



# SUNDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 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 February/1 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](mailto:kiama@dow.org.au)     **Web:** [www.kiamacatholicchurch.com.au](http://www.kiamacatholicchurch.com.au)

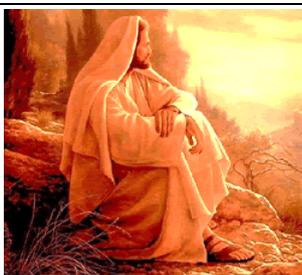
**SS PETER AND PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL:** 98 Manning St, (PO Box 248) Kiama     **Web:** [www.spppdow.catholic.edu.au](http://www.spppdow.catholic.edu.au)

**Principal:** Peter Michael     **Admin Officer:** Liz Brown     **Ph:** (02) 4232 2442     **Fax:** (02) 4232 1064     **Email:** [info@spppdow.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@spppdow.catholic.edu.au)



#### **WEEKDAY MASSES - KIAMA**

Tuesday	24/2	5.00pm
Wednesday	25/2	8:00am
Thursday	26/2	8:00am
Friday	27/2	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 – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. Contact the Parish Office to book.

#### **COUNTER'S ROSTER:**

**22 February:** Group 1 – Gavan Hocter

**1 March:** Group 2 – Ross Smith

## **PROJECT COMPASSION 2026**



**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

### **First Sunday of Lent 21–22 February 2026**

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

#### **Please donate today.**

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

**Or online at:**

[www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

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

#### **REFLECTION**

Nelson Mandela said that education was the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world. There are plenty of people who would agree with him. One of them is Oprah Winfrey who said that education was the way to move mountains, build bridges and, yes, to change the world.

Today's readings certainly suggest the value of learning. The story from the Book of Genesis comes from pre-history. It has often been misunderstood to suggest that sin entered the world through one woman. This is not true. On the contrary, the readings tell us that the world is good. When humans try to overstretch their boundaries, trouble follows, and the experience of beauty and harmony is threatened. We need to choose our teachers. Are we going to listen to God or the serpent? In our modern world, the serpent takes many forms. There are countless threats to the harmony of the human race and the beauty of our natural environment.

Likewise, today's story of the temptations in the wilderness from Matthew's Gospel shows us that some lessons are difficult.

Jesus teaches the devil. He tells the evil one that God is in charge. Jesus must decide which voices he will follow. He must learn that some ideas may not be as good as they sound. All the kingdoms of the world, Jesus learns, are no substitute for an honest and life-giving relationship with God.

Each week during Lent, Caritas Australia asks us to think about the world and learn more about our role in building God's kingdom. Today we start with an introduction to Project Compassion, which allows us to appreciate how much the Catholic community, has been able to achieve across the decades for the most marginalised people of the world. We are all still learning. Pope Leo XIV has reminded us that the vulnerable are great teachers.

In Dilexi Te he writes: *Christians must not abandon almsgiving... It is always better at least to do something rather than nothing. Whatever form it may take, almsgiving will touch and soften our hardened hearts... for our part, we need to give alms as a way of reaching out and touching the suffering flesh of the poor.*

# 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:

*Albert Tory; Geoff Guska; Joy Raines; Barbara Bennett; 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:

*Josefina & Vendelin Melinz; Warren Beecham; Anthony Russell; Leo & May Russell; Fay Roch; Pat Green; Peter Kells; the Holy Souls in Purgatory and all parishioners whose anniversaries occur at this time.*

### Recently Deceased:

*Joy Fardy; Amalia Swords; Peter Nolan; Elaine Smith; Greg Steele; Christine Patton; Barbara Bennett; Thomas O'Dwyer; May Vinson; Vojislav "Voy" Ilic; 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

\* **Joy Fardy** – 11:00am, Thursday, 26 February, Ss Peter and Paul Kiama.

\* **Peter Nolan** – 11:00am, Friday, 6 March, St Matthew's Jamberoo.

## ADORATION AND HOLY HOUR

\* **Every Saturday** – 8:00am to 9:00am, Ss Peter and Paul Church, **Kiama**. The hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Perpetual Succour Novena, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

\* **Every Monday** – 11:00am to 12:00pm, St Mary Star of the Sea Church, **Gerringong**. 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 February; 11 & 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 Confirmation Program is now available on the Parish website. Information for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will be published once the dates have been set.

For more information about each Sacrament please visit our website: <https://www.kiamacatholicchurch.com.au/confirmation>

## CONFIRMATION 2026

### SAVE THE DATE

Parent Information Night

**Wednesday, 11 March, 6:30pm**

Ss Peter and Paul Church, Kiama  
Enrolment forms will be provided during this meeting.

**If your child made First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion at another parish, please bring their Baptism and First Holy Communion certificates to the meeting.**

## SILVER CIRCLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of Silver Circle:

### Week 3:

1<sup>st</sup> – Sue Svenson (#23);

2<sup>nd</sup> – Helen McInerney (#30);

3<sup>rd</sup> – Mel Condon (#18)

## FOUND

A St Paul's Weekday Missal (blue cover) was found on Charles Avenue, Minnamurra some time ago but only recently handed in to the Church. If it belongs to you please see Louise at the Parish Office.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent – 5:30pm., Ss Peter and Paul Church. Commences 27 February.

