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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: **4,042**

Church of the Week (for Prayer Support)

"[St Joseph's Catholic Church](#) at 48 Park Rd, Bulli is part of the Northern Illawarra Cluster along with Holy Cross Helensburgh, St Michael's Thirroul and St Columbkille's, Corrimal. Fr Patrick Vaughan is the Parish Priest and Fr Anthony Crook RAN the Priest in Residence at St Columbkille's and Chaplain to the Royal Australian Navy. Services are held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. followed by morning tea. There is a Primary School associated with the parish. In September, Fr Patrick will be leading a "[Great Saints of Italy Catholic Pilgrimage](#)". At St Joseph's, we always remember our Christian brothers and sisters during the Our Father (The Lord's Prayer).

Eucharist28. To prepare for the International Congress 2028, we come together to Adore & Pray before Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament at ST JOSEPH'S BULLI.

FRIDAY, 14th AUGUST 7:30PM MASS of the Vigil of Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary. TAIZE CHANT following Mass (with Gabriella).

ALL NIGHT PRAYER VIGIL/ JESUS YOUTH with the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary, Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross and quiet prayer. (Supper will be available in our hall. You are welcome to bring a plate to share.)

SATURDAY, 15th AUGUST, 7:30AM MASS of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary

Please come and join us for prayer. (All or part of the Vigil)" Emailed by Fr Patrick

Church of the Week (next week)

[Kiama Baptist Church](#) at 1/3 Brown St, Kiama meets on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. (Café Church). The senior minister is Ps. Grant Wilson and Associate Pastor Allyson Beddoe.

News.

1. The **Slovenian Catholic Church Figtree** building at 136 Princes Hwy has been demolished but the Slovenian Catholic Church is continuing to hold mass at the Croatian Centre, 7-9 Bellevue Rd. The building originally belonged to Figtree Anglican Church, having been opened in 1911 and closed in 1983 when it passed to the Slovenian Catholics and the Anglicans moved to Gibson Road. The Slovenian Australian Club that owned the Princes Highway church, hall and residence was placed into liquidation and the administrators auctioned the property for \$3.25m. The property will become multi dwelling housing (10).

Andrew Zicker, the Secretary of the Slovenian Australian Club Planica, said their church and property in Figtree was sold last year and their solicitor is distributing the funds to local charities in accordance with their constitution. Fr Darko Znidarsic, the church's Priest has been recalled to Slovenia. His final mass at Figtree will be on 13th September. Please pray as to what happens for the remaining Slovenian congregation afterwards.

2. **"Peter Hayward** will be retiring as Bishop of Wollongong at the end of August, after serving us for 16 years. A farewell service for Peter and Julie will be held at Figtree Anglican Church on Saturday 26th September at 2p.m." The new Anglican Bishop of Wollongong from 1/1/27 will be Rev Jonathan Squire from the Camden Valley Parish.
3. I attended the **Dapto Uniting Church Christmas in July** event on Saturday. I was pleased to be seated at a table of 7 people only one of which had been born in Australia, and that was my wife, and a lady from Dapto Catholic church. The entertainment was provided by soloist Graham Ainsworth from Wollongong Salvation Army. The Korean pastor Keun-il Ko made everyone feel welcome. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" Ps 133:1.

Sicm News

1. Lesslie Newbigin, in his book *Truth to Tell*, writes, "We all ... whether we are labelled as liberals or fundamentalists, struggle and groan inwardly as we try to relate what we do and say on Sunday with what goes on in the week. We are indeed ... "resident aliens". ... We are here as missionaries because the one whom we serve is rightfully Lord of all." We shouldn't try "to demonstrate the truth of Christianity on the basis of supposedly self-evident truths." (pp. 49-51). For Christians this would be to try to evade personal responsibility for our faith.
2. The next edition of ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 11th August 2026**. If you have any church news 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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See the [Sicm 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 Concert: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday 19th August, St Vincents Care, 15 The Avenue, Heathcote.

Wednesday 29th July, Jesus Israel & Islam - What Does It Mean For Us?

A free Canberra Declaration Seminar with speakers: Greg Rose, Mark Leach and Dr Mark Durie.

Details: 7:00pm – 9:30pm at Figtree Anglican Church.

Registration essential at <https://events.humanitix.com/jesus-israel-and-islam>

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.

Sunday 23rd August, Samaritan's Purse Celebration Event

Speaker: Rick George, Samaritan's Purse State Manager. [Download flyer.](#)

Details: 2:00pm-4:00 pm Albion Park Uniting Church, cnr Terry & Russell St, Albion Park

Cost: \$15 at the door, which is the cost of sending a shoebox overseas (afternoon tea included).

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