



# SUNDAY, 15 MARCH 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 – 21/22 March 2026**

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

**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](mailto:kiama@dow.org.au)     **Web:** [www.kiamacatholicchurch.com.au](http://www.kiamacatholicchurch.com.au)

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

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



#### **WEEKDAY MASSES - KIAMA**

|                  |             |               |   |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|---|
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>17/3</b> | <b>5.00pm</b> | <i>St Patrick</i>                                   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>18/3</b> | <b>8:00am</b> |   |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>19/3</b> | <b>8:00am</b> | <i>St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>20/3</b> | <b>9:30am</b> |   |

**RECONCILIATION:** Ss Peter and Paul Kiama  
**Every Saturday:** 8:30am – 9:00am (except Easter Saturday)     **Monthly:** first Saturday, 5:00pm – 5:30pm.

**WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS:** by arrangement.

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

#### **COUNTER'S ROSTER:**

**15 March: Group 4 – Mike Doherty**

**22 March: Group 1 – Gavan Hoctor**

## **PROJECT COMPASSION 2026**



**PROJECT COMPASSION**

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**



Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.

#### **Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes or envelopes.

#### **Or online at:**

[www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we  
*Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

### **REFLECTION**

There are many occasions when we ask the question why and can't find the answer for which we are looking. Why did we miss out on a job? Why did someone we love get cancer? Why can't we find a place to live that we can afford? Why do some days seem so difficult?

It is good to sit with our confusion and even grief. It is good to share it with the Lord who loves us so tenderly. But sometimes we have to step aside from the question why did this happen? It may be better to start with where can I go from here? What small steps will enable me to face the future in a positive spirit?

Today's readings touch upon these issues. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters a person who was born blind. The bystanders want to know why this happened. They think it must be because either he or his parents did something wrong. They are looking backwards. Jesus prefers to look forwards. He says, 'he was born blind so that the works of God may be displayed in him.' In other words, his blindness presents opportunities for growth, not a pretext for blame. The letter to the Ephesians similarly

reminds us that we are on a journey from darkness to light. The whole of Lent could be described in those words. The letter says, 'try to discover what the Lord wants of you.' It asks us in terms of possibilities! The same thing happens when Samuel anoints David. It doesn't matter that David is a young shepherd. He has a big future, as anyone familiar with the Bible well knows.

This week, Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, draws us into the story of Manaini, a 44-year-old mother and subsistence farmer in remote northern Fiji. She has transformed her family's life through food processing and organic farming, thanks to a Caritas-supported project. Once reliant on more store-bought food and prone to food waste, she now produces homemade flours, dried foods, and sells produce and baked goods from local crops. Her passion for learning has made her a key player in her community, working with others to embrace more sustainable, empowering ways of living. Thanks to the generosity of the Australian Catholic community, hundreds of thousands of people such as Manaini are finding an answer to the question, 'where can we go from here.'

# 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:

*Anna; Rosalie Fletcher; Denise Tierney (nee Farrugia); Andrew Mulroe; Paul Anderson; Margaret Di Salvio; Marg Snelling; John Nash; Jason Dorahy; Mel Condon; All sick parishioners and sick relatives and friends of parishioners.*

### Anniversaries:

*Yvonne Ryan; Gerry Gilchrist; Pat Green; Peter Kells; the Holy Souls in Purgatory and all parishioners whose anniversaries occur at this time.*

### Recently Deceased:

*Barbara Macgregor; Joy Fardy; Amalia Swords; Peter Nolan; Elaine Smith; Greg Steele; Christine Patton; Barbara Bennett; 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](mailto: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 us 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 1 2026: 25 March.**

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** – Online enrolments close Friday, 24 July.
- \* **First Holy Communion** – Online enrolments close Friday, 11 September.

## HOLY WEEK MASS TIMES



### Palm Sunday – 28/29 March

- \* **Kiama:** Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm;  
Sunday: 8:00am & 6:00pm
- \* **Gerringong:** 9:30am
- \* **Jamberoo:** 9:30am

### Holy Thursday – 2 April

Kiama: 7:00pm  
1 hour of Adoration after Mass

### Good Friday – 3 April

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

10:00am Kiama, Gerringong and Jamberoo (children's Stations)

### PASSION:

Kiama: 3:00pm

### Easter Vigil – 4 April

Kiama: 7:30pm (please bring a torch or electric candle)

### Easter Sunday – 5 April

Kiama: 7:30am & 9:30am  
**NO SUNDAY EVENING MASS**

Gerringong: 9.30am

Jamberoo: 9.30am

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**



Fridays during Lent – 5:30pm., Ss Peter and Paul Church.

## **DAILY MISSALS**

If anyone would like to order a Daily Missal please contact Louise at the Parish Office - we can get them at a slight discount. **Costs:** \$65 for a **Weekday Missal**. \$36 for a **Sunday Missal**.

The following are annual publications which can be ordered at the end of each year: **Daily Mass Book** - \$30 (still available to buy) and **God's Word** – price TBC (sold out for 2026).

Please note, prices are approximates. The final price will depend on the number ordered and postage costs.

