



No. 463 25/11/25

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: **3,913**

Church of the Week (for Prayer Support)

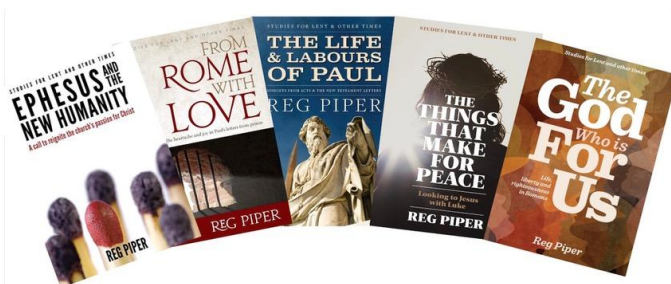
"**Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church, Balgownie**, is part of Lumen Christi Catholic Parish. The parish is led by Parish Priest Fr Bernard Gordon, assisted by Rev Cang Tran, General Manager Mr Kevin Galea, Parish Secretary Mrs Leanne Burlin, and Mrs Patricia Di Leva. Mater Dolorosa Church was opened in 1908 and continues to serve the local Catholic community with faith, tradition, and pastoral care." Emailed by Fr Bernard.

Church of the Week (next week)

Shellharbour Community Church at 500 Shellharbour Rd, is an INC church (International Network of Churches) and has services on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. The senior pastors are Pastors Shane & Rachael Cook assisted by [staff](#) too numerous to mention. Their church is involved in Sprouts early learning program for children 0-6 years, a Playgroup, FoodCare providing low-cost groceries for people in need, CityServe, Illawarra Business Hub, and Manna Christian Bookstore.

News

1. The **2025 Lumina Christmas Carol Competition** was an outstanding success. **St Osthathiose Jacobite Syrian Church**, a small church of about 26 families, mounted a professional and joyous event for the fourth year. The prize winners were:
First Prize: Saint Osthathiose Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church Choir Team
Second Prize: BCA Singers
Third Prize: Divine Choir, Gosford.
2. **Bishop Reg Piper** emailed, "My new book **"The King has Come"** - Studies for Lent and Other Times has been released, copies may be bought via the link below. This 40-day devotional takes readers through the entire Gospel of Matthew and illuminates Jesus' planned and deliberate revelation of himself as God and King. Folk can now by a copy now from Youthworks Media: bit.ly/4oYq79r"



3. **Rev. Ron Irving** has commenced ministry at **Jamberoo Anglican Church**. He is pictured to the right with his wife Julie. Ron was previously Figtree Anglican Church Senior Assistant Minister to 2018 and then at St Matthews, West Pennant Hills.



4. **Deacons Sinh Le, Darren McDowell and Joseph V. Nguyen** will be ordained to the priesthood at 10:00 a.m. Saturday 13th December, All Saints Catholic Church, Shellharbour.
5. **Stephen Nedved** is starting a new type of weekly church meeting on Friday evenings in Figtree. You can download the details [here](#).

5icm News

1. At the end of the year, some of you will be changing email addresses. Please don't forget to let me know your new address.
2. **Gary Hetherington of Revival Ministries** has gained Chaplaincy Australia accreditation ahead of his planned outreaches in Central West NSW.



3. The final edition of ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter for 2025 will be sent on **Tuesday 9th December**. 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 Concerts: **7:00 p.m. Saturday 6th Dec**, Jamberoo Christmas tree lights.

10:30 a.m. Tuesday 9th December, Hammondcare, Shone Ave, Horsley

6:30 p.m. Tuesday 9th December, Jamberoo Christmas Carols

Wednesday 26th November, Bible Society Coffee Morning

Speaker: Max Jeganathan from the [Centre for Public Christianity](#) (CPX)

Details: 10:00 a.m. Kiama Baptist Church, 1/3 Brown St, Kiama

Saturday 29th November, Christmas Lunch at Dapto

Hosted by Dapto Uniting Church,

Details: 12 noon at Dapto Uniting Church hall, 122 Princes Hwy Dapt

Cost: \$35 per person, transfer payment online to account 634634 100084236 quoting "lunch" and your surname.

Sunday 7th Dec, Colin Buchanan's Big Christmas Concert

Presented by Wollongong Salvos Church, Compassion Australia & Sure Thing Agency.

Details: 4:00 p.m. Wollongong Salvation Army, 11-13 Burelli St.

Cost: \$25 per person, babies under one free (but need ticket). Tickets from [Trybooking](#).

Sunday 7th Dec, Carols & Markets

Hosted by Bulli Anglican Church

Details: Open 4:00 p.m., Carols from 6:30 p.m., finish 8:00 p.m. at 66 Park Rd, Bulli.

Sunday 7th Dec, Calderwood Christmas

Hosted by Stockland Calderwood Valley and Albion Park Anglican Church.

Details: 4:30 p.m. family fun activities, 6:00 p.m. Carols. BYO rug or folding chair.

Tuesday 9th December, Illawarra Seniors Band at Jamberoo Carols

6:30 p.m. Jamberoo.

Wednesday 10th December, Kiama Carols in the Park

Hosted by Kiama Combined Churches. Features local singers, musicians, school choirs.

Details: 6:30 p.m. Hindmarsh Park, Kiama.

Saturday 13th December, Figtree Community Carols

Details: 5:30-9:30pm Figtree High School and Figtree Anglican Church.

Sunday 14th December, Christmas Celebration in Osborne Park

Hosted by the Wollongong Salvation Army Corps. Everything is free.

Details: food, live music, family activities, from 10:30 a.m., Carols at 12:30 p.m. at Osborne Park opposite Wollongong Harbour.

Sunday 21st December, Port Kembla Baptist Church Christmas Carols

Children's activities from 5:30 p.m., free sausage sizzle from 6:15 p.m., carols 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., visit from Santa Clause at Port Kembla Baptist Church, 81 Illawarra St, Port Kembla, phone 4274 1663.

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