



No. 439 12/11/24

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: **3,779**

Church of the Week

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish, Warrawong. The church is at 1 Bruce Road (corner of Flagstaff Rd), Warrawong. The Parish Priest is Fr Damien Ellis who is assisted by Deacons Lawrie Burns and Michael Flew. Sunday Mass is at 10:30 a.m. Michael Flew emailed:

"Please include in your prayers the following:

1. Our Newly established Youth Group, that the spirit may breathe life into our young people.
2. Our First Holy Communion candidates who will celebrate this sacrament later this month, that the bread of life may open their hearts.
3. The children at our School, some of whose families are directly affected by the war in the Middle East, that it may end as soon as possible."

Church of the Week (next week)

Shellharbour City Baptist Church at 10A Commerce Drive, Warilla holds services on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. The lead pastors are Ps. Noel & Lynette Wraight. The church's ministries include Warilla Baptist Preschool, an Op Shop called "Born Again Boutique", "Open Hands Community Kitchen" on Mondays, and "Assist Shellharbour" for people with financial problems.

Church News

1. Nicole Hyratt emailed:

"I have a Christian NDIS company for people with disabilities. I currently have 3 Christian clients, and we are a loving [family-based company](#). ... If any Christian families are looking for Christian support workers to help with Community social activities, daily living and domestic assistance? Not an advertisement just letting people know there is a Christian based company for people with Disabilities."

2. Wesley Uniting Church on the Mall has temporarily ceased holding Services due to building safety concerns, the repair of which the congregation is unable to fund. The building was built in stages from 1882 to 1930. The two congregations that met there will move to other Uniting church locations nearby. The Community Kitchen will continue to operate from the building on Court Lane. The Rev. Kath Merrifield, who is a Co-Chair of the Illawarra Presbytery said, "We recognise the historical, social and religious significance of the Wollongong Mission and Church on The Mall and the contribution the congregation has made to the Wollongong community over more than a century." The intention is that Services will resume at Wesley after building repairs are made, but this might take some time.

3. Ps Barry McMurtrie, the founding pastor of Illawarra Church of Christ, died on Tuesday 5th November.

5icm Matters

1. The recent **5icm AGM** discussed matters of concern to the members. The Illawarra Seniors Band suffered the deaths of two of its members in the last year. Two new members have come but they still mourn their loss. Gary Hetherington is planning outreach meetings in the west of NSW. Derk Thompson is preparing a third video for the Gospel F.A.C.T.S. website. Any ecumenical ministries based in the Illawarra are welcome to join 5icm to benefit from charity status, return of GST paid, insurance, incorporation, etc. Membership is free.
2. The next issue of the ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter is due on **Tuesday 26th November**. 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 13th November, 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](#)

Saturday 16th Nov., One Music Festival

An interdenominational Christian music and arts Festival for all ages.

Details: Kiama Showground and Pavilion.

Tuesday 19th Nov. Discipleship Training - Connection Class

Associated with the Hope for the Illawarra Outreach event next March.

Details: 6:30-9:30pm Figtree Anglican Church

[Book here](#) Choose one session.

Wednesday 20th Nov. Discipleship Training - Connection Class

Associated with the Hope for the Illawarra Outreach event next March.

Details: 6:30-9:30pm Shellharbour Community Church

[Book here](#) Choose one session.

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

Saturday 30th November, Dapto Uniting Church Christmas Lunch

Details: 12 noon, in the hall behind DUC, 122 Princes Hwy, Dapto

Cost: \$35 per person, children under 12: \$20.

Ticket sales: by 24/11/24 by contacting Les or Janet on 0431 410 189 or [email](#)

Saturday 7th December, Illawarra Seniors' Band playing at the lighting of Jamberoo Christmas Tree Lights

Details: 7:00 p.m. Jamberoo

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