



No. 454 22/7/25

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: **3,837**

Church of the Week (for Prayer Support)

"**St George Malankara Indian Orthodox Church, Wollongong** currently meets every Sunday from **8:00 AM to 10:30 AM** at **Albion Park Rail Community Centre**.

The parish is led by **Rev. Fr. James Philip**, and it represents the fulfillment of a dream for many Orthodox Malayalees who migrated from India in hopes of building a better future for themselves and their families in the Illawarra region.

The church is **still searching for a suitable permanent place of worship**. The church is flexible and open to starting earlier, from **6:00 or 6:30 AM**, to accommodate venue availability. If your church or community can assist in any way, please contact **Paul Elanjickel (Secretary)** at **0451 994 127**.

Please keep St George Church in your prayers as they continue to grow in faith and fellowship." Emailed by Paul Elanjickel.

Church of the Week (next week)

"**Wollongong Baptist Church** at 330 Keira St, Wollongong holds services Sundays at 9:00am, 10:30am, and 6pm. The senior minister is Ps Mark Roberts, assisted by Michael Parker (Associate Pastor – Maturity), Ken Davies (Associate Pastor – Youth), Grace Jones (Magnification), Kate Cole (Membership), Kyra Morris (Children's Worker), Sam Mahdavi (Ministry Apprentice - Mission), Sarah Grant (Admin) and Ps Paul Chan (Chinese Pastor). The church also hosts a Chinese service, Vietnamese service, Burmese service and Karenni service. Please pray that we would continue to proclaim the gospel faithfully, and be a place where we know Christ and make him known." Emailed by Sarah Grant

Church News

1. Robyn Gillespie of Keiraville International Church raised the following for prayer:

"**Jim Wackett** has commenced as the new CEO of **Scripture Union NSW**. Jim comes with a wealth of experience at Wesley Mission and Anglicare, Opportunity International and World Vision. He has also been in the Army Reserve for more than 20 years. More importantly though, Jim brings a calling to Gospel ministry, a heart for reaching young people and their families and demonstrated commitment to building strong, cohesive and mission-focused teams. He is a gifted communicator and strategic thinker.

Jim is married to Justine and has three adult children. Please pray for Jim as he commences in this new role.

Scripture Union NSW continues to support volunteers running Christian lunch-time groups in 17 public schools in the Illawarra. SU NSW local summer Beach mission teams will be located at Bulli, Corrimal, Albion Park, Kiama and Gerroa during the summer school holidays. Please pray for teams as they begin their planning and preparation."

2. **Fr David Catterall** died aged 52 on 8th July 2025 at Bulli Hospital. He was born in Port Kembla and ordained into the priesthood on 25th March 2000, just weeks after being

diagnosed with breast cancer. His latest health battle was with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia which was diagnosed in late 2024. His funeral will be at 11:00 a.m. Thursday 24th July at St Paul's Catholic Church, 249 Tongarra Road, Albion Park and [online](#).

- 3. Rev. Wayne Pickford**, who has been senior minister at **Berkeley Life Centre** (54 Kelly St, Berkeley) since 2007, will be delivering his final sermon there on Sunday 27th July when he retires. Wayne has been preparing his replacements: Beejai, previously an Anglicare Community Chaplain, and his wife Sarah Abrahams (Lay Ministers) and Samantha Trotter, a YouthWorks College graduate and the Children's Minister.

Sicm News

- 1** If your church is holding an event that you want to open to Christians from other churches and denominations, please let me know. I see some advertising in church newsletters and on Facebook, but it is not clear if the intended audience includes the wider church.
- 2.** The next edition of ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 5th August**. If you have any items to share with Christians of the Illawarra, just email me. To subscribe to this newsletter, or if your email address is changing, please email me or message me on Facebook.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,
Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc., a registered charity.

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Email me to [subscribe](#) or [unsubscribe](#) from this newsletter, or if you are [changing email address](#).

Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra

Illawarra Seniors Band rehearsals are on the third Tuesday of each month from 10.30 am at Shellharbour Salvation Army Corps, Cnr Ulster & Leawarra Ave, Barrack Heights.
Contact: [Jill White](#), the Secretary.

Friday 25th July, Illawarra Seniors Band Concert

Details: Albion Park Uniting Church, cnr Terry & Russell Sts
10:00 a.m. morning tea, 10:30 a.m. concert, 12:00 p.m lunch
Cost: \$10
RSVP for catering numbers: APUC info@apuc.org.au

Saturday 23rd August, Geoff Bullock & Friends

Fundraiser for the Hope & Future Project to provide education and accommodation for refugee children in Uganda.

Details: 7:30 p.m. Port Kembla Baptist Church, 81 Illawarra St, Port Kembla. [Download flyer](#).

Cost: \$20, reserve tickets by emailing gordon.barr@bigpond.com

29th to 31st August, KBECET Book Sale

Kiama Board for Employing Christian Education Teachers fundraiser
Details: 9am to 4pm at Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Parish Hall, Manning St Kiama.

Sunday 14th September, Dapto Musical Festival

Guest Groups: Sing Australia (Wollongong), Dutch Australian Choir, Korean Singing Group, Dapto Uniting G1 group.

Cost: Adults \$15, concession \$10, Children under 14 yrs free.

Details: Dapto Uniting Church, 122 Princes Hwy, Dapto from 2:00 p.m. and followed by afternoon tea in the hall.

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