



SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST 2026

PARISH of Ss PETER AND PAUL, KIAMA

*Incorporating the Church Communities of
St Mary Star of the Sea, Gerringong; St Matthew's, Jamberoo;
and Ss Peter & Paul, Kiama.*

Next Weekend's Mass Times – 29/30 August 2026

Ss Peter and Paul, Kiama – Vigil 6:00pm; Sunday 8:00am and 5:00pm

St Mary Star of the Sea Gerringong and St Matthew's Jamberoo – Sunday 9:30am

SS PETER AND PAUL PRESBYTERY: 94 Manning St, Kiama

Parish Priest: Father Chris Roberts **Assistant Priest:** Father George Condookala

SS PETER AND PAUL PARISH OFFICE: 96 Manning St, (PO Box 299) Kiama NSW 2533

Parish Secretary: Louise Cobby **Office Hours:** 9am - 1pm (Tues to Thurs); 9am - 4pm (Fri)

Phone: (02) 4232 2081

Email: kiama@dow.org.au

Web: www.kiamacatholicchurch.com.au



SS PETER AND PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL: 98 Manning St, (PO Box 248) Kiama **Web:** www.ssppdow.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Peter Michael **Admin Officer:** Liz Brown **Ph:** (02) 4232 2442 **Fax:** (02) 4232 1064 **Email:** info@ssppdow.catholic.edu.au

WEEKDAY MASSES - KIAMA

Tuesday	25/8	5.00pm
Wednesday	26/8	8:00am
Thursday	27/8	8:00am St Monica
Friday	28/8	9:30am St Augustine



RECONCILIATION: Ss Peter and Paul Kiama

Every Saturday: 8:30am – 9:00am (except Easter Saturday) **Monthly:** first Saturday, 5:00pm – 5:30pm (except Easter Saturday).

WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS: by arrangement.

BAPTISMS: Kiama – 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month. Contact the Parish Office to book.

COUNTER'S ROSTER:

23 August: Group 3 – Vonnie Gee

30 August: Group TBC

REFLECTION – OH, THE DEPTHS

By Scott Hahn

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!" Paul exclaims in today's Epistle. Today's Psalm, too, takes up the triumphant note of joy and thanksgiving. Why? Because in the Gospel, the heavenly Father reveals the mystery of His kingdom to Peter.

With Peter, we rejoice that Jesus is the anointed Son promised to David, the one prophesied to build God's temple and reign over an everlasting kingdom (see 2 Samuel 7).

What Jesus calls "my Church" is the kingdom promised to David's son (see Isaiah 9:1–7). As we hear in today's First Reading, Isaiah foretold that the keys to David's kingdom would be given to a new master, who would rule as father to God's people.

Jesus, the root and offspring of David, alone holds the kingdom's keys (see Revelation 1:18; 3:7; 22:16). In giving those keys to Peter, Jesus fulfills that prophecy, establishing Peter—and all who succeed him—as holy father of His Church.

His Church, too, is the new house of God, the spiritual temple founded on the "rock" of Peter and built up out of the living stones of individual believers (see 1 Peter 2:5).

Abraham was called "the rock" from which the children of Israel were hewn (see Isaiah 51:1–2). And Peter becomes the rock from which God raises up new children of God (see Matthew 3:9).

The word Jesus uses—"church" (*ekklesia* in Greek)—was used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament for the "assembly" of God's children after the Exodus (see Deuteronomy 18:16; 31:30).

His Church is the "assembly of the firstborn" (see Hebrews 12:23; Exodus 4:23–24), established by Jesus' exodus (see Luke 9:31). Like the Israelites, we are baptized in water, led by the Rock, and fed with spiritual food (see 1 Corinthians 10:1–5).

Gathered at His altar, in the presence of angels, we sing His praise and give thanks to His holy name.

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For more reflections, studies, and resources, go to stpaulcenter.com



PARISH NOTICES

We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Wadi Wadi people of the Dharawal nation, who are the Traditional Custodians and First Peoples of the lands on which we worship.

AS A PARISH WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS FOR:



Those who are sick:

Michael Doherty; Bede Cummins; Ann Dawes; Denise Tierney (nee Farrugia); Marg Snelling; John Nash; Jason Dorahy; Mel Condon; All sick parishioners and sick relatives and friends of parishioners.

