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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: **4,066**

Church of the Week (for Prayer Support)

"[Gerrington Anglican Church](#) in 103 Fern Street has Services on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. Prayerbook, 10:00 a.m. Family and kids, 6:00 p.m. Youth, and [online](#). The Senior Minister is Rev. Steven & Lorna Layson, assisted by Rev. Ed & Rachel Happer and Honorary Associate Minister Rev. Dane & Bronwen Courtney."

Emailed by Dane Courtney

Church of the Week (next week)

[Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church](#) at 18 Stewart Street, Wollongong. Sunday Services are at 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and there are Services on other days of the week. Services are streamed [online](#). They are in the Greek language except for the sermon, which is in English. The Senior Minister is Very Rev. Sophronios Konidaris. The church is presently running a modern Greek language course. There are two Greek Orthodox churches in Wollongong due to a historic split in 1972, which ended in 2021. The two congregations persist and now participate jointly in community and religious traditions.

News.

1. The 5-yearly [National Church Life Survey](#) should be completed by the end of October, although I have noticed that some are completing it in November. The Attender Survey can be completed on a paper survey form, or online.
2. **Common Grace** is offering an Advent Series of devotional emails reflecting on the surprising ways God's nearness disrupts the ordinary and calls us into courageous love and action. 25 devotionals starting on 1st December. Find out more and sign up [here](#).

5icm News

1. The **5icm AGM** was held last week. The main business was accepting a new Code of Conduct to meet the latest requirements for Public Liability Insurance. Our efforts were accepted and we have insurance coverage for the next year. Gary Hetherington, who was running **Revival Ministries**, tendered his resignation with thanks for the support he received over the last 20 years. The **Illawarra Seniors Band** reported that they were fully booked during the year and have already received bookings for next year. They received several new members last year. I reported to the meeting that the *Clearing the Way for Jesus* newsletter distribution is now over 4,000, the Illawarra Christians Facebook group has over 1,200 members, and that I have completed the first draft of my new eBook for the gospelfacts.au website.

If any ecumenical ministries in the Illawarra would like to join 5icm, please email me for our information sheet listing the benefits and obligations. Membership is free of charge. Note that visiting ministries are not necessarily covered by their hosts' insurance.

2. Christmas events are starting to be advertised with **Colin Buchanan's Big Christmas Concert** on 6th December (buy a ticket early if you want to get in). Email me your church's Christmas events (apart from your Christmas Services, which every church has).
3. The next edition of ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 3rd November 2026**. If you have any church news items or events to share with Christians of the Illawarra, 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.,
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See the [5icm Events page](#) for **Coming** and **Regular Events**.

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. 20th October, Blue Haven Terralong, Thompson St, Kiama.

Saturday 14th November, Family Fun Day

St Osthathiose Church, Horsley invites everyone for fun, music, games, stalls, and cultural programs. [Download flyer](#).

Details: 10am to 8pm, Berkeley Community Hall

Saturday 14th Nov, Port Kembla Baptist Church Market Day

Sausage sizzle, cakes, clothing, white elephant stall, crepes, pancakes, Devonshire tea

Details: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 81 Illawarra St, Port Kembla.

Saturday 14th Nov, Port Kembla Baptist Church Market Day

Sausage sizzle, cakes, clothing, white elephant stall, crepes, pancakes, Devonshire tea

Details: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 81 Illawarra St, Port Kembla.

Tuesday 17th November, Illawarra Seniors Band Rehearsal and Lunch

Details: 10:00 a.m. Shellharbour Salvation Army Corps, Cnr Ulster & Leawarra Ave, Barrack Heights

Saturday 28th November, The Outpouring

A night of worship. Download [information](#) and [flyer](#).

Details: 6:00 p.m. Awaken Church, 39 Ellen St, Wollongong

Cost: free entry

RSVP: via [Humantix](#)

Saturday 28th November, Illawarra Seniors Band at Jamberoo Christmas Tree Lights

Details: 6:30 p.m. Allowrie St, Jamberoo

Sunday 29th November, Advent - first Sunday

Sunday 6th Dec, Colin Buchanan's Big Christmas Concert

Details: Doors open 3:00 pm for start at 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm at Wollongong Salvos, 11-13 Burelli St. [Download flyer](#).

Cost: \$25 any age, babies in arms are free but need a ticket.

Tickets: www.trybooking.com/DPHVY

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