



No. 471 21/4/26

## 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: **3,988**

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

"[St Francis Xavier's Catholic Cathedral](http://www.lumenchristi.org.au), located at 36 Harbour Street, Wollongong, is part of **Lumen Christi Parish**. Sunday Masses are celebrated at 7:00am, 10:30am, and 5:00pm. For the full Mass schedule, please visit: [lumenchristi.org.au/masstimes](http://lumenchristi.org.au/masstimes).

The Cathedral holds a significant place in the history of the Illawarra, as the site of the first Catholic church in the region. Construction commenced in 1848, with extensions undertaken in the 1930s. It was elevated to Cathedral status in 1951 following the establishment of the Diocese of Wollongong.

The Very Rev. Bernard Gordon serves as Parish Priest of Lumen Christi Parish, Dean of St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, and Vicar General of the Diocese of Wollongong. He is assisted by Rev. Cang Tran, along with parish staff: Mr Kevin Galea (General Manager), Mrs Leanne Burlin, and Mrs Patricia DiLeva." Emailed by Kevin Galea.

### Church of the Week (next week)

[St Michael's Anglican Cathedral](http://www.stmichaels.org.au) advertises itself as "One Church, Two Sites", the Cathedral at 74 Church St (cnr Market St, Church Hill) Wollongong and at 121 Princes Hwy, Corrimal. The Wollongong Cathedral has Services on Sunday 8:00 a.m. (Traditional), 9:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m. (easy English), 5:00 p.m. Family & 7:00 p.m. Youth, and Corrimal has a service at 10:00 a.m. Sundays. The Senior Minister is Rev. Mark Smith, assisted by Kingsley Box, Matt Shannon, Hosea Luy, Annika Jolliffe, Benji Vaytet, Jessica Luy, and Michelle Gajus (Church Life Coordinator) who emailed, "Can you please pray:

For our vision to see more disciples of Jesus shining as lights in our city and beyond

- Ask God to grow us in maturity and number
- Pray that we will have a distinctive gospel presence in Wollongong and Corrimal
- That we would be faithfully proclaiming the message of Jesus' death and resurrection and salvation only through faith in Him.
- That we can be looking out for the poor and vulnerable."

### News.

1. The old Towradgi Congregation Church building, which was sold to a developer in 2020, has been demolished. **Wollongong Emmanuel Church** which used to meet there up until Easter, is now meeting at NewDay Church in the afternoon. Services are in Zomi language of Myanmar and India.
2. There is a J. John [Facing the Canon interview with Devid Hill](http://www.trypraying.org/) of "Try Praying" which sounds like a good method of encouraging prayer and evangelism in your congregations. The idea is to give a 7-day prayer guide to each member of the congregation, and after they are finished with it, for them to pass it on to a friend. A Starter Pack of 100 booklets, leadership books, and an outdoor banner is available from [Mainly Ministries](http://www.trypraying.org/) for \$270 + \$14 shipping.

You can read the booklet online here: <http://www.trypraying.org/>

The Youth booklet PDF can be downloaded from here: <http://tryprayingyouth.org/>

The Children's booklet PDF can be previewed here:  
[http://resources.trypraying.org/media\\_items/44/image](http://resources.trypraying.org/media_items/44/image)

## 5icm News

1. Lesslie Newbigin, in his book *Truth to Tell*, p. 29, discussed the problem with the rational critical method, "You cannot criticise a statement of what claims to be the truth except on the basis of some other truth-claim which – at that moment – you accept without criticism. But that truth claim on which your critique is based must in turn be criticised. The critical principle must ultimately destroy itself." A rift between knowing and believing resulted.
2. The next edition of ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 5th May 2026**. If you have any items or events to share with Christians of the Illawarra, just email me, advertising is free. 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.*

### **Saturday 2nd May & 9th May, Restoring Foundations Course**

A course presented by Elijah House Ministries for Senior and Assistant Pastors and their spouses (only 18 spaces available). Childcare is not available.  
*Details:* 9:00 am to 4:30pm AnchorPoint Church Illawarra, Level 1, 345 Lawrence Hargrave Dr, cnr Railway Pde, Thirroul. [Download flyer](#). *Cost:* Standard \$185. Registration: closes 30th April. *Contact:* [Adrienne Erwin](#) 0476 325 199

### **Saturday 9th May, Mother's Day High Tea**

*Details:* 2:00 p.m. church hall, 122 Princes Hwy, Dapto. [Download flyer](#).  
*Tickets:* \$20, book by contacting Janet Hyam 0431 410 189

### **Saturday 16th May, Seen - Women's Conference**

Hosted by Kiama Baptist Church  
*Details:* 9am–4pm The Pavilion Kiama, 2 Bong Bong St, Kiama  
*Cost:* Adult \$75, Concession \$65, Highschool \$55 [Register here](#).  
*Contact:* [contact@kiamabaptist.church](mailto:contact@kiamabaptist.church)

### **Sunday 17th to Pentecost Sunday 24th May, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Resources are available on the [World Council of Churches website](#).

### **Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd May, School of Sound Worship**

Organised by Sound Church at 1/7 Hargraves Ave, Albion Park Rail.  
*Details:* 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Friday worship and teaching by Ps Stuart Haack  
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Saturday worship and teaching by Ps Rebekah Haack  
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday teaching by Ps Rebekah Haack  
*Cost:* \$30 (includes tea, coffee, morning tea and lunch). Tickets at [Eventbrite](#).

### **Sunday 24th May, Pentecost**

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