



SUNDAY, 16 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 – 22/23 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

For this week only, from Tuesday to Thursday, Mass will be replaced by Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion. Normal Masses resume on Friday.

Tuesday 18/8 5:00pm

Wednesday 19/8 8:00am

Thursday 20/8 8:00am St Bernard

Friday 21/8 9:30am St Pius X

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:

16 August: Group 2 – Ross Smith

23 August: Group 3 – Vonnie Gee

REFLECTION – A FOREIGNER'S FAITH

By Scott Hahn



Most of us are the foreigners, the non-Israelites, about whom today's First Reading prophesies.

Coming to worship the God of Israel, we stand in the line of faith epitomized by the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel. Calling to Jesus as Lord and Son of David, this foreigner shows her great faith in God's covenant with Israel.

Jesus tests her faith three times. He refuses to answer her cry. Then, He tells her His mission is only to Israelites. Finally, He uses "dog," an epithet used to disparage non-Israelites (see Matthew 7:6). Yet she persists, believing that He alone offers salvation.

In this family drama, we see fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy and the promise we sing of in today's Psalm. In Jesus, God makes known among all the nations His way and His salvation (see John 14:6).

At the start of salvation history, God called Abraham (see Genesis 12:2). He chose his offspring, Israel, from all the nations on the face of the earth to build His covenant kingdom (see Deuteronomy 7:6–8; Isaiah 41:8).

In God's plan, Abraham was to be the father of many nations (see Romans 4:16–17).

Israel was to be the firstborn of a worldwide family of God, made up of all who believe what the Canaanite professes; that Jesus is Lord (see Exodus 4:22–23; Romans 5:13–24).

Jesus came first to restore the kingdom to Israel (see Acts 1:6; 13:46). But His ultimate mission was the reconciliation of the world, as Paul declares in today's Epistle.

In the Mass we join all peoples in doing Him homage. As Isaiah foretold, we come to His holy mountain, the heavenly Jerusalem, to offer sacrifice at His altar (see Hebrews 12:22–24, 28). With the Canaanite, we take our place at the Master's table to be fed as His children.

Used with permission. Originally published by the St Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

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.

FUNERALS

* **Michael Sayers** – Friday, 21 August, 11:30am, Ss Peter and Paul Kiama

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: 19 August; 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 3:

- 1st – Helen McInerney (#30);
- 2nd – Diane Sainsbury (#37);
- 3rd – Jane Stokes (#41)

CLERGY RETREAT

Fr Chris and Fr George will be away at a Clergy Retreat from Sunday evening, 16 August to Friday, 21 August. Fr John Crothers will celebrate the Sunday evening Mass and the Friday morning Mass. Weekday Masses during this time will be Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion.

MUSICIANS NEEDED FOR 8:00AM MASS AT KIAMA



The 8:00am Sunday Mass in Kiama needs musicians to play the piano or organ, or any instrument, or to sing. We are desperate to recruit new members. Please contact Leonie Dewhurst on 4232 1201 if you can help.

SAVE THE DATE!

PARISH RETREAT DAY

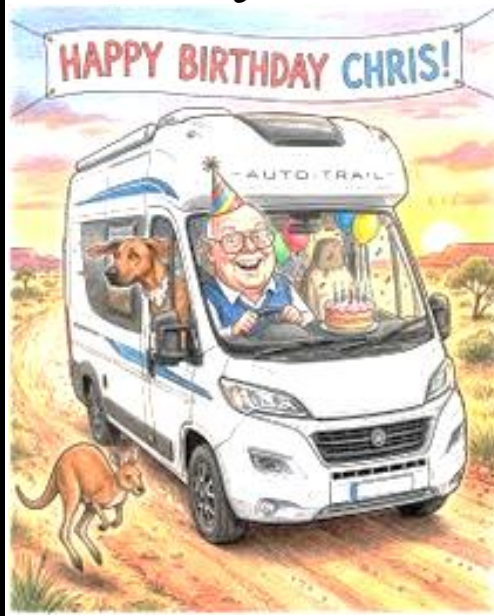
Friday, 11 September,
Ss Peter and Paul Church and Hall, Kiama.
Includes Mass with Anointing of the Sick.
More info to come.

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.

***Happy Birthday to
Fr Chris for Thursday,
20 August!!!!***



RCIA DINNER NEWS

The recent Winter Warmers Parish Dinner on Thursday, 6 August 2026, was a delightful evening at Ss Peter and Paul Parish. Over 35 parishioners gathered to welcome our RCIA catechumens, candidates, and new Catholics. The warm fireplace and delicious meal of soup, lasagne, quiches, salad, and homemade desserts created a wonderful atmosphere. Special thanks to Angela Quinn, Michael Brady, Michael Hayden, Claire Folland and to all those who contributed food, drinks and washing up. Fr Chris and Fr George's presence added to the joy. This gathering highlighted the importance of community connections beyond Mass. RCIA look forward to planning another event in Term 4, for an RCIA Spring Has Sprung gathering, to continue fostering fellowship and our welcoming new parishioners.

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

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.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

**Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary
Centenary Jubilee Celebrations at
Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa**

Come join us as we give thanks for the past 100 years and entrust the future to the loving care of the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.

Date: Sunday 13 September.

Time: Please be seated by 9:45am for a 10:00am start. The celebration is to conclude at approximately 3:00pm.

The day will begin with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP followed by light refreshments and an official program. Parish bus groups are encouraged. An exhibition on the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary will be available for viewing in the Family Hall from 8:30am - 6:00pm.

To RSVP and for more information visit: www.schoenstatt.org.au

WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

**One Year to go until World Youth Day
Seoul 2027!**

Applications are open for the Diocese of Wollongong's pilgrimage. If you're interested in joining thousands of young Catholics from around the world for this once-in-a-lifetime experience of faith, community and pilgrimage, visit dow.org.au/wyd27 for information on the itinerary, costs, travel arrangements and FAQs. An information night will be held on Wednesday 2 September from 6:00 - 8:00pm at the Xavier Conference Rooms (38 Harbour St Wollongong) to provide further information and provide a chance for potential pilgrims to meet each other. Anyone looking to apply is required to attend this session. Join our mailing list at dow.sh/wyd27 to receive the latest updates and announcements.

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

16 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56:1.6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:21-28

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost

sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.

READINGS FOR 23 AUGUST

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time –
Year A/1

1ST READING: Is 22:19-23

PSALM: Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8 (R.) *Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.*

2ND READING: Rom 11:33-36

GOSPEL: Mt 16:13-20



SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

This passage is the second of a group of three stories that make up Chapter 15 of Matthew's Gospel. The first story shows Jesus challenging traditional views of cleanliness and uncleanness – one of the great separators between Jews and Gentiles. The story in this week's gospel follows with its account of the Canaanite woman's great faith being recognised. Finally, Matthew relates the story of the feeding of the four thousand – a dramatic sign by Jesus of the open invitation to receive his message and ministry. The three stories, taken together, form a powerful chapter that makes clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the Jews.