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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)

Tarrawanna Salvation Army Corps at 85 Meadow St, on the corner of Caldwell Ave, Tarrawanna. Services are at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. The senior minister is Major Julia Metcher. The Corps Secretary, Lyn Mather, runs a popular "Kids in the Kitchen" program, which is a hands-on 10-week cooking program for kids in primary school each term. The program was introduced some 8 years ago when the church had no children attending with the aim of linking families to the corps and teaching the kids life skills.

Church of the Week (next week)

St Mary's Catholic Church, Berkeley, at 211 Northcliffe Drive, Berkeley has Mass on Thursday at 6pm (after the sacrament of reconciliation between 5:00 and 5:45pm) and on Saturday at 5pm. Other associated parishes are St Patrick's Port Kembla and St Francis of Assisi, Warrawong. The Parish Priest for all three parishes is Fr Mark De Battista assisted by Sr Miriam Sant, Parish Office Coordinator Mrs Brooke Edmunds, and Parish Secretary Mrs Nisreen Botros. The 250-strong **Syro-Malabar Community** presently meets at St Mary's on Sundays but may move its services to the larger Holy Family Church at Windang, which is presently unused for regular services.

News.

1. **Inspire Church Wollongong** has announced that its 10:00 a.m. Service has moved to Berkeley Community Centre, 40 Winnima Way, Berkeley from last Sunday.
2. The **National Council of Churches in Australia** has announced this year's **Global Week of Prayer** will be on 6-13 September. "24-7 Prayer exists to revive the church and rewire the culture through an international movement and communities of non-stop prayer, mission and justice. We started in 1999, when a simple student-led prayer vigil went viral and groups all over the world joined in to pray. Now, over two decades later, thousands of communities have taken part in 24-7 Prayer in churches, communities and cities in over half the countries on earth."

The prayer to start the Global Week of Prayer is found [here](#).

The Australian website for **24-7 Prayer** is [here](#) where you will find [resources](#) for running a physical, virtual, or hybrid prayer room.

I suspect it might be difficult for many churches to host a physical prayer room, so I have registered a **5icm Illawarra Christians** virtual prayer room. It can be used as a hybrid prayer room with your church's, school's or workplace's physical prayer room or by itself. Just complete the time slot when you will be praying in the calendar at <https://pray.24-7prayer.com/signup/48f2ab>

Sicm News

- 1. Mykl Carlton**, who faithfully administered the Facebook Illawarra Christians group for many years died on Friday 31/7/26. NewDay Church has announced "A memorial service for Mykl Carlton on Saturday 15th of August from 9:30am. It will be held at our premises, 25 O'Briens Road Figtree and in true Mykl fashion, all are of course welcome."
2. Lesslie Newbigin, in his book *Truth to Tell*, writes that the Christian "announces what is not only good news but true news." "The very fact that its truth can be doubted and is in fact doubted by a majority of human beings, is regarded as sufficient to exclude it from public doctrine. Public doctrine, as currently understood, has to deal with "facts" which are objectively true and not matters of personal opinion. ... Objectivity is taken to mean freedom from risk. But, in truth, all knowing involves the possibility of being mistaken." The church is on a journey, following the Way. Both objectivism and subjectivism are ways of evading responsibility. "And that criticism applies to the particular manifestations of these two errors which are fundamentalism and liberalism." (pp. 52-54). Next time, Lesslie Newbigin's recommendation.
- 3.** The next edition of ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 25th 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.

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).

Saturday 19th September, Northern Illawarra Scripture Trivia Night

Trivia plus a silent auction to raise funds for scripture teaching.

Details: 6:30 for 7:00 p.m. start at Anchorpoint Church, Level 1, 345 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, corner Railway Pde, Thirroul.

Cost: \$20 per person, pay at the door. Tables of 8.

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