



SUNDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 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 – 19/20 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.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

Tuesday	15/9	5.00pm	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wednesday	16/9	8:00am	Sts Cornelius & Cyprian
Thursday	17/9	8:00am	
Friday	18/9	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:

13 September: Group 1 – Gavan Hctor

20 September: Group 2 – Ross Smith

REFLECTION – THE DEBT WE OWE

By Scott Hahn



Mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life.

Yet, as today's First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, and refuse mercy to those who have done us wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in today's Gospel with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant who won't forgive a fellow servant's debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their master.

It can't be this way in the kingdom, the Church. In the Old Testament, seven is frequently a number associated with mercy and the forgiveness of sins. The just man sins seven times daily;

there is a sevenfold sprinkling of blood for atonement of sins (see Proverbs 24:6; Leviticus 16). But Jesus tells Peter today that we must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times. That means: every time.

We are to be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful (see Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:48). But why? Why does Jesus repeatedly warn that we can't expect forgiveness for our trespasses unless we're willing to forgive others their trespasses against us?

Because, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle, we are the Lord's. Each of us has been purchased by the blood of Christ shed for us on the Cross (see Revelation 5:9). As we sing in today's Psalm, though we deserved to die for our sins, He doesn't deal with us according to our crimes. The mercy and forgiveness we show to others should be the heartfelt expression of our gratitude for the mercy and forgiveness shown to us.

This is why we should remember our last days, set our enmities aside, and stop judging others. We know that one day we will stand before the judgment seat and give account for what we've done with the new life given to us by Christ (see Romans 14:10, 12).

So we forgive each other from the heart, overlook each other's faults, and await the crown of His kindness and compassion.

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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:

Kate Bramley; Michael Doherty; Bede Cummins; Denise Tierney (nee Farrugia); Marg Snelling; John Nash; Jason Dorahy; All sick parishioners and sick relatives and friends of parishioners.

Anniversaries:

Jennifer Johnstone; Cecil Lindley; Owen Patton; Pat Green; Peter Kells; the Holy Souls in Purgatory and all parishioners whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Recently Deceased:

Colleen Norman; Ann Dawes; Melanie Hellmund; Claire Shortis; Marie Brennar; Michael Sayers; 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

* **Colleen Norman** – Tuesday, 15 September, 10:00am, Ss Peter and Paul Kiama

* **Ann Dawes** – Thursday, 17 September, 10:00am, 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: 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

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 7:

1st – Colleen Easton (#17);

2nd – Sue Svenson (#23);

3rd – Gwen Ilic (#45)

FOUND!!!

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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday, 18 September to Monday, 28 September and will reopen on Tuesday, 29 September.

If you have any bulletin notices you would like published, please email them to kiama@dow.org.au by no later than Wednesday, 16 September. Fr Chris and Fr George will still be available during the Office closure.

SEEKING PLACEMENT ACCOMMODATION

Leilah Hartman, granddaughter of the late Hedi Stein, a long-standing Gerringong parishioner, is currently looking for accommodation support for her university placement at Nowra Hospital between October 18 and November 27th. If you can assist, please contact her on 0420 226 411. Thank you.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

The Bishop's Annual Appeal to support the retirement and health of clergy and the sound and holistic formation of seminarians will be promoted in our diocese during the month of September with a special collection taking place in our parish on the weekend of 19/20 September. *"Your donation to this appeal is very much appreciated."* + Bishop Brian Mascord. To find out more or make a tax-deductible donation please visit www.dow.org.au/giving or call 4222 2400 to make a tax-deductible donation over the phone.

SEASON OF CREATION

1 September – 4 October

This year's theme is **Living Water**. We are invited to imagine ourselves surrounded by living water, connected to every river, creek, ocean, raindrop, plant, animal and person. Water is precious. Some people have plenty of clean water. Others do not. Rivers and oceans are being polluted. Wetlands are disappearing. Climate change is changing rainfall, droughts and floods. Creation needs us to care. Creation needs us to act.

