



SUNDAY, 7 APRIL 2024 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 – 13/14 April 2024

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

Parish Priest: Father Chris Roberts

Presbytery: 94 Manning Street, Kiama **Parish Office:** 96 Manning Street (PO Box 299), Kiama

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	9/4	5:00pm	
Wednesday	10/4	8:00am	
Thursday	11/4	8:00am	St Stanislaus
Friday	12/4	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:

7 April: Group 5 – Gavan Hctor

14 April: Group 1 – Gerry Gilchrist

REFLECTION BY RICHARD LEONARD SJ

The earliest Christian community focused strongly on the wounds of the Risen Lord for two reasons: to affirm the fact that Christ, now raised from the dead was the same person who had lived with them; and to make sense of the physical wounds being inflicted on them for Christ's sake.

The story of Thomas, even with its mystical details, counters a magical notion of what the resurrection is about. Jesus bears the marks of his torture and death. His glorified body, though different, is connected to how the disciples knew and loved him. They can recognise him through his words and his wounds.

We know the community of Ephesus, for which this Gospel is written, was experiencing great persecution. Is it any wonder, one generation after the earliest disciples, that the sign of Christ's Risen presence are his marks of suffering?

Our own world continues to be intrigued by manifestations of Jesus' wounds. Over recent years films like *Stigmata*, *Dogma*, *Agnes of God* and even the appalling *Daredevil* give a hysterical and cynical prominence to the stigmata. There are regular 'believe it or not' documentaries

that usually follow suit. Even some pilgrims flocked to Padre Pio's monastery in the south of Italy to see if his hands really bled, or if his wounds really wept. This desire to see outward signs of inner faith is a long way short of Jesus telling us today, 'Happy are those who believe without seeing.'

Our day-to-day lives should be the clearest manifestation of the cross and resurrection of Christ.

It seems, however, that words and wounds still make a claim on us today. You and I know that we don't have to go to a stigmatic to see Christian battle wounds. We carry within us the death of the Lord. We all have our wounds. And we also know that, for many of us, it is precisely when we are wounded most deeply by life, that our doubts in the presence of God can be greatest.

The Easter story is not that we should be ashamed of this, or pretend it doesn't happen. Today's Gospel reminds us that it is into this chaos that Christ comes with words of peace, with empathy from the one who was wounded for our sake and with the mission to forgive as we are forgiven.

Years ago I remember struggling with some personal issues during a retreat. One day, when I felt lowest about myself, the retreat director, adapting today's psalm, 117, said to me, 'you realise that the stone rejected by the builder becomes the corner stone'. By this he meant that often God takes that part of ourselves we don't like, forgives it, heals it, and uses it most powerfully to demonstrate that the pattern of the life, death and resurrection of Christ continues in all believers who bear his name and carry his wounds.

And that's what happened to Thomas. Christ took his fears, doubts and disbelief and transformed them into a powerful Christian witness that has sustained generations of us who struggle with life and faith.

So at this Easter Eucharist we are offered the same opportunity to discover that the stone rejected within us, or among us, is the one which God wants to use as the cornerstone. When we see this happening, when we see God taking the part of us we consider most unlovable and using it for good, then we want to cry out with the psalmist, 'This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.'

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:

Keren Davenport; Mark Huxley; Rob Ferrari; Bob Barabach; Bishop Peter Ingham; Joe O'Neill; Bernard Wakim; Mary Newn; All sick parishioners and sick relatives and friends of parishioners.

Anniversaries:

Leo and May Russell; Bernard Cook; Deceased members of the Mapps family; John & Molly Duffy; Gerald & Tom Viset; Ivan & Anna Zignic; Owen & Claire Patton; Pat & Jack Quinn; Rona Alice; David Kirkman; Sr Mary Regina O'Riordan; Pat Green; Peter Kells; the Holy Souls in Purgatory and all parishioners whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Recently Deceased:

Barbara Kelly; Warren Beecham; Peter Fogarty; Lenore O'Leary; Consuelo Shaw; 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.