Anniversaries:

Owen Patton; Warren Beecham; May & Leo Russell; Nelson & Joshua Chan; Joey O'Neill; Ray Bartley; Pat Green; Peter Kells; the Holy Souls in Purgatory and all parishioners whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Recently Deceased:

Michael Sayers; David Johnson; Fr Rick McCann; June Costello; Dorothea Wright; Wladyslaw Malysiak; Mary Suggan; All recently deceased friends and relatives of parishioners.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

GERRINGONG MEMORIAL GARDEN

For the interment of ashes. If you would like further information, please contact the Parish Office on 4232 2081 or email kiama@dow.org.au

ADORATION AND HOLY HOUR

* **SS PETER AND PAUL KIAMA:** Every **Saturday**, 8:00am to 9:00am. Includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Perpetual Succour Novena, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

* **ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA GERRINGONG:** Every **Monday**, 11:00am to 12:00pm. An invitation to all, to step into one hour of silent adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament.



WAYS TO HELP SUPPORT OUR PARISH

All financial support for our Parish is received primarily through the second collection at Mass and online Giving. Funds received cover all running costs and maintenance for the whole Parish. If you would like to support our Parish you can do so in the following ways:

* **Second Collection at Mass.**

* **Donation Point Tap devices** – located in Ss Peter and Paul and St Mary Star of the Sea churches (**all donations collected through these devices go towards the second collection, which is for the upkeep of the entire Parish**).

* **Online donations.** Visit the Diocesan website "Giving" page at <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/> for one-off donations or for signing up to regular Planned Giving. The website also has information about wills and bequests.

* **Planned Giving envelopes:** contact the Parish Office for a set of envelopes.

* **DOW App:** Download the App at <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/parishgiving/dow-app/> The App also has an amazing Diocesan Mass times finder, daily Mass readings, upcoming Diocesan news and events, and links to other important Diocesan media and resources.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

Ss Peter and Paul Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all our children and vulnerable people. If anyone has any concerns or questions about these matters, please contact a member of our Parish Safeguarding Team:

Maggie Phelan - 0417 064 826

Carole Parsons - 0429 040 502

Julianne Douglas - 0418 491 125

HOME COMMUNION VISITS

If you know someone who would like to receive Communion at home because of illness or frailty, please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH PLAYGROUP

Ss Peter and Paul Parish Hall, Kiama, Wednesdays, 9:00am – 11:30am.

Term 3 2026: 2 & 16 September.

For further details please contact Susie Hartley on 0438 377 292.

SVDP HELP CENTRE

Mondays – 4:00pm to 5:00pm
(excluding public holidays)

SVDP Kiama Conference operates a Help Centre in the Parish Meeting Room, Kiama, for those seeking assistance. People must phone for an appointment. **Calls and texts are taken from 12:00pm each Monday only. Please phone 0416 928 247.** Current income statements and ID are required.

SACRAMENTS 2026

Information about the 2026 Sacramental Program is now available on the Parish website. For more information about each Sacrament and dates for each program please visit our website: <https://www.kiamacatholicchurch.com.au/sacramental-program>

ENROLMENT DATES

* **Confirmation** – Enrolments closed.

* **First Reconciliation** – Enrolments closed.

* **First Holy Communion** – Online enrolments close Friday, 11 September.

SILVER CIRCLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of Silver Circle:

Week 4:

1st – Jane Stokes (#41);

2nd – Jeanette Easton (#44);

3rd – Tom Anderson (#46)

FR CHRIS AWAY

Fr Chris will be on leave from Sunday afternoon, 23 August to Wednesday 2 September. He will then be away again for a Cursillo retreat from Thursday 10 - Sunday 13 September.

SAVE THE DATE!

PARISH RETREAT DAY

Friday, 11 September,
Ss Peter and Paul Church and Hall, Kiama.
Includes Mass with Anointing of the Sick.
More info to come.

SVDP WINTER APPEAL

FOOD AND TOILETRY DONATIONS

Donations of food and toiletries to SVDP Kiama are welcomed and may be left in the designated baskets in our churches. The baskets will be in place for the rest of winter.



SVDP Kiama Conference wish to thank Homestead of Hope for joining with us at times to support some of our most vulnerable clients. The support is very much appreciated by the Kiama SVDP members and their clients.

ST MARY'S NEWS

* Monthly morning tea this Sunday, 23 August celebrating the 144-year Anniversary of the Church. Everyone is welcome.

* Belles lunch for the ladies of the Parish to be held at Gerroa Fisherman's Club at 12md on Monday, 7 September.

Friends of parishioners are also very welcome. For more information contact Clare 0425 743 722.

INVITATION

Corpus Christi High School will be holding a Staff Mass at Ss Peter and Paul Church at 12:45pm on Friday 4 September. The Corpus Christi staff would like to advise that all parishioners are welcome to attend.

WORKSHOP ON RENEWABLES

As a lead-up to the Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October) our Parish Laudato Si Circle will be promoting this free workshop at Mass this weekend and next weekend. The workshop is scheduled for Friday, 4 September at the Uniting Church in Kiama from 5:00pm – 7:00pm.

