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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: **4,030**

Church of the Week (for Prayer Support)

[St Peter & St Paul Coptic Orthodox Church](#) at 41 Kelly St, Berkeley holds an English liturgy every Sunday 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and Arabic every second Saturday 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. The Coptic Orthodox Church is the Egyptian expression of Orthodox Christianity. The senior minister since 2020 is Fr Moses Ayad who graduated from University of NSW with a Civil Engineering degree and a Master's degree in Project Management. However, he was chosen by God to serve as a missionary in Japan in 2017. He now has a theological degree and is pursuing a Masters in Counselling. From their Facebook page, "Positioned at the peak of Berkeley, our beautiful Orthodox Church is perfectly placed to shine God's light on the South Coast."

Church of the Week (next week)

"[Park Rail Anglican Church](#) is a church plant holding services at Albion Park Rail Public School on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 5:45 p.m. The senior minister is Rev. Neil Scott, who is a chaplain at the school. The church runs a youth group for high schoolers and a disability youth group on Friday evenings during school term time. Please pray for opportunities to share the Lord Jesus with the local community and disciple them faithfully. God would raise up workers for the harvest field and create a deep prayerful dependence upon him." Emailed by Neil Scott.

News.

- 1. The Men's Well** continues to go from strength to strength. Men's Well Director, Rev. Mark Beaton, emailed the [May Newsletter](#) of the ministry to give you a picture of what they are doing. Mark said "TMW is growing rapidly now and apart from the 4 partners we have, we are now talking to a corporate sponsor. We are also opening a 2nd meeting in July at the Tennis club in Wollongong."
- 2. Samaritan's Purse** has announced a fund-raising Information and Musical Afternoon on Sunday 23rd August, 2pm at Albion Park Uniting Church ([download flyer](#)). Lyn Brown, the Operation Christmas Child Coordinator for Wollongong, said their local workshop packed 3,008 shoeboxes last year and has requested help from Illawarra Christians to cover the cost of shipping shoeboxes overseas this year (\$15 each box) – [see linked letter](#).

Sicm News

1. Lesslie Newbigin, in his book *Truth to Tell*, p. 33, wrote that "Descartes's program of indubitable knowledge is a fatal blind alley. All knowing is the knowing of a fallible human subject who may be wrong, but who can only know more by personally committing himself to what he already knows. All knowing is a personal commitment.... A commitment to the understanding of a reality which is not in my mind but 'out there'." Newbigin states, "The church lives by the faith that ... Jesus is Lord." We will take this up next time.
2. The next edition of **Clearing the Way for Jesus** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 2nd June 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.

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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.
Next Concerts: 10:30 am Tues 19th May Warrigal, Pine St, Albion Park Rail.
11:00 a.m. Wed 10th June Kiama Anglican Church, 2 Terralong St, Kiama

Sunday 17th to Pentecost Sunday 24th May, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Resources are available on the [World Council of Churches website](#).
There will be a **National Day of Prayer** meeting on Saturday 23rd May, 10am to 4pm at CityLife Church, 2/129 Jardine St, Fairy Meadow.

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](#).

Saturday 23rd May, Red Shield Concert
Featuring Wollongong Salvation Army Brass Band, WollCon Youth Flute Ensemble, WollCon Flute Ensemble, WollCon Symphonic Band
Details: 6:30 p.m. Wollongong Salvation Army, 11-13 Burelli St. [Download flyer](#).
Cost: Adults \$20, Concession \$10

Sunday 17th to 24th May (Pentecost) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Resources are available on the [World Council of Churches website](#).

Friday 29th May, Illawarra Prayer Breakfast
Speaker: Jen Gurry, the founder of Diamond Women
Details: 6:30 a.m. The Fraternity Club
Cost: single ticket \$63.

Saturday 30th May, Wollongong Women's Conference
Event by The Gospel Coalition Australia, Illawarra Network
Speaker: Zoe Earnshaw on "God's Story: See salvation unfold"
Details: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Figtree Anglican Church, 4-10 Gibsons Rd, Figtree.
Cost: \$55 (conc. \$50) until 24/5
Tickets from [TryBooking](#).

Saturday 13th June, Gong Men's Day 2026
Speaker: Mal York, Moore College. [Download flyer](#).
Details: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm (register from 9 am) at Figtree Anglican Church.
Cost: \$55 / \$45 concession. Register by 31/5/26 at www.facebook.com/gongmensday

Sunday 16th August, Dapto Uniting Church Musical Festival
There will be three visiting choirs plus congregational singing.
Details: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Dapto Uniting Church, 122 Princes Hwy, Dapto
Cost: adults \$15, concession \$10, children under 12 \$5.

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