FUNERAL

* **Peter Fogarty** – Tuesday, 9 April, 11:00am, Ss Peter and Paul Church

GERRINGONG MEMORIAL GARDEN



Spaces are available to purchase in the Memorial Garden at St Mary Star of the Sea, Gerringong for the interment of ashes, or for memorial plaques on the Memorial Wall. **Please note: spaces in the Memorial Garden are available to both Catholics and non-Catholics.** If you would like further information, please contact the Parish Office on 4232 2081 or email kiama@dow.org.au

HOLY HOUR KIAMA

Every Saturday Morning

From 8:00am to 9:00am in Ss Peter and Paul Church, Kiama. The hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Perpetual Succour Novena, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Everyone is welcome!



ADORATION AT ST MARY'S

An invitation to all, to step into one hour of silent adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament held at St Mary Star of the Sea, Gerringong on Mondays, 3:00pm – 4:00pm. All welcome.

PARISH PLAYGROUP

Ss Peter and Paul Parish Hall, Kiama
Wednesdays, 9:00am – 11:30am.

Term 1 - 10 April.

**Term 2 - 1, 15 & 29 May;
15 & 26 June.**

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 seeking assistance must phone for an appointment.

**Calls and texts are taken from
12:00pm each Monday only.
Please phone 0402 518 377.**

Current income statements and ID are required.

** If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, new members are always welcome to join the team. All enquiries can be made through the Parish Office.*

SILVER CIRCLE WINNERS

Week 9

Congratulations to the following winners of this week's Silver Circle:

1st – Steve Carr (#21)

2nd – Cathy Jardim (#28)

3rd – Alf Svenson (#23)

HOME COMMUNION VISITS

If anyone knows of someone who would like to receive Communion at home because of illness or frailty, please contact Sr Maureen on 0427 941 855. We have a team of very compassionate and dedicated people.

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT US THROUGH PARISH GIVING

If you would like to help support our Parish, either through a one-off donation or via regular giving, please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/> for access to the different ways to give, including wills and bequests. Alternatively, you can donate to a specific collection via our bank details below:

* FIRST COLLECTION

(supporting our priests)

Account name: Kiama Presbytery;

BSB: 066711; **Account number:** 002126

* SECOND COLLECTION

(supporting our Parish)

Account name: Kiama Parish;

BSB: 066711; **Account number:** 001774

Thank you very much for your support.

SACRAMENTS 2024

Information for the 2024 Sacramental Program is now published on the Parish website. For details visit www.kiamacatholicchurch.com.au/sacramental-program. Enrolment forms are to be completed online via the website and enrolments close on the following dates:

* **Confirmation** – Enrolments closed.

* **First Reconciliation** – 2 August

* **First Holy Communion** – 20 September

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

13-29 April

The Parish secretary will be on leave from 13-29 April and the Parish Office will be closed during this time. It will re-open at 9:00am on Tuesday, 30 April. Fr Chris will be available as normal during this time – the answering service will contain his details if you need to contact him. **If you would like a notice published in the bulletin over the weekends of 20/21 and 27/28 April, please send them to kiama@dow.org.au by no later than Thursday, 11 April.**

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

FOR LEADING THE ROSARY AT BLUE HAVEN AGED CARE FACILITY

If you are interested in leading the Rosary for Residents at Blue Haven Aged Care Facility on **Mondays at 1:00pm**, please ring Maria on 0421 227 534. *The current Rosary Group was established in October 2017, and it has supported over 32 Catholic Residents during this time. It is*

a very special and rewarding Ministry for the Catholic Elderly.



The Parish Pastoral Council would like to invite parishioners to a short information session to be held at the beginning of our next meeting on Tuesday, 9 April in the Parish Meeting Room. This will run for half an hour from 7:00pm – 7:30pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

CATECHIST SUNDAY

This weekend in our Parish we are celebrating Catechist Sunday. Catechists are parishioners from all walks of life who teach Special Religious Education to Catholic children in our state schools. The children in Catholic SRE classes learn of God's great love for them, among other essential messages of our Catholic faith. There are still more children that we could be reaching. **Can you give around an hour of your time a week to teach or help out in a classroom? If you would like more information on how you can be involved, please contact Gai Delavere on 0401 468 209.**

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**Ss Peter and Paul Church
Sunday, 7 April**

An important reminder for Divine Mercy Sunday – this Sunday is the culmination of the Easter joy, remembering and celebrating God's infinite mercy, according to St Faustina. Pope St John



Paul II recognised the significance of this celebration after studying St Faustina's urgent message of Divine Mercy. He established the feast day for our troubled world in the year 2000. Please come and celebrate this Universal Feast at Ss Peter and Paul Church this Sunday, 7 April, 1:30pm – 3:45pm. The celebration is a beautiful time of peace and joy. Reconciliation is included, and afternoon tea will be held afterwards. Mass will follow at 5:00pm. Enquiries to Joan Toulmin: 4233 2665 or Ann Barron: 0407 220 560.

JAMBEROO LAY CARMELITES

Jamberoo Lay Carmelites Invite you to join them for a day of reflection – "Listening with the Heart" – **Saturday, 13 April from 9:30am to 3:00pm at St Matthew's Church, Jamberoo.** An opportunity to take time out and hear about the prayer of listening – a powerful force for change and growth. **Dr Laurie Woods** is a retired teacher from the school of Theology at the Strathfield campus of Australian Catholic University **Donation:** \$20 per person or \$30 per couple. Morning Tea and Light Lunch provided. If you have any special dietary requirements, please let us know. RSVP to Mary Spillane on 0425 228 548 or spillane.m@outlook.com

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Save the Date – Wednesday, 22 May, CWL Diocesan Retreat Day, led by CWL Chaplain Fr Patrick Vaughan at St Mary's, Gerrington. *Anne Hassett 4232 2570.*

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

WHEN: Friday, 12 April

WHERE: Sacred Heart Chapel, Stewart St, Wollongong

TIME: 7:00pm Praise and Worship; 7:30pm Holy Mass

A warm invitation is extended to anyone who would like to join us in charismatic prayer for our Bishop's Vision for the Wollongong Diocese, followed by Holy Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord. There will also be an opportunity for healing prayer after Mass. **Information:** Gabriella De Battista, 0414 205 404 (Co-ordinator for the Wollongong Charismatic Leadership team).

FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

CatholicCare's Fostering Futures program are seeking separate forever homes for two boys, Lachlan* aged 11 years and Jacob* aged 9 years. Lachlan is a happy, loving boy would like a family who can take him to the park to ride his scooter, kick a football around or push him on the swing. An ideal carer for Lachlan is someone who can help him find his feet in new surroundings. Jacob has a strong connection to his Samoan heritage. He loves to play Pokemon on his Nintendo switch and watch superhero movies. He enjoys swimming, soccer, and basketball. Your consistency

and stability will help create an environment that is loving, predictable and somewhere Jacob feels safe. There is a critical shortage of foster carers at the moment and Lachlan and Jacob have both been waiting for a long time for their forever homes. They are currently living with a roster of staff who are meeting their basic needs, but like all kids they deserve a home where they feel safe, secure and loved. **CatholicCare have over 30 years' experience helping carers give vulnerable children a loving home and a brighter future. Carers receive comprehensive support including training, regular case worker support and career allowance for the child's day-to-day financial needs.** If you can provide a safe and supportive home for Lachlan or Jacob, or kids like them, we'd love to hear from you. Please call 0418 783 956 or email

fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au for more information and we will support you every step of the way.

**names have been changed for privacy*

THE SCHOENSTATT MAN

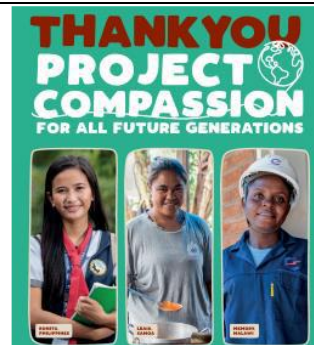
A Reflection Day for Men at Mt Schoenstatt

9:00am – 4:00pm Saturday, 20 April

For men who want to know what is at the heart of being a Schoenstatt Man, with Fr Pawel OP.

More info: Jim Jankiewicz 0432 487 927

Email: mensbranch@schoenstatt.org.au.



Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2024. **If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit our website at www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.** Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, *for all future generations.*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - YEAR B

7 APRIL 2024



FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

The whole group was united, heart and soul.

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.
I was punished, I was punished by
the Lord,
but not doomed to die. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders
rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

1 John 5:1-6

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them

again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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READINGS – 14 APRIL

Third Sunday of Easter – Year B/2

1ST READING: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

PSALM: Ps 4:2, 4, 5, 9 *(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.*

2ND READING: 1 Jn 2:1-5

GOSPEL: Lk 24:35-48