



No. 467 24/2/26

## 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](http://www.5icm.org.au/resources.html).  
*Distribution of this edition: 3,927*

### Church of the Week (for Prayer Support)

[Wollongong Pentecostal Fellowship](#) is a Malayalee Indian Pentecostal Church planted by [Sydney Pentecostal Fellowship](#), Arndell Park, but welcomes people from diverse backgrounds. Church Services are held in two languages at Berkeley Community Centre, 40 Winnima Way on Sundays: in English at 4:30 p.m. and in Malayalam 6:15pm. The Senior Pastor is Ps Prince Philip who emailed the attached [description of the church](#).

### Church of the Week (next week)

[Port Kembla Baptist Church](#) is located at 81 Illawarra St, Port Kembla and has a weekly Service each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. The Senior Pastor is Ps Gordon Barr.

### News.

1. **Fr Joe's Garden** is a new ministry of Fr Joseph Pothenparampil at **St Francis Xavier's Catholic Cathedral** providing a gentle and welcoming ministry in the Cathedral gardens. It sounds like something other churches could take up to provide an easy way to link with the church. Fr Joseph emailed, "We are happy to welcome anyone interested in joining our team."
2. **Lifeway Church, Wollongong** have opened a Christian bookshop called **Next Chapter** for second-hand Christian books on its premises at 1/8 Kenny St, Wollongong (there are a few car parking spaces outside). Opening hours of [Next Chapter](#) are 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The bookshop is ecumenical (not just Lutheran) and the church hopes to use it as a point of contact with people wanting to talk about life. At present, they have many books still to process but in the future, they will be accepting donated books. Michael Dobie emailed [the attached information](#).
3. **Awaken Church**, has announced that it will be expanding into [Shellharbour](#).
4. **Hillsong, Wollongong** pastor **Jess Mclean** will be moving into a new role in the Hillsong denomination as NSW CityCare Campus Engagement Manager. Jess and Nathan McLean will not be leaving the Wollongong area. The church is presently seeking a new pastor for Hillsong Wollongong.
5. **The World Day of Prayer** is on **Friday 6th March**. Don't forget to go to a service near you and pray for the Christians of Nigeria and for one another.
6. **Illawarra Church of Christ** (formerly called Northern Beaches Church of Christ) that presently holds Services at Balgownie Village Community Centre will in the next few weeks take over the church property at 137 Kanahooka Rd, Kanahooka (where iCentral 3:16 used to meet) which they will be able to use throughout the week.
7. [Northern Illawarra Uniting Church](#) and [Austinmer Uniting Church](#) will amalgamate from 1st April. The Austinmer site will be known as **The Village Chapel**.

## 5icm News

1. Lesslie Newbigin, in his book "Truth to Tell: The Gospel as Public Truth" gave us something to think about when he wrote, "The local congregation is not a branch of the universal Church, but it is the place where the universal Church is made visible." (p. 88)
2. The next edition of **Clearing the Way for Jesus** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 10th March 2026**. 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](http://www.5icm.org.au) | email: [ficm@spin.net.au](mailto:ficm@spin.net.au) | phone: 4256 5780 |   
Email me to [subscribe](#) or [unsubscribe](#) from this newsletter, or if you are [changing email address](#)  
See the [5icm Events page](#) for **coming events** and the **Regular Events** list.

## Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra

**Illawarra Seniors Band rehearsals** are on the first 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:* **10:30 a.m. Wednesday 18th March**, Warrigal, 50 Harbour Blvd, Shell Cove.

**Saturday 28th February, RSCM NSW Hymnfest**  
*Details:* lunch beforehand, 1pm Rehearsal, short break, 3pm sing  
*Cost:* \$10 [Try Booking](#).

**Sunday 1st March, KBECET Commissioning Service**  
Kiama Board for Employing Christian Education Teachers  
*Details:* 2:00 pm Kiama Anglican Church Point Centre

**Friday 6th March, Illawarra Prayer Breakfast Launch**  
*Speaker:* Greig Whittaker (City to City Australia)  
*Details:* 6:30 a.m. Xavier Conference Centre, Wollongong. *RSVP:* [here](#).

**Friday 6th March, World Day of Prayer**  
This year's theme is "I will give you rest: Come..." Matt 11:28-30. This year's Service is written by Nigerian Christians.

*Details:*

- 11:00 a.m. St Michael's Catholic Church, 325 Lawrence Hargrave Dr, Thirroul
- 10:00 a.m. St Joseph's Catholic Church, 48 Park Rd, Bulli
- 10:00 a.m. Corrimal Uniting Church, 4 Russell St, followed by refreshments.
- 10:00 a.m. Salvation Army, 11-13 Burelli St, Wollongong
- 10:00 a.m. Figtree Anglican Church, 4-10 Gibson Rd.
- 11:00 a.m. Port Kembla Baptist Church, 81 Illawarra St.
- 11:30 a.m. Henry Brooks Estate, IRT 464-260 Kanahooka Rd, Kanahooka
- 11:00 a.m. Dapto Uniting Church, Princes Hwy, 10 a.m. for morning tea.
- 10:00 a.m. Albion Park Uniting Church, Russell St.
- 10:00 a.m. Kiama Presbyterian Church, cnr Terralong & Shoalhaven Sts
- 10:30 a.m. Gerringong Uniting Church, 28 Fern St.

**Sunday 15th March, King of Kings Concert - Salvation Army New York Staff Band**  
*Details:* 4:30 p.m. at Wollongong Salvation Army, 11-13 Burelli St  
*Cost:* \$25 adults, \$10 children under 16  
*Tickets:* [TryBooking](#)

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