



SUNDAY, 30 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 – 5/6 September 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

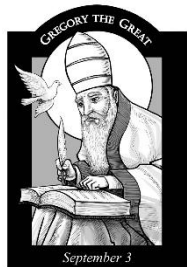


SS PETER AND PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL: 98 Manning St, (PO Box 248) Kiama **Web:** www.spppdow.catholic.edu.au

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

WEEKDAY MASSES - KIAMA

Tuesday	1/9	5.00pm
Wednesday	2/9	8:00am
Thursday	3/9	8:00am <i>St Gregory the Great</i>
Friday	4/9	9:30am



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:

30 August: Group 4 – Tammy Golding

6 September: Group 5 – Peter McGuinness

REFLECTION – FOR YOUR LIFE

By Scott Hahn

Today's First Reading catches the prophet Jeremiah in a moment of weakness. His intimate lamentation contains some of the strongest language of doubt found in the Bible. Following God's call, he feels abandoned. Preaching His Word has brought him only derision and reproach.

But God does not deceive—and Jeremiah knows this. God tests the just (see Jeremiah 20:11–12) and disciplines His children through their sufferings and trials (see Hebrews 12:5–7).

What Jeremiah learns is what Jesus states explicitly in today's Gospel. To follow Him is to take up a cross, to deny yourself—your priorities, preferences, and comforts. It is to be willing to give it all up, even life itself, for the sake of His Gospel. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we have to join ourselves to the Passion of Christ, to offer our bodies—our whole beings—as living sacrifices to God.

By His Cross, Jesus has shown us what Israel's sacrifices of animals were meant to teach: we owe to God all that we have.

God's kindness is a greater good than life itself, as we sing in today's Psalm. The only thanks we can offer is our spiritual worship, giving our lives to the service of His will (see Hebrews 10:3–11; Psalm 50:14, 23).

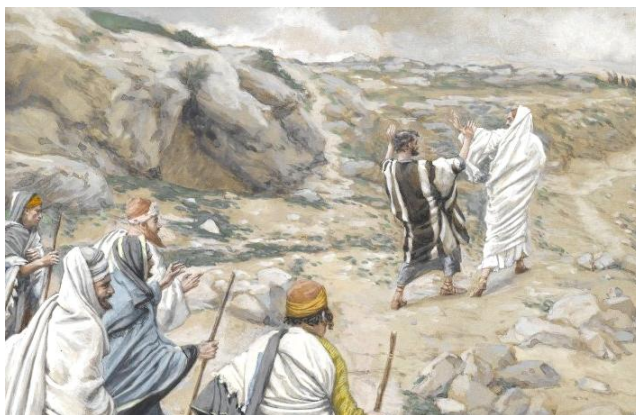
Peter doesn't yet get this in today's Gospel. As it was for Jeremiah, the cross is a stumbling block for Peter (see 1 Corinthians 1:23). This is our natural temptation, as well: to refuse to believe that our sufferings play a necessary part in God's plan.

That's how people think, Jesus tells us today. But we are called to the renewal of our minds—to think as God thinks, to will what He wills.

In the Mass, we once again offer ourselves as perfect and pleasing sacrifices of praise (see Hebrews 13:15). We bless Him as we live, confident that we will find our lives in losing them, that with the riches of His banquet our souls will be satisfied.

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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:

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

Recently Deceased:

Melanie Hellmund; Claire Shortis; Marie Brennan; Michael Sayers; David Johnson; 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.

FUNERALS

* **Claire Shortis** – Tuesday, 1 September, 10:00am, St Mary Star of the Sea Gerringong

* **Marie Brennan** – Thursday, 3 September, 11:00am, St Matthew's Jamberoo

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 2027 Sacramental Program will be available on the Parish website from the beginning of Term 1 2027.

www.kiamacatholicchurch.com.au/sacramental-program

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026

Enrolments close Friday, 11 September.

Program information and enrolment forms can be found on our website:

www.kiamacatholicchurch.com.au/eucharist

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

7:00pm, Ss Peter and Paul Church, Kiama
Tuesday, 15 September and
Thursday, 17 September.

Enrolments must be completed online before attending a parent information night.

Parent kits will only be available to those who have pre-enrolled by the enrolment cut-off date.

SILVER CIRCLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of Silver Circle:

Week 5:

1st – Anonymous (#33);

2nd – Colleen Easton (#17);

3rd – Joan Toulmin (#12)

FR CHRIS AWAY

Fr Chris is on leave until Thursday, 3 September. He will be away again for a Cursillo retreat from Thursday 10 – Sunday 13 September.

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.

FOUND!!!

Set of rosary beads left in Ss Peter and Paul Church. Contact the Parish Office.

ST MARY'S NEWS

* 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.

COFFEE CAKE & CONVERSATION



You are invited to the Parishioner's morning tea on Friday, 4 September in Ss Peter and Paul Meeting Room, following the Catholic Women's League 9:30am Mass.

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

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE

Season Of Creation Online Gathering
3 - 4 September

10:00am to 4:30pm (AEST) via Zoom.

Join online for two days of faith formation, ecological reflection and practical action as we Listen, Reflect and Act for our common home with inspiring keynote speakers. \$20 individual | \$100 organisation/hub. Participants may attend all or parts of the event. Learn more and register: www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering



Quarterly gathering at Kiama Uniting Church, Manning St. Kiama, 10:30am. Free Morning tea and Lunch provided. Enjoy some music and a Guest Speaker. All Welcome. Contact Rhonda Back on 0400 980 977 or just come along on the day

PARISH RETREAT DAY

Ss Peter and Paul Kiama

Friday 11 September,

Starting at 8:30 am

(Registration from 8:00 am)

The day will include:

Holy Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, Anointing Session, Rosary, Chaplet of Mercy, Faith Formation Talks, Time for reflection and/or fellowship. Morning and Afternoon Tea will be provided.

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

(James 5:14)

ACBC SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT – AUGUST 2026

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) has released the 2026 Social Justice Statement, *Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division*. In this statement, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB reflects on the growing tensions and divisions experienced within our communities and invites Catholics to respond through the lens of the Gospel — embracing mercy, human dignity, respectful dialogue, reconciliation and solidarity. The statement encourages parishes, families, schools and agencies to use this resource for prayer, formation and action. Limited copies of the full statement are available at the back of each church.

You can also download a copy from www.dow.org.au/wp-content/uploads/ACBC-Social-Justice-Statement-August-2026.pdf

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!

THE JOURNEY

Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast

On The Journey This Week: Fr Joshua Scott says being a Christian means we are called not to comfort but to greatness. Mother Hilda says we can begin to see situations through God's eyes by showing compassion and mercy. Tony Percy reflects on the theology of the body. Mark Raue delves into this year's Social Justice Sunday statement, "Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division." Fr Mike Delaney looks at practical aspects of today's Social Justice statement. Plus, more great music!

Visit www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

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.

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**. 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. 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.

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

30 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl

and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,

I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**
4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-2

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

READINGS FOR 6 SEPTEMBER

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time –
Year A/1

1ST READING: Ezek 33:7-9

PSALM: Ps 94:1-2, 6-9 (R.) *O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.*

2ND READING: Rom 13:8-10

GOSPEL: Mt 18:15-20

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Have you got what it takes?

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option.

