



SUNDAY, 17 MAY 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 – 23/24 May 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	19/5	5.00pm
Wednesday	20/5	8:00am
Thursday	21/5	8:00am
Friday	22/5	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:

17 May: Group 1 – Gavan Hctor

24 May: Group 2 – Ross Smith

REFLECTION

THE GOOD NEWS

By Scott Hahn

In today's First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus' saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and He has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies.

The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf (see Hebrews 4:14–15).

Indeed, His intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the First Reading for the feast of the Ascension: "in a few days you will be

baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5). The Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God's children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through Baptism.

The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord" (Psalm 47). The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace.

The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for

the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" because of the light that came with God's saving grace (see, for example, Hebrews 10:32). Saint Paul, in his Letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as Ascension leads to Pentecost: "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened," he writes, as he looks to the divinization of the believers. Their "hope" is "his inheritance among the holy ones," the saints who have been adopted into God's family and now rule with Him at the Father's right hand.

This is the "good news" the Apostles are commissioned to spread—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem—at the Ascension. It's the good news we must spread today.

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:

Hilton Bloomfield; Denise Tierney (nee Farrugia); Andrew Mulroe; Marg Snelling; John Nash; Jason Dorahy; Mel Condon; All sick parishioners and sick relatives and friends of parishioners.

Anniversaries:

Mark Anderson; Tom Cullen; Daniel Wong; Damien Allport; Brian Tyrie; Pat Green; Peter Kells; the Holy Souls in Purgatory and all parishioners whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Recently Deceased:

Fr John Pickering OFM; Colin Prior; Colleen Gray; Cindy Williams; Brian Walsh; Elizabeth "Anne" Ellsmore; Gregory Anderson; Leo Lennon; Graeme Moore; 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

* **Greg Anderson** – 11:00am, Tuesday, 19 May, St Mary Star of the Sea Gerringong.

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 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 2 2026:

20 May; 3 & 17 June; 1 July.

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.

MISSALS FOR SALE

If anyone would like to buy a Daily Missal please contact Louise at the Parish Office - we can offer them at a slight discount. **Costs:** \$65 for a **Weekday Missal**. \$35 for a **Sunday Missal**. Annual publications can be ordered nearer the end of each year: **Daily Mass Book** and **God's Word** – prices TBC.

SILVER CIRCLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of Silver Circle:

- Week 1:** 1st Josh Jardin (#1); 2nd – Mary Lovegrove (#19); 3rd – Gai Delavere (#40)
- Week 2:** 1st – Michael O'Neill (#34); 2nd Ken Rae (#36); 3rd – Christine Holloway (#25)

WEEKDAY MASS CHANGES

Fr Chris and Fr George will be away at a Clergy In-Service from **26-28 May**. Weekday Masses during this time will be Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion. Mass will be as normal from Friday, 29 May.

KBECET NEWS

The latest Kiama high school newsletter is now available at each of the churches. In it you will read good news about the impact of scripture at Kiama High. At the moment we are struggling financially to continue this vital ministry. Please

consider donating to support KBECET. EFT to BSB 082 662 ACC 24896 6896. Account name Kiama board for employing Christian education teachers Inc. Alternatively deposit money in a marked envelope and place it in any collection at Mass. Please include your name if you wish a receipt. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. For more information about KBECET contact Gai on 0401 468 209. Thank you.



Thank you to everyone for your prayers, concern and support during my recent medical issues. I really appreciate that. I am pleased to say those issues have now been resolved. Thank you again.
Margaret Di Salvo.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Winners of the 2026 CWL Mother's Day raffle drawn by Fr Chris on 8 May were:

- (1) Carol Condon, Gerringong.
- (2) Emma Hassett, Toowoomba.
- (3) Marinka Chavez, Kiama.
- (4) Margaret Kodzielski, Jamberoo.
- (5) J. Regan, Gerringong.

CWL Kiama Branch members thank you for your prayer and both physical and financial support of this Parish and Diocesan ministry. *Anne Hassett.*

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS WALK FOR LIFE

Friday 22 and Saturday 23 May

Join walkers praying for Australia for all life issues - the elimination of abortion, euthanasia, suicide, family breakdown, and to pray for Australia's Government. We unite our prayer with sacrifice and entrust everything to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Walk on either or both days, or just a short section. BYO Lunch, snacks, water and hat. Support vehicle provided all the way, shuttle cars return pilgrims to point of departure on both days.

BENEFITS: Mass. Prayer. Hymns. Exercise. Spectacular scenery. Joyful fellowship. Blessings in abundance.

