



SUNDAY, 22 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 – 28/29 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

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	24/3	5.00pm	
Wednesday	25/3	8:00am	<i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>
Thursday	26/3	8:00am	
Friday	27/3	9:30am	

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

COUNTER'S ROSTER:

22 March: Group 1 – Gavan Hctor

29 March: Group 2 – Ross Smith

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026



PROJECT COMPASSION

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

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

Or online at:

www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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



emotions, many of them tender. Just think of the beautiful reconciliation between Jesus and Peter after the resurrection. Jesus allows Peter to say that he loves him on no less than three occasions. Thankfully, most of us can write down a long list of people we have loved and who have loved us. Many names would appear on both lists! We keep a special place in our hearts and prayers for the people we know who have died. Even after a long time, their memory will still bring a tear to our eyes. That sorrow comes from a place of deep gratitude. God changes the world one heart at a time. When we encounter today's Gospel, the story of the raising of Lazarus, we are in a world of emotion. Martha and Mary are grieving for their brother. Jesus loves these two women. Thomas, the twin, is full of bravado and bluster, just as he was later when he wanted proof of the resurrection. Both Martha and Mary are disappointed, even angry, that Jesus has not come sooner. Jesus weeps at the grave of his friend. The mourners who have come to comfort the family must also have been sensitive to the situation. When Jesus says, 'I am the resurrection and the life', he is not explaining an idea. He is responding to the

deepest longings of our hearts, as he always does. Today's Psalm reminds us, 'My soul is longing for the Lord more than the watcher for daybreak.' Over the last few weeks, we have shared some of the stories presented to us by Caritas Australia to make us more aware of the inspirational work we can support through Project Compassion. They call us to *Unite Against Poverty*. This week Project Compassion asks us to learn more about the work of Caritas Australia in humanitarian emergencies. There are so many situations around the world that require a timely response. Caritas is active in the aftermath of earthquakes, floods, storms, plagues, drought and failed harvests. Of course, there will be time to enquire about the causes and to ask if climate change may have been a factor or if poor building standards caused problems. But first, people and communities need to survive, and Caritas has a lot of experience in this area. Your generosity to Project Compassion makes a wonderful difference to people in need. Thank you for helping to bring light to dark places. Jesus says about Lazarus, 'unbind him, let him go free.' We too can set people free.

REFLECTION

It must be difficult for somebody who has never experienced love to understand the Gospels. They are so full of different

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:

Jeff Gruska; Donna Gruska; Joy Rains; 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:

Les & May Russell; Anthony Russell; Warren Beecham; 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; 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 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.

CONFIRMATION COMMITMENT CEREMONY



This weekend at the two evening Masses in Kiama, children who are preparing for Confirmation will make their prayer of commitment, along with their parents. The prayer of support from the Parish can be found below.

At the back of Ss Peter and Paul Church is a display board with prayer cards for each child participating in the preparation program. Could Parishioners please take a card, or more if you wish, and pray for that child during their preparation period. Thank you for your support.

Prayer of Support from the Parish Community:

We want to accompany these children and their families as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. May we show our support and pray for these children as they take another step in their faith journey. Amen.

GERRINGONG NEWS

St Mary Star of the Sea Monthly Morning Tea will be held this Sunday after the 9:30am Mass. All welcome.

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. Ends Thursday, 2 April.

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

For more information phone 0409 562 830 or Email smabela@bigpond.com

SILVER CIRCLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of Silver Circle:

Week 7:

- 1st – Christine Holloway (#25);
- 2nd – Jeff Spillane (#3);
- 3rd – Alf Svenson (#22)

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

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.

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 kiamo@dow.org.au

JAMBEROO ABBEY RETREATS

Dear Friends, we have 3 retreats coming up at Jamberoo Abbey in the month of April to June.

* **Lord, Teach Us to Pray: The Aramaic Prayer of Jesus.** (Cottage Weekend Retreat) 10 - 12 April. Retreat Cost: \$150 + accommodation cost.

* **He is risen!** (Day Retreat for youth and young people) 18 April. Retreat Cost: \$60 (*Limited space available*)

* **Praying Icons with Julian of Norwich** (Day Retreat) 27 June. Retreat Cost: \$60 (*Limited space available*).

For more information and how to register visit our website at

www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/abbey-retreat-programs/.

We would like to enable as many people to attend our retreats. If you require assistance with the registration cost, please don't hesitate to contact us at: onlineretreat@jamberooabbey.org.au.

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.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Gerringong Uniting Church, Wednesday 25 March, 7:30pm - 8:30pm. A quiet, gentle space to pause, to pray, to hold our world in hope. Come and light a candle. Young and old; all welcome.

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 and we will keep you in the loop about what's happening around our Diocese!

PRAYER INTENTIONS

- * For peace in the Middle East and all areas of conflict throughout the world.
- * For an end to abortion, slavery and human trafficking.
- * For people to open their hearts to God and the love Jesus offers us.

READINGS – 29 MARCH

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – Year A/2

ENTRANCE: Mt 21:1-11

1ST READING: Is 50:4-7

PSALM: Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24 (R.) *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

2ND READING: Phil 2:6-11

GOSPEL: Mt 26:14 – 27:66 (NB: the Gospel will not be published in next weekend's bulletin due to its length)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

22 MARCH 2026

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 129. R. v.7

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **(R.)**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See John 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?'

Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.' He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to

her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.'

Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone.

Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.