## **CATECHIST SUNDAY**



**YOU CAN  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!**

This weekend in our Parish we are celebrating Catechist Sunday. Catechists are volunteers who teach Special Religious Education (Scripture) to Catholic children in our Public schools. Catechists sow the seeds of faith and hope in the next generation. We are currently seeking Catechist teachers and class helpers. Please consider joining our Catechist Ministry, it will draw you deeper into your faith and you will find it very rewarding. Just ask a Catechist! Please view a short video here and be inspired: <https://www.ccdwollongong.com/join-the-team>

For more information, please call Gai on 0401 468 209.

## **GERRINGONG NEWS**

\* **Help Needed to assist at Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, 3 April** - As usual, Stations of the Cross will be held at St Mary Star of the Sea Gerringong at 10:00am. If anyone is available, we are looking for a couple of people to assist in reading, someone to play the piano, a singer or two and a few adults or children to join the acolyte as we progress to each station. Please contact Steve Pearson on 0493 022 068 for further information. Thank you.

\* **Monthly Morning Tea – will be held** this Sunday, 22 February, after Mass.

\* **Belles Lunch –** at The Fishermans Club, Gerroa at 12:00pm on 2 March, for the ladies of the Parish and friends.

## **LENTEN GROUP**

A Lenten Group will run from Thursday, 26 February until Thursday, 2 April from 9:30am to 10:30am in Ss Peter and Paul Sacramental Room. Phone Angie for more information – 0404 856 379.

## **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** for five weeks of 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.

**Begins: Thursday, 26 February** (NOT Wednesday 25 as previously published)

**Time:** 4:00pm to 5:00pm

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

For more information phone 0409 562 830 or Email [smabela@bigpond.com](mailto:smabela@bigpond.com)

## **HELP NEEDED!**



KBECET are having a Bunnings BBQ fundraiser on Saturday, 7 March. If you can help, please call Gai on 0401 468 209.

## **CATHOLIC CARE WEEKEND**

Staff from CatholicCare will be attending Mass at Ss Peter and Paul Parish on consecutive days from Friday, 27 February to Sunday, 1 March to share with you the variety of the services that we provide throughout the Diocese. After the 9:30am Mass on Friday our Aged Care staff will talk about the new Support at Home aged care program and how it is changing the way older Australians access support. No need to register. We look forward to seeing you

## **KBECET**

The commissioning service for the Kiama High School Scripture Teacher, Ryan Sherring, and *all* Scripture teachers in our local state schools will be held at **2:00pm on Sunday, 1 March at Kiama Anglican Church**. Parish Catechists and parishioners are warmly invited to attend to pray for SRE in our local state schools 2026.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026**

**FOCUS ON NIGERIA**

**10:00AM, FRIDAY, 6 MARCH**

\* **KIAMA:** Kiama Presbyterian Church, 40 Shoalhaven Street. **RSVP by 27 February to Sue, 0412 70 0381 (including any dietary requirements)**. Please come and join our Kiama Christian Community on this important day. Please bring your friends.

\* **GERRINGONG:** Gerringong Uniting Church, 24-28 Fern Street. Lunch will follow at Jack's Grill at Cronin's Hotel. **Please RSVP to Bernadette Murphy**

**0407 074 416 if you would like to attend lunch.** Please invite others.

## **WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE?**

Check out upcoming Diocesan events and courses - too many to list in one place. Subscribe here and we will keep you in the loop [dow.sh/stayingconnected](http://dow.sh/stayingconnected) about what's happening around our Diocese!

## **LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028**

The Australian Church is setting out on the journey toward the International Eucharistic Congress, Sydney 2028 (Eucharist28), a great time of renewal and transformation centred on encountering the Eucharistic Lord. In preparation, Australian Catholics will enter a Year of Prayer from 1 March 2026, focused on rediscovering Our Lord's love in the Blessed Sacrament. The theme, *This is My Body, Given for You*, calls us to deeper faith, generosity and mission. Learn more about the way ahead at [eucharist28.org](http://eucharist28.org).

## **FORMATION PATHWAY: HOSPITALITY**

No one ever left a parish because it was too welcoming. Ever wondered why some people walk into a parish and never come back - while others feel at home almost immediately? It's rarely about the music or the homily. More often, it comes down to welcome. As part of the Formation Pathway, we'll look at how the experience people have when they arrive shapes parish culture, lowers barriers to encounter, and influences whether someone feels safe enough to stay, return, and take a next step. This session is for anyone who cares about parish life and wants to help create a parish where people truly belong. **CAMPBELLTOWN:** Tuesday, 3 March 7:00pm – 9:00pm. **WOLLONGONG & ZOOM:** Wednesday, 4 March 7:00pm – 9:00pm. **To register visit [dow.sh/fpmar2026](http://dow.sh/fpmar2026)**

## **PRAYER INTENTIONS**

**Kairos Prison Ministry** – Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and anoint the work of the Kairos Team, and that the hearts of the inmates will be touched by the love of God. To learn more about Kairos Prison Ministry and how to become involved, visit: [www.kairos.org.au/learnmore](http://www.kairos.org.au/learnmore)

# **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A**

**22 FEBRUARY 2026**

## **FIRST READING**

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

*Creation of our first parents, and sin.*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

**(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt

and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**

2. My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R.)**

3. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**

4. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. **(R.)**

## **SECOND READING**

Romans 5:12-19

*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 4:1-11

*Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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## **READINGS – 1 MARCH**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent –  
Year A/2**

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** Gen 12:1-4

**PSALM:** Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22 (R.) *Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING:** 2 Tim 1:8-10

**GOSPEL:** Mt 17:1-9