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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 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: **4,051**

Church of the Week

[Shellharbour City Catholic Parish \(All Saints\)](#) is located at 19 College Avenue, Shellharbour City Centre. The senior minister is Fr Joseph Nguyen assisted by Fr Hung Tran and Parish Secretary Martina Rose. Sunday Services are at 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. There is another church building in the Parish, Stella Maris Church at Shellharbour Village, which is presently undergoing maintenance.

Church of the Week (next week)

[Illawarra Church of Christ](#) (previously named Northern Beaches Church of Christ) meets at Balgownie Village Community Centre, 113 Balgownie Rd, Balgownie on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. The senior minister is Ps Peter Watson.

Church News

1. Brett Davis emailed

'**Christian Surfers**' is a home-grown mission to the surfing community founded by Illawarra resident Brett Davis back in 1977 in Cronulla and now a world movement. A special meeting for the Illawarra churches and the launch of the evangelistic 'surfers bible' www.theursfersbible.com will be held Figtree Anglican October 30th and [Facebook event](#).

2. **Jamberoo Abbey** is up to \$381,804 in its campaign to raise one million dollars towards the cost of repairs to the Abbey. Also, **Northern Illawarra Uniting Church** has raised \$121,000 of their target of \$180,000 for their Bulli Chapel Restoration fund.

3. Former Anglican Bishop of Wollongong, **Reg Piper** will be giving **Lunch Time Bible Talks** at St Michael's Church Hall in Term 4 on the first letter of Peter (see details below).

4. **Fr David Catterall**, former priest at Albion Park Catholic Church, has resigned his position at St Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish, Oran Park. He has long suffered breast cancer, prostate cancer and now Leukemia (AML). His medical team has identified a gene called TP-53 that predisposes him to being diagnosed with primary cancers. He would appreciate your prayers.

5icm Matters

1. **Lesslie Newbigin** in "The Household of God" commented on the church's failure to grasp its own essential nature. [pp. 194-198]

1. "... in the thinking of the vast majority of Christians, the words 'Church' and 'Mission' connote two different kinds of society. The one is a society devoted to worship and the spiritual nurture of its members. ... The other is conceived of as a society devoted to the propagation of the Gospel, passing on its converts to the safe keeping of 'the Church'"

2. There is a belief that the consolidation of the church takes precedence over missionary work. "It is taken for granted that the missionary obligation is one that has to be met *after* the needs of the home has been fully met."
 3. "The church thinks primarily of its duty to care to its own members, and its duty to those outside drops into second place. ... 'Consolidation' will not be the alternative to advance: on the contrary, advance will be the method of consolidation."
2. The **5icm AGM** will be held on Monday 21st October. This annual business meeting is a requirement of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission* and provides an opportunity for the member ministries to meet for mutual encouragement. Anyone interested in furthering church unity in the Illawarra is welcome to attend.
3. The next issue of the ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter is due on **Tuesday 29th October**. If your church has any events for sharing with Christians of the Illawarra, please email me and I will add them to the 5icm 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.*

Wednesday 16th October, Lunch Time Bible Talks

Bishop Reg Piper will be speaking on 1 Peter this term.

Details: 12.45 pm to 1.15 pm sharp at St Michael's Church Hall, corner of Church and Market Sts, Wollongong. [Download flyer](#)

Monday 21st October, 5icm AGM

Details: 7:00 p.m. at 1 O'Gorman St, Albion Park

RSVP to [Derek Thompson](#) 4256 5780

Wednesday 30th October, "[The Surfer's Bible](#)" book launch

A new evangelistic surfers Bible by Christian Surfers.

Details: 6pm food trucks and live music, main event 7pm at Figtree Anglican Church, 4-10 Gibson Rd, Figtree, and on [Facebook](#).

Wednesday 6th November, Illawarra Seniors' Band Concert

Details: 10:30 a.m. Marco Polo Aged Care, 70 Waples Rd, Unanderra.

Monday 11th November, Remembrance Day

Illawarra Seniors Band playing

Details: 10:30 a.m. Lakeside Memorial Park, Kanahooka

Saturday 16th Nov., [One Music Festival](#)

An interdenominational Christian music and arts Festival for all ages.

Details: Kiama Showground and Pavilion.

Saturday 23rd Nov. [Lumina 2024 Carol Competition](#)

Hosted by St Osthathiose Jacobite Syrian Church, Wollongong and open to carols singers from all churches.

Details: 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princes Hwy, Dapto.

Contacts: 0468 843 219 or 0469 407 701

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