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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 promote 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: **4,213**

Church of the Week

St Patrick's Church at 42 O'Donnell St, Port Kembla has Sunday Services at 9:00 a.m. The senior minister is Fr Mark De Battista. The church celebrated its centenary on 2/3/2019. St Patrick's Primary School is a similar age with its foundation stone being laid in 1918. The current Principal is Mr Mitchell Elks. Anthony Rewak, a lifelong member of this parish, is now in second year at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush.

Church of the Week (next week)

River of Life Church is a Pentecostal Church for the broken people of this world seeking Healing and Freedom." It meets in the Community Centre, 36 Fowlers Rd, Koonawarra at 10:30 a.m. Sundays. The senior minister is May Housler, who emailed a list of the things their church does: hampers and donations for those in the community in need, children's ministry, counselling, chaplaincy, help with recovery from addictions, and mental health support via NDIS provider Hope and Wellbeing Care Services associated with River of Life Church.

Church News

1. "**Peter William Ingham**, the fourth bishop of Wollongong, died peacefully in the late evening of 26 April 2024. He was 83 years of age and almost 60 years a priest."
2. "**Living Hope Baptist Church** in Corrimal called a new Senior Pastor on the 14th. Pastor Matt Douglas, who has served in the church almost 13.5 years, stepped down to take up a new role internationally and the church called the associate pastor Filip Laus as the new Senior Pastor. Pastor Fil and his wife Elly have two small children. He has been the associate pastor since May of last year with the intention of moving into the Senior pastor position when it became vacant. They come from Trinity Bible Church in Padstow."
3. **Figtree Anglican Church** will be recording and filming their 6:00 p.m. service on Sunday 5th May for an upcoming album.
4. **The Men's Well** (a group for men who are separated, divorced, or widowed and are finding life challenging) has commenced with a group of 5 men and they decided to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm at Northern Illawarra Uniting Church. However, there will be a meeting today (see below). The group is led by Rev. Mark Beaton.
5. **St Osthathiose Jacobite Syrian Church** at Horsley has decided to hold the **Lumina 2024 Carol Competition** again this year on 23rd November at the Dapto Ribbonwood Centre. The last competition was held pre-Covid in 2019.
6. **Gerringong Uniting Church** is offering [healing prayer](#) on the first and third Thursday evenings of the month. Phone Rev. Steve Everist on 0431 677 846 for an appointment.

Sicm News

- 1. Sicm Mid-Year Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. at 1 O’Gorman St, Albion Park on 20th May.
- 2. Illawarra Christian Choir.** The position of choir leader is still open. Please contact me and/or come to the Sicm mid-year meeting where the choir’s future will be discussed.
- 3.** The next issue of the ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** newsletter will be sent on **Tuesday 14th May**. Please email me your church news for sharing with Christians of the Illawarra and submit any church events that invite Christians from other churches. To subscribe to this newsletter, please [email](#) or message me on Facebook with your email address.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,
Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc., a registered charity.

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Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra

Illawarra Seniors Band rehearsals are on the third Tuesday of each month from 10.30am at the Port Kembla Senior Citizens Community Hall. *Contact:* [Jill White](#), the Secretary.

Tuesday 30th April, The Men's Well

A group for men who are separated, divorced or widowed.

Details: 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Northern Illawarra Uniting Church fellowship hall, corner Princes Hwy & Point St, Bulli. [Download flyer](#).

Thursday 2nd May, Illawarra Mission Connection Meeting

We've got the Tylers (going to Vanuatu) and the Elyards (going to Ethiopia) attending.

Details: 12.30 - 2:00 p.m. at Fairy Meadow Anglican (Bring your own lunch), tea/coffee provided. *Contact:* [Mia David](#)

Orthodox Good Friday 3rd May and Orthodox Easter Sunday 5th May

Wednesday 8th May, Illawarra Seniors' Band Concert

Details: 11:00 a.m. Kiama Anglican Church, 2 Terralong St, Kiama

Wednesdays 8th May to 26th June - [Lunch Time Bible Talks](#)

Bishop Reg Piper will speak about Jesus and his many disciples travelling to the holy city of Jerusalem. Our Bible talks follow that journey and their entry into the city.

Details: 12:45-1:15 pm St Michael's Church Hall, cnr Church & Market Sts, Wollongong.

12th to 19th May (Pentecost), Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Further information and Australian resources are available [here](#).

Monday 20th May, Sicm Mid-Year Meeting

This is not a business meeting, but an informal gathering to encourage church unity.

Details: 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. 1 O'Gorman St, Albion Park. *RSVP:* ficm@spin.net.au

Friday 31st May, Illawarra Prayer Breakfast

Speakers: Leila & Danny Abdallah. *Cost:* \$66.70 for a single ticket.

Details: 6:30 - 8:15 a.m. Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow

Saturday 1st June, [Gong Men's Day](#)

Theme: Cross-Shaped Man

Details: 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Figtree Anglican Church, 4-10 Gibsons Rd, Figtree.

Cost: \$55, concession (students/unemployed/retired): \$45.

Booking: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1211361

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