



No. 434 3/9/24

Clearing the Way for Jesus

The newsletter of **Five Islands Christian Ministries** links Christians and churches from Helensburgh to Gerroa to facilitate church unity. A printer-friendly 2 x A4 PDF file of the newsletter may be downloaded from www.5icm.org.au/resources.html.
Distribution of this edition: **4,283**

Church of the Week

St Paul's Catholic Church, Albion Park at 249-251 Tongarra Rd. Services are held on Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. and Sundays at 9.00a.m., in addition to weekday Masses. The Parish Priest is Fr Leo Duck assisted by the Parish Secretary, Mrs Mary Jennings. The history of Catholic Masses in Albion Park dates back to the 1860s, with the original church being blessed and opened on 25th January 1874. The first burial in the church cemetery was in August 1874. The parish is involved in many ministries including a weekly Prayer Group, St Vincent de Paul Society, Dead Theologians Society (our Youth and Young Adults Group), and the Catholic Women's League. In addition, the church has a Catholic Parish Primary School, also called St Paul's.

Church of the Week (next week)

Thirroul Quakers Worshipping Group meets at Thirroul Library & Community Centre on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The contact for the group is [Heather Saville](mailto:Heather.Saville@quakers.org.au). To find out more about The Religious Society of Friends, commonly referred to as Quakers, go to their website at www.quakers.org.au.

Church News

- Cross Connect Church** is still looking for a venue for its Services.
- Jamberoo Abbey** has raised just over \$255,000 so far towards their goal of \$1m for urgent repairs to the Abbey.
- Dapto Uniting Church** would like to remind people of their market morning on Saturday 7th September. It is included in the [5icm Regular Events](#) list. Please let me know if your regular church event comes to an end or needs additional advertising.
- Andrew Anthony** suggested that we pray for the **Council elections** to be held on Saturday 14th September.
 - wisdom and discernment for all voters as they make their choices of who to vote for.
 - for the candidates running that they may be led by a genuine desire to make a positive difference
 - elected councillors that they can work together effectively for the good of the community.
- It is time for churches to start getting ready for **Operation Christmas Child**. **Lyn Brown** of **Albion Park Uniting Church** has written out some information for your church to use in advertising ([download here](#)). The local *Operation Christmas Child* workshop is behind Albion Park Uniting Church and is used by volunteers all year round in packing shoe boxes.

Sicm Matters

1. The ecumenical movement seeks more than “**spiritual unity** of believers in Christ.” **Lesslie Newbigin** in “**The Household of God**” explained that Martin Luther’s response to Pope Leo X excommunication of him in 1521 involved a faulty doctrine of the church. Rather than admit the church is at the same time holy and sinful, Luther substituted “a false and unbiblical dialectic of outward and inward, visible and invisible” which “largely destroyed the conception of the Church’s **visible unity**. It seems to me only honest to admit this.” (p. 67). “The essence, life and nature of the Church’, says Luther, ‘is not a bodily assembly but an assembly of hearts in one faith,’ And again, ‘A spiritual unity ... is of itself sufficient to make a Church.’ This language is uncomfortably unlike that of the Bible with its stress upon actual visible fellowship. The difficulty about what is purely spiritual is that it is apt to become purely private.” (p.69) [to be continued in the next edition]
2. The next issue of the ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 17th September**. If your church has any ecumenical events for sharing with Christians of the Illawarra, please email me and I will add them to the Sicm Events page. 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 7th September, Dapto Uniting Church Markets

First Saturday of each month except January. Stalls, Devonshire tea, BBQ, cakes, etc. at Dapto Uniting Church grounds and hall, 122 Princes Hwy, Dapto.

Tuesday 10th Sept, Watoto Children's Choir Concert

At the heart of the [Watoto Children's Choir](#) is a message of God's unfailing love.
Details: 6:30pm (doors open 6:00pm) C3 Church Thirroul, corner Lawrence Hargrave Dr & Railway Pde. [See webpage](#).
Cost: free entry, an offering will be taken, merchandise available for purchase.

Saturday 21st Sept, Calderwood Christian School Fair

Saturday 21st Sept, Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Northern Illawarra Scripture and Chaplain Board
Details: 6:30 p.m. C3 Thirroul Church Centre

Tuesday 1st October, Illawarra Seniors' Band Concert

Details: 10:30 a.m. Blue Haven Terralong, 55 Thomson St, Kiama

Sunday 13th October, Music and Song Festival

Featuring Sing Australia and Korean band and song.
Details: 2-4pm at Dapto Uniting Church hall, 122 Princes Hwy Dapto
Cost: \$10 each, children free (includes afternoon tea)

Monday 21st October, Sicm AGM

Details: 7:00 p.m. at 1 O'Gorman St, Albion Park
RSVP to [Derek Thompson](#) 4256 5780

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