RSVP: yes2renewables.org.au/kiama

DIOCESAN NEWS

Check out upcoming Diocesan events and courses - too many to list in one place. Subscribe at dow.sh/stayingconnected and we will keep you in the loop about what's happening around our Diocese!

COMPASS CATHOLIC FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND

Registrations are now open for our next CCFC Weekend planned for Friday 16 – Sunday 18 October. Join with families from across the Diocese for a relaxed weekend of family fun, faith and food!

For more information and to register go to dow.sh/familycamping26

PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF DEACON SETH HARSH

All parishioners are warmly invited to share in the great joy of the ordination to the priesthood of Deacon Seth Harsh, celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord, on **Saturday 12 September at 10:30am** at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rosemeadow. Please come and support Seth with your presence and prayers as he takes this beautiful step in his vocation and begins his priestly ministry.

RSVP is essential by 1 September rsvp.dow.org.au (preferred) or phone 4222 2400.

ST CARLO ACUTIS RELIC AND DISPLAY

Coming in September!

Our diocese is excited to be hosting the International Carlo Acutis Major Relic Pilgrimage between 14-21 September 2026. The relic will visit the parishes of Oran Park (Mon 14), Rosemeadow (Tue 15) Nowra (Wed 16- Thurs 17), and the Wollongong Cathedral (Fri 18 - Mon 21), with opportunities for veneration of the first-class relic of St Carlo, participating in the sacraments, and visiting St Carlo's own Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition. Everyone, but especially students and young adults will be amazed and drawn into a deep experience of faith in encountering St Carlo's story, relic and the display.

Go to <https://www.stcarloaustralia.com/> for more information.

WANT TO BE BAPTISED? WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?

Anyone over the age of seven (7) who has not been baptised and who wishes to become a Catholic, NOW is the time to let the Parish Office know. Preparation for the three Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist is called RCIA or RCIC, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults/Children. Similarly, if you have been baptised in another Christian Church and you want to become a Catholic, you won't be re-baptised, but there is a preparation period prior to you receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. If you or if you know anyone

who wants to become a Catholic, please call the Parish Office THIS WEEK, to obtain the "inquiry" form and to begin the preparation. People in the RCIA and RCIC programs will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, 27 March 2027. Welcome to anyone wishing to become a Catholic.

Please note: If you, your spouse and/or de facto have been previously divorced, you need to contact the Tribunal Office (4222 2409) prior to your enrolling in the RCIA Program.

RENEWED & SENT: PARISH RENEWAL SUMMIT

Bishop Brian Mascord invites you to the **Renewed & Sent Parish Renewal Summit, to be held at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown, from 1-3 October 2026.** Join clergy, religious, lay leaders, ministry volunteers and parishioners from across the Diocese of Wollongong for three days of inspiring keynote presentations, practical workshops, prayer, and opportunities to connect with others who share a passion for the future of our parishes. This opportunity aligns with Bishop Brian Mascord's *Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes*, helping us to grow as communities where people encounter Jesus, become his disciples, and are sent to share the Gospel. Whether you come on your own or as part of a parish team, you'll leave encouraged, inspired, and equipped with practical ideas to help your parish grow in faith, mission, and community.

For the full program and registrations, visit: renewedandsent.com.au.

CURSILLO DIOCESAN WOMEN'S ENCOUNTER

Thursday 10 September to Sunday 13 September, Carmel House Varroville
Cursillo is a life changing experience providing a method to support and nurture our faith journey and enable us to live vibrant Gospel oriented lives. The weekend will include talks, discussions fostering friendship, daily Mass, spiritual direction, good music, fun and laughter. Cost: \$320 (payment options available) covers all meals, accommodation, resources and activities. Enquiries: Shirley Parker 0431 513 109 cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com dow.sh/cursillo

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

23 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Romans 11:33-36

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?'

And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?'

Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.'

Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this

rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

READINGS FOR 30 AUGUST

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time –
Year A/1

1ST READING: Jer 20:7-9

PSALM: Ps 62:2-6, 8-9 (R.) *My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

2ND READING: Rom 12:1-2

GOSPEL: Mt 16:21-27



Have you thought?

What's in a name?

On many occasions in the Bible a character is given, or takes on, a new name when they take on a new role or move to a new level in their faith and relationship with God. Abram became Abraham; Sarai became Sarah; Jacob became Israel; and Saul became Paul. In all of these circumstances the person took on a new name to reflect their new relationship with God. This tradition has continued right to this day. Men and women entering religious life have traditionally taken on a new name to indicate the new life they are entering. When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger became pope he took on the name Benedict to indicate the new role and the new life he was beginning.