School

Live-in training school for Christians with a heart to minister healing and wholeness.

Further information 0480 459 822.

Venue: Chittick Lodge, Gerringong

Cost: \$360 for accommodation and meals, plus \$60 registration.

Apply at: <https://vmtc.org.au/ministry/training-schools>

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