Day 1: Kiama Coastal Walk to Gerringong (13km). Start 9:30am Mass at Ss Peter and Paul Church Kiama. Finish 3:30pm St Mary Star of the Sea Church Gerringong (Benediction, confession available, all night adoration).

Day 2: Gerringong to Shoalhaven Heads (16km). Start 7.30am Mass at St Mary

Star of the Sea Church Gerringong. Late lunch Shoalhaven Heads Surf Club 1.45pm. Shuttle bus to Crookhaven headland, for procession walk 4.00pm for Mass at Culburra. 5.30pm - Dinner to follow at Bowling Club. For more information contact Sue Hill, 0435 336 195 or sueandpeterhill@gmail.com, or Gabriella De Battista, 0414 205 404.

CATERING REQUEST: DIOCESAN WALK FOR LIFE

Friday, 22 May

Thanks be to God, in May 2025 over 70 people were able to participate in "brunch" hospitality and receive a Blessing from Fr Chris in Ss Peter and Paul Parish Hall before they set out on this coastal trek of prayer for the sanctity of all human life. This year pilgrim numbers are expected to increase slightly rather than decrease.

THEREFORE, A REQUEST FOR HOSPITALITY ASSISTANCE.

When: Friday 22 May

Time: Following the 9:30am Mass

Where: Ss Peter and Paul Parish Hall

Needs: Small plate of finger food

CWL Anne Hassett 4232 2570

LAUDATO SI CIRCLE BY THE OCEAN

You are invited to join us for our next meeting to be held on Friday 22 May from 4:30 - 5:15pm in the Parish Meeting Room. We will reflect on the proceedings of the Santa Marta Conference - Faith in Action and plan local action to achieve a Fossil Fuel Treaty. fossilfuel treaty.org.

'...that the world might grow in compassion...' (Pope Leo's prayer intention for June)

Denis Quinn - Mobile 0429 064 496

THE FIRST HYMN

Resurrecting a Song Buried for Millennia

Showing at Kiama Anglican Church on:

* Saturday 23 May at 7:00pm

* Wednesday 27 May at 7:00pm

Showing Time is approximately 1.5 hours. Gold Coin donation appreciated. Parking onsite. Please invite your friends.

For further info call 4232 2066 or visit www.thefirsthymnmovie.com

INVITATION FROM KIAMA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Greetings to friends at Kiama Catholic Church. You are invited to join us for a joyous Morning Tea Party on Monday, 25

May at 10:00am at Kiama Presbyterian Church, cnr Terralong and Shoalhaven Streets. Op-Shop Parade afterwards. Gold coin donation on arrival to support cancer research. RSVP to Joyce by Sunday, 17 May at 4232 1020 or 0411 156 430.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) runs from 27 May to 3 June. This year's "ALL IN" calls us to stand in solidarity, to listen with openness, and to walk forward with greater commitment to justice, truth, and healing. Reconciliation is not a spectator sport. It is the responsibility of all Australians (indigenous and nonindigenous) to take action to make change, to move beyond symbolic support and engage in active, daily reconciliation. 26 May, the day before NRW starts, is **National Sorry Day**, which commemorates the Stolen Generations. During Reconciliation week we can learn about shared histories and cultures, and reflect on how we can contribute to reconciliation moving toward a more equitable future. Reconciliation will not happen by itself - it will not happen without all of us.

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!

POSITION VACANT

Parish Office Coordinator, Port Kembla: 24 hrs per week, Job description available on Indeed, email parishdata@dow.org.au or call Fr Mark De Battista on 4274 1192.

Applications Close: 21 May.

AGEING WITH CONFIDENCE

What's age got to do with it?
Tuesday 9 June, 9:00am - 1:00pm
The Fraternity Club

Join CatholicCare for a free community event with Dr Emily Steel from the Australian Human Rights Commission, sharing practical approaches to ageing well. Morning tea and info stalls included. Register at 1800 967 894 or www.catholiccare.dow.org.au. Enquiries to Jane Hollier 0417 018 152 or janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A

17 MAY 2026

FIRST READING

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,

great king over all the earth. **(R.)**

2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

3. God is king of all the earth.

Sing praise with all your skill.

God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged

to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

READINGS FOR 24 MAY

Pentecost Sunday – Year A/1

NB: Only the readings for Mass during the Day will be published this weekend.

VIGIL:

1ST READING: Gen 11:1-9

PSALM: Ps 103:1-2, 24, 27-30 (R.) *Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.*

2ND READING: Rom 8:22-27

GOSPEL: Jn 7:37-39

DAY:

1ST READING: Acts 2:1-11

PSALM: Ps 103:1-2, 24, 27-30 (R.) *Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.*

2ND READING: 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

GOSPEL: Jn 20:19-23

