



SUNDAY, 27 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 – 3/4 October 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.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	29/9	5.00pm	<i>Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael</i>
Wednesday	30/9	8.00am	<i>St Jerome</i>
Thursday	1/10	8.00am	<i>St Thérèse of the Child Jesus</i>
Friday	2/10	9.30am	<i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>

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:

27 September: Group 3 – Vonnice Gee

4 October: Group 4 – Tammy Golding

REFLECTION – BY RICHARD LEONARD SJ

A young priest was sent by his bishop to a parish that had a 'red light district' within its boundaries. On his first day in the parish a nun, who had worked in the area for many years, took him on a tour of her beat, the area where all the women-in-prostitution were plying their trade. As they went along Sister introduced the priest to her friends Bubbles, Ginger and Calamity Jane. 'Sister it's fantastic that you know these women so well', he said. 'Don't worry', replied Sister, 'you'll know them in no time as well, and they'll know you by name too.'

Seized by panic, the young priest had visions of the bishop, the parish priest or, worse still, his mother coming to visit and walking with him down the street as Bubbles, Ginger and Calamity Jane all wave and call out across the road, 'Hello Father'. Who would ever believe he only knew them pastorally?

'Truly I tell you that prostitutes and tax collectors are going ahead of you into the kingdom of God.' The preaching of Jesus attracted all sorts of people who lived at the fringes of, or were oppressed by, Palestinian society. Jesus' message was especially attractive to them. Tensions among the huge variety of Jesus' disciples,

between the rich and the poor, men and women, the Jews and Gentiles, the socially respectable and those with outrageous backgrounds continued after his death throughout the next decades, during which the Gospels were written.

It's hard for us to imagine what a diverse and scandalous group, in many respects, the first fathers and mothers of our faith were seen to be. Imagine, if you will, the fuss that would still be created if the local bishop was seen constantly dining with women in prostitution, drug dealers or known terrorists. People would be outraged, but the bishop would be doing nothing short of following Jesus' example. This situation gives us a little insight into how affronted the Chief Priests and Pharisees were by Jesus and, in turn, by his disciples' behaviour.

For Jesus there was never a lost case, or a person beyond help. He didn't just spend time with the poor and broken of his society, but offered them a new way of life, an opportunity to start again and redemption from their destructive behaviour. He went to where they were, as they were. And we do the same because this is precisely what God has done for us.

God didn't wait for us to 'talk the talk' before we could 'walk his walk'. Jesus came to us when we were religiously dumb and immobile and showed us how to speak, what to say and where to walk.

The Christian walk and talk is meant to have a profound impact on our daily lives, our concerns, our priorities and compassion. So much so that if, over a period of time, what we celebrate here each Sunday makes no inroads into our family life and workplace, our professional life, our business practices and our relationships, then we should ask ourselves what we are doing here. And, what's worse, we could even miss the ongoing revelation of Christ's presence in the poor, weak and vulnerable of our own society. We constantly look for Christ in the spectacular and the wonderful and he comes to us in the least of our brother and sisters.

May this Eucharist give us the strength to not only 'look good', but to 'be good', to start over if we need to, and do our best to live out the faith we profess. May it strengthen us to find the Lord where he is, and not keep looking in the places where we would prefer him to be.

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:

Lucy Howell; Katherine McGuinness; 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 Brennan; 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.

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 4 2026: 14 & 28 October; 11 & 25 November; 9 December .

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.au/sacramental-program

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026

Enrolments are now closed. Please contact Lisa Twist on 0431 075 841 if you have missed the enrolment.

SILVER CIRCLE WINNERS

Silver Circle winners for weeks 9 and 10 will be published in next weekend's bulletin.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS



Daylight Savings begins next Sunday, 4 October. **The Sunday evening Mass time will change to 6.00pm from 4 October.** Don't forget to wind your clocks forward an hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.

SVDP ROSARY

With SVDP Kiama Conference



The next SVDP Rosary will be held in Ss Peter and Paul Church at 4:30pm on Monday, 12 October. If you would like SVDP to include a loved one in the rosary, please text 0416 928 247. All are welcome to attend.

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

To support the retirement and health of clergy and the sound and holistic formation of seminarians



Thank you for your generous support of this appeal last weekend.

Donations are still being gratefully received online via the Diocesan website: www.dow.org.au/giving.

"I am very grateful for your support in helping me to ensure that we can provide for the retirement and health of clergy, and a sound and holistic formation of our young seminarians. God bless you." +Bishop Brian Mascord.

LIVING WATER - SEASON OF CREATION

1 September – 4 October

As we continue to celebrate the Season of Creation with its theme of Living Water, we are reminded that creation is not just something around us. We are part of it. The trees give air. The soil gives food. The oceans, rivers, lakes and rain give us water. And water is life. This is the challenge for us: we are part of the river. Our choices matter. Turning off a tap, using less water, putting rubbish in the bin, caring for a garden, protecting a creek or speaking up when something is wrong might seem like small things, yet they demonstrate our care of God's gift of creation

Creator God, thank you for your love and all of creation, especially for your gift of water. We are grateful for the waters that bring life to all that we enjoy - the wild places, the bush, the mountains, the coast and the sea. We give thanks and praise for the trees, for the pastures, for our crops and for the living water that sustains them. Give us the grace and courage to protect our rivers from pollution, our oceans from plastic waste, and to provide safe water for all communities whose water and ways of life are threatened. Loving God, you shower us with the water of life, with your forgiveness and love. We praise and

thank you for giving us life through water.

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.

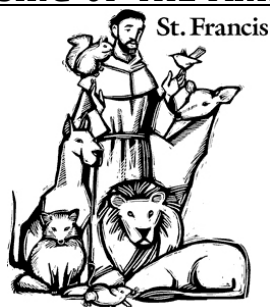
100 Tickets only so be early not to miss out. Cost \$35 each.

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

SAVE THE DATE

Next year will mark the 175th anniversary of our Jamberoo, Gerringong and Kiama parish. We plan to celebrate this milestone of continuous community on 27 November 2027. More info to come.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



To celebrate the feast day of St Francis of Assisi there will be a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, 4 October at 11:30am behind the Presbytery in Kiama. Animals of all types welcome, and their human family as well!

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!

DIOCESAN CHOIR INVITATION



The Wollongong Diocesan choir warmly invites people across our parish communities who love to sing and might enjoy the opportunity to share their gifts through music and worship. It would be wonderful to welcome some new voices into our Diocesan Choir and to help more people discover the joy of singing. The choir prepares music for major Diocesan Masses and celebrations, where parishes from across the region gather in prayer and celebration. It is a way to contribute to the liturgy while connecting with others who share a love of sacred music. Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings in the lead up to Diocesan events and usually run from 7:00pm - 8:30pm at St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Wollongong. If you would like to be involved, please contact Diocesan Choir Director Katrina Hannaford with your name, email address and parish: hannafordk02@dow.catholic.edu.au

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 8, 15 & 22 October, 7:30pm-9:00pm. Presented by 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**

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:25-28

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-11

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:28-32

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

READINGS FOR 4 OCTOBER

27th 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

