



No. 455 5/8/25

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: **3,840**

Church of the Week (for Prayer Support)

"[City on a Hill, Wollongong](#), meets every Sunday at 10am at Lindsay Park Public School. The Lead Pastor is Joel Deacon, supported by Rachel Shirliff, who serves as the City Kids and Admin Coordinator. City on a Hill began in Melbourne with a vision to reach 10 cities with the beauty, truth, and relevance of Jesus by planting 50 churches. They would love your prayers for their missional ministries. Each Monday night, the church hosts a free community meal in Unanderra, followed by an invitation to explore faith through Alpha. Monday Free Meal is held at the old Presbyterian Church building, which eventually will be redeveloped." Emailed by Joel Deacon.

Church of the Week (next week)

[St Peter & St Paul Coptic Orthodox Church](#) is located at 41 Kelly St, Berkeley. The senior minister is Fr Moses Ayad. Services are held in English on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and in Arabic fortnightly on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. The term Coptic means Egyptian, so the church is the Egyptian expression of Orthodox Christianity. The church invites people to come and see how the earliest church worships.

Church News

- Catholic Clergy appointments:** Fr Damien Ellis is now Parish Priest at St Michael's Nowra, Fr Paul Clark is Parish Priest of Helensburgh Parish, Fr Joseph Pothenparampil is Chaplain at Wollongong Public and Private Hospitals, and Fr Mark De Battista is Parish Priest to St Mary's Berkeley, St Francis Warrawong while continuing as Parish Priest at St Patrick's Port Kembla.
- The documentary, **The First Hymn**, has been released and is presently showing at [Hoyts, Warrawong](#). The documentary relates the story of the discovery of a fragment of papyrus in 1918 in Egypt. John Dickson was intrigued by the few lines of a hymn, complete with musical notation, dated to the third century which proclaimed a trinitarian faith a hundred years before the Council of Nicaea (325 C.E.). John Dickson asked his friends Ben Fielding, from Australia, and Tomlinson for USA to write a modern worship song based on The First Hymn. You can listen to the song [here](#), see the Project trailer for the documentary [here](#), and an interview with Ben Fielding [here](#).
- While we are talking about new releases, we should add the comedy TV series, **The Promised Land**. You can view the pilot program and the series trailer from the [series website](#). The Series One is presently in post-production.
- Catholic Diocese of Wollongong seminarian **Darren McDowell** will be ordained to the diaconate 10:00 a.m. Saturday 23/8/25 at St Francis Xavier Cathedral.

5icm News

- The **Illawarra Seniors Band** played at Albion Park Uniting Church last week. I videoed a minute of their performance so you can hear them [here](#). If your church wants to book them for a fundraiser next year, they will play without charge (but they accept lunch).

2. The next edition of ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 19th 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.

Website: www.5icm.org.au | email: ficm@spin.net.au | phone: 4256 5780 | 
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.

Next Concert: Wednesday 6th August, Illawarra Seniors Band Concert

10:30 a.m. St Vincent's Care, 15 The Ave, Heathcote

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.

Friday 26 September, Operation Christmas Child

Hosted by Albion Park Uniting Church's Friday Friendship group for supporters of Samaritan's Purse throughout the Illawarra.

Speaker: Rick George, Samaritan's Purse State Manager

Details: 10:00 a.m. at APUC (Russell St, Albion Park) for morning tea followed by a talk, slides and video presentation on Operation Christmas Child by Rick George, and concluding with lunch.

Cost: \$10 (for morning tea and lunch)

RSVP for catering by 24/9/25: to APUC on 4257-7043 or to Sue Hudson, on 0421 038 796, skh49y@bigpond.com

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