## **SILVER CIRCLE WINNERS**

Congratulations to the following winners of Silver Circle:

### **Week 6:**

1<sup>st</sup> – Bernadette Condon (#16);

2<sup>nd</sup> – Colleen Rae (#24);

3<sup>rd</sup> – Kathy Jardin (#29)

## **CATECHIST COORDINATOR**

Are you interested in becoming a Catechist in our Parish?

For more information, please contact Gai Delavere on 0401 468 209 or email [gai.delavere@outlook.com](mailto:gai.delavere@outlook.com)

## **LENTEN GROUP**

A Lenten Group is running from 9:30am to 10:30am every Thursday in Ss Peter and Paul Sacramental Room. Ends Thursday, 2 April. Phone Angie for more information – 0404 856 379.

## **ONE HOUR PER WEEK DURING LENT . . .**

You're warmly invited to come to Ss Peter and Paul Church for one hour of prayer, quiet time and personal reflection **each Thursday afternoon** during Lent in preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

A different Lenten Reflection sheet for personal prayer and reflection will be provided each week. No sharing.

All parishioners and friends warmly welcome.

**Time:** 4:00pm to 5:00pm

**Where:** Ss Peter & Paul Church, Kiama  
*'Come and see . . .'*

For more information phone 0409 562 830 or Email [smabela@bigpond.com](mailto:smabela@bigpond.com)

## **CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME**

You may have family or friends who are non-practicing Catholics who would like to rekindle their Catholic faith. Dana & Vince Breen are providing informal information sessions. All-comers are welcome no matter at what stage they find themselves on their journey home.

For further information contact Louise at the Parish Office 4232 2081 or [kiama@dow.org.au](mailto:kiama@dow.org.au)

## **FUNDRAISING BOOKS FOR SALE**

Boni Maywald from Wrapped with Love has donated copies of "Art in Illawarra Craft 2020-2025" for sale, with all proceeds going to Homestead of Hope. This is a beautifully produced book of craft displays in Gerringong and Kiama libraries in June 2025 and is priced at \$20 per copy - this donation is a very generous gift. Copies are available at the Parish Office during Office hours.

## **DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD**

On Sunday 22 March 2026, join the Marian Procession through the streets of Sydney CBD as



we publicly witness to the dignity of every unborn child. Led by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP to celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation. This day of prayer and remembrance in the lead-up to the Solemnity of the Annunciation begins at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney at 10:30am with Holy Mass; 12:00pm – Angelus & Marian Procession through the streets of Sydney; 1:30pm – Fervourino (at the Cathedral)

## **SINGING AND SIGNING**

A Fossil Fuel Treaty which opposes the expansion of the mining of fossil fuels is now being promoted globally for nations, groups, religious organisations, clergy and individuals of faith and no faith to sign on and show their concern and commitment. Of course, Pope Leo and the Laudato Si Movement of the Catholic Church are in full support of this initiative. You are invited to join a sing-along next Tuesday where people will

raise their voices in opposition to the expansion of the mining of fossil fuels. What we need are not tenors, altos or sopranos, but voices passionate in their support of action on this issue. You will also be able to sign and show your support of the treaty using the QR code reader on your phone or take home details on how you can sign up later. We hope to see you there.

**When:** Tuesday, 17 March, 6 – 7:30pm

**Where:** Kiama Uniting Church

Contact the Parish Office if you have any questions or wish to volunteer as a musician on the night.

## **WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE?**

Check out upcoming Diocesan events and courses - too many to list in one place.

Subscribe at [dow.sh/stayingconnected](http://dow.sh/stayingconnected) and we will keep you in the loop about what's happening around our Diocese!

## **SANCTUS - UNANDERRA**

Join us for Sanctus Summit at **Immaculate Conception, Unanderra on Wednesday 18 March**. Sanctus Summit is a monthly adoration night, bringing together youth and young adults from different parts of the **Diocese! Eucharistic Adoration from 6:30 – 7:30pm** (Reconciliation will be available), Vespers, followed by dinner at Unanderra Hotel. Come along to pray before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and connect with other young people from the area!

## **PRAYER INTENTIONS**

\* Gustavo Cáceres asks for prayers for himself, Andrea Bernabey, the Cáceres family - for the liberation of all evil spirits, be it of mind, spirit, or body. For the healing, liberation and needs of the genealogical trees of the Cáceres, Rios, Alonso, Santa Cruz families and for the eternal rest of their deceased.

\* Slawek asks for prayers for his mother, Anna, who is sick and dying.

## **READINGS – 22 MARCH**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – Year A/2**

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** Ezek 37:12-14

**PSALM:** Ps 129 (R.) *With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING:** Rom 8:8-11

**GOSPEL:** Jn 11:1-45

# **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A**

**15 MARCH 2026**

## **FIRST READING**

1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 22 R. v.1

**(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

*Due to the length of the Gospel the Psalm verses have been omitted from the bulletin this weekend.*

## **SECOND READING**

Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

## **GOSPEL**

John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.' Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent').

So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind

and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?'

At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him. Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord.