



SUNDAY, 8 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 – 14/15 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

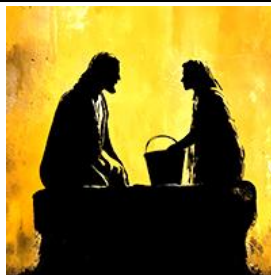
SS PETER AND PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL: 98 Manning St, (PO Box 248) Kiama **Web:** www.spppdow.catholic.edu.au

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	10/3	5.00pm
Wednesday	11/3	8:00am
Thursday	12/3	8:00am
Friday	13/3	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:

8 March: Group 3 – Vonnie Gee

15 March: Group 4 – Mike Doherty

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026



PROJECT COMPASSION

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Monoranjon

lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home.

With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

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.

REFLECTION

Every summer seems to get a little longer and a little hotter. We have all become conscious of issues surrounding water. Either there seems to be too much, as when we see summer floods or the rising sea levels in the Pacific. Other times, there seems to be too little water as when the rivers in our country run low or members of God's family around the world experience drought. Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, has been responding to the dire needs of water justice in a range of vulnerable countries.

Today's readings may well cause us to reflect on the current state of God's creation. In the book of Exodus, we hear that people are complaining to Moses because they are dying of thirst. In the Gospel, Jesus meets a woman in a Samaritan town. She has come to draw water from the well in the hottest part of the day. In both cases, access to water is precarious. Yet God responds not only to a thirst for water but to a deeper thirst as well. Moses' people are thirsty for direction, leadership and hope. The woman in John's Gospel has a thirst for love and acceptance

which, Jesus tells her, will come from within if she is able to accept him and his message of life. As the story unfolds, we learn of her loneliness and see her reconnecting with her community.

In reflecting on this story in Listening Together, Cardinal Radcliffe reminds us that Jesus' first words are abrupt. 'Give me a drink.' He considers the times in John's Gospel when Jesus expresses thirst, including when he is on the cross. Radcliffe concludes that Jesus is thirsty on our behalf. He longs for our freedom.

Thirst is a great spiritual metaphor, one which Pope Leo XIV has used. But let's not forget the millions of people for whom physical water is a real challenge. This week, Project Compassion shares with us the story of Monoranjon, a farmer in Bangladesh whose family has been deeply impacted by environmental damage, specifically salination of soil and water. This beautiful story reminds us of the importance of meeting people, as Jesus did, at their place of greatest need.

Our thirst for freedom and justice enables us to *Unite Against Poverty.*

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:

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:

Gerry Gilchrist; 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; 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: 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 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** – Enrolment forms will be provided at the Parent Information Night. See notice below.
- * **First Reconciliation** – Online enrolments close Friday, 24 July.
- * **First Holy Communion** – Online enrolments close Friday, 11 September.

CONFIRMATION 2026



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 5:

- 1st – Joan O'Neill (#5);
- 2nd – Vonnie Gee (#14);
- 3rd – Clare Anderson (#26)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



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

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

LENTEN GROUP

A Lenten Group is running from 9:30am to 10:30am every Thursday in Ss Peter and Paul Sacramental Room. Ends Thursday, 2 April. 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** 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

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

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

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 about what's happening around our Diocese!

DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD

On Sunday 22 March 2026, join the Marian Procession through the streets of



Sydney CBD as we publicly witness to the dignity of every unborn child. Led by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP to celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation. This day of prayer and remembrance in the lead-up to the Solemnity of the Annunciation begins at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney at 10:30am with Holy Mass; 12:00pm – Angelus & Marian Procession through the streets of Sydney; 1:30pm – Fervourino (at the Cathedral)

TAIZE PRAYER

Friday, 13 March

Ss Peter and Paul Church Kiama
7.30pm

Cup of tea afterwards

More information: Marion 0407 417 389

JAMBEROO ABBEY RETREAT PROGRAM

For a detailed list of the retreats being run at Jamberoo Abbey for 2026 visit <https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/abbey-retreat-programs/>

STEEL CITY STRINGS

Illawarra's Chamber Orchestra

Home marks a decade ten years of music-making rooted in community and shared experience.

Featuring Dvořák's *Nocturne in B minor*, Mendelssohn's *String Symphony No. 10*, Barry Conyngham's *Under the Escarpment*, and Adriel Sukumar's *Visions of Home*. The program also features music by Andrew Ford, celebrating Australia's unique wildlife, and Elena Kats-Chernin, whose music reminds us of the sense of home we find in those we love. *Home* is an invitation to listen and celebrate the ways music makes us feel that we belong.

* Saturday, 21 March – 7:30pm, Wollongong Art Gallery

* Sunday, 22 March - 2:00pm, Berry School of Arts

Booking <https://steelcitystrings.com.au/events-calendar/>

Tickets \$25 - \$65; Conc. \$50; Group of 5 or more \$180 (i.e. \$36 per person)

CATHOLIC CARE WOLLONGONG HAS A NEW NUMBER

CatholicCare now has one easy-to-remember number - **1800 967 894** - to help people connect with the support they need quickly and confidently. This single number links parishioners directly to aged care, disability services, family support, counselling, foster care, and OSHC. Please update any saved contact details.

GUADALUPE: MOTHER OF HUMANITY

Special Film Screening, Office of the Bishop, Xavier Centre Conference Rooms Wollongong, Wednesday 11 March at 6:30pm

You're invited to a special community screening Guadalupe. To this day, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe remains perfectly intact after 5 centuries, defying time, science, and logic and contains an entire codex of hidden messages, has survived an acid spill and even a bomb blast. Come and join us for a screening of the acclaimed movie about this Marian apparition and the extraordinary events and miracles that have followed. Because some miracles refuse to fade! Light refreshments and finger food will be provided on the night and merchandise available for purchase. Tickets \$10 - Book and pay now to secure your ticket(s) dow.sh/Guadalupe

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Lord, we ask that you bless the members of the **Kairos Prison Ministry team**, preparing to share the Gospel at the South Coast (Nowra) Correctional Centre from **23–26 March 2026**. We pray that your Holy Spirit will empower the work of the team, and prepare the hearts of the inmates, to be transformed by your love and mercy.

To learn more about Kairos Prison Ministry and how to become involved, visit: www.kairos.org.au/learnmore

READINGS – 15 MARCH

4th Sunday of Lent – Year A/2

1ST READING: 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

PSALM: Ps 22 (R.) *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

2ND READING: Eph 5:8-14

GOSPEL: Jn 9:1-41

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

8 MARCH 2026

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw
my work.' **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a

good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See John 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans.

Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?'

Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.'

Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?'

But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.