Creator of oceans and rivers, Creator of rain clouds, Creator of every living thing, open our eyes to the beauty of creation. Open our hearts to those who suffer because water is scarce, polluted or unsafe. Give us courage to change our choices. Help us to care and protect what cannot speak for itself. Help us remember that every drop matters. And when we see something that needs changing, give us the courage to act.

LAUDATO SI CIRCLE

This Season of Creation, our Laudato Si Circle is supporting the push to gather signatures in support of the Fossil Fuel Treaty, as the world's leaders prepare to gather for the Pre-COP Summit in Fiji. By doing so, we will be standing with our Pacific neighbours as they call for a

global transition from fossil fuels. On Sunday, 4 October, the Feast of St Francis, our faith community will join with Pacific people in a moment of prayer and spiritual solidarity. Our Laudato Si Circle and supporters will be providing information on how to sign up to the FFT and information on activities happening, after mass each weekend up to and including 4 October. Looking forward to your support as we stand together for the sake of Creation.

HOMESTEAD OF HOPE MELBOURNE CUP TICKETS

Ss Peter & Paul Parish Hall

Tuesday 3 November from 12.30pm

Lunch - chicken and salad, bread rolls, dessert, tea, coffee, BYO alcohol. Prizes for best dressed on the day. Buy a ticket in the sweep and watch race on big screen. Lucky door prizes - Raffle tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5 drawn on the day. 100 Tickets only so be early not to miss out. Cost \$35 each.

Contact Angie 0404 856 379, Robyn 0437 277 908, or Tammy 0432 696 532.

WHOW – WIDOWS HELPING OTHER WIDOWS

Friendship , Understanding and Support

Next meeting 2:00pm, Thursday, 17 September at Kiama Uniting Church. Ring Marion on 4233 2490 for more information or just come along.

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!

NSW RALLY AGAINST ABORTION UP TO BIRTH

A pro-life rally is to be held outside NSW Parliament House, at 6:00pm on Tuesday, 15 September in support of a bill banning the practice of sex-selective abortion. A show of significant numbers will greatly help this cause as we advocate for the protection of all unborn children and particularly our baby girls who are especially vulnerable. They have no voice but ours. Your presence matters. This will be a family friendly event. More information can be found at: drjoannahowe.com.au/nswrallyforlifeseptember2026

ST CARLO ACUTIS RELIC AND DISPLAY THIS WEEK AROUND THE DIOCESE!

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 14th), Rosemeadow (Tue 15th) Nowra (Wed 16 - Thurs 17th), Unanderra (Fri 18), 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 dow.sh/acutis for the full public itinerary.

VOCARIS YOUTH OCTOBER 2026

Do you have a high school-aged young person who you would love to see grow in their faith, discover the beauty of the Catholic faith and make like-minded friends? Then they won't want to miss VOCARIS Youth – a free, fun and faith-filled day for students in Years 7-12 on Saturday, 31 October, 10:00am-3:00pm at Wilton Community Centre, featuring a Cookie Station, Sausage Sizzle Lunch and Ice Cream Topping Bar! For more information or to register, visit dow.sh/VocarisYouth

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI JUBILEE

Three Presentations – October 2026

As part of the Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi, the Parish of St Michael, Thirroul, is hosting three presentations exploring the life, spirituality and legacy of Saint Francis on October 8, 15 & 22, 7.30pm-9pm. Presented Franciscan Friars — Andrew Granc OFM, Paul Rout OFM and Ken Cafe OFM — the evenings will offer an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the Franciscan tradition and its relevance for our lives today. The presentations will be held live at St Michael's Parish Hall, Thirroul, but you can also participate via Zoom. For full details, including presentation topics, dates and Zoom information, please go dow.sh/sfjform

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,

and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;

who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating,

remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;

remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**

3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever.

He does not treat us according to our sins

nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth

so strong is his love for those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Romans 14:7-9

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders

that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

READINGS FOR 20

SEPTEMBER

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time –
Year A/1

1ST READING: Is 55:6-9

PSALM: Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (R.) *The Lord is near to all who call him.*

2ND READING: Phil 1:20-24, 27

GOSPEL: Mt 20:1-16

