



SUNDAY, 25 DECEMBER 2022

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 – 31 December 2022/1 January 2023

Ss Peter and Paul, Kiama – Saturday Vigil 6.00pm; Sunday 8.00am and 6.00pm
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.org.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 27/12 5.00pm *St John*
Wednesday 28/12 8.00am *The Holy Innocents*
Thursday 29/12 8.00am *St Thomas Becket*
Friday 30/12 9.30am *The Holy Family*

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:

25 December: Peter McGuinness

1 January: Group 5 – Gavan Hctor

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BRIAN

My sisters and brothers in Christ and to all people of goodwill in the Diocese of Wollongong, Grace, peace, and a very happy Christmas to you and your loved ones.

During the first animated Peanuts Christmas Special in 1965, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, Charlie Brown exclaims, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" This is the question that we return to every year and that each person must have an answer for in their heart. Yes, Christmas is a day to celebrate our relationships with one another, but it is also the day we celebrate the relationship we have with the One who pitched his tent among us. We often do this with presents, and food, and drink—a time to gather together, stop, and simply "be" with one another. For many people, it is also a day to serve those in our communities who are homeless, sick, or grieving. But why this day? Why Christmas?

At the heart of Christmas is a mystery. On this day we remember that: "Once in our world, a stable had something in it

that was bigger than our whole world" (C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*), or rather, someone bigger than our whole world—the Son of God; the Light of the World, Jesus. Today, "Let us open our eyes to the light that comes from God" (St Benedict, RB Prologue, 9).

Jesus—born in a manger—tells us that, "A God who became so small could only be mercy and love" (St Therese of Lisieux). Jesus, truly God and truly man, became one of us so that we might be drawn into the very life of God (cf. St Irenaeus, *Adv. haeres III*, 19, 1). Jesus, born to die on the cross, is the saviour of the World (cf. Jn 3:16).

But perhaps even more mysterious still, Jesus teaches us who we are. Indeed, this day is a great celebration because the incarnation, God becoming flesh, bears witness to the truth as St Pope John Paul II said in his Christmas Day message in 1978: "Every human being [is] somebody unique and unrepeatable.... Somebody thought of and chosen from eternity, some[one] called and identified by their own name." You are known and

loved by God. Christmas is a testament to that fact.

Many people in our community, often beset by disconnection and isolation, question not only their situation, but their worth; their very existence. Christmas speaks to this pain. Christmas says to us: if God humbled himself to become one of us, how can you be "so worthless in your own eyes and yet so precious to God?" (St Peter Chrysologus, *Sermo 148*).

So today, let us allow Christmas to speak to our hearts the truth of who Jesus is and who we are. In Jesus, we see God's glory and the dignity of humanity. We see the gift of God with us — Emmanuel.

I invite you to pray with me this Christmas prayer of St Pope John XXIII:

*O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.*

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ...

*Put into the hearts of men and women
this peace for which they
sometimes seek so desperately
and which you alone can give to them.
Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.*

*Reveal to them also your beauty,
holiness and purity.*

*Awaken in their hearts
love and gratitude
for your infinite goodness.*

Join them all together in your love.

And give us your heavenly peace.

Amen.

I wish you every Christmas blessing and may the peace and joy of this blessed day be with you and your loved ones. And may you recognise, in those around you Emmanuel, God with us.

Yours in Christ

+ Brian Mascord

Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

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:

*Colleen Rae; Mary Newn; All sick
parishioners and sick relatives and
friends of parishioners.*

Recently Deceased:

*Trevor Mallon; Lorna Crook; Fr Thomas
Zaremba; Shirley Bryant; Glenys Burrows;
All recently deceased friends and
relatives of parishioners.*

Anniversaries:

*Patricia Bartley; Frank Mete; Elizabeth
Pearson; Bruce Weston; Deceased
relatives and friends of the Brady family;
Bill Martin; Millie & Rocco Simari; Fr
Anthony Simari; Pat Green; Peter Kells;
the Holy Souls in Purgatory and all
parishioners whose anniversaries occur
at this time.*

**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon
them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**

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 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

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!

MASS FOR YOU AT HOME

The Diocese streams a *Mass for You at Home* service each Sunday and this can be watched at:

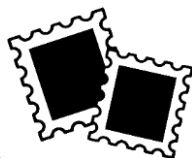
<https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/online-masses-in-the-diocese/>

Weekly Diocesan bulletin notices can be found at

<https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/weekly-bulletin-notices/>

USED STAMPS WANTED!

Last year the Mary MacKillop Today Program raised over \$40,000 from the sale of used postage stamps. All this money has been used in Peru to improve the lives of many people through education and skills training. Women in particular have been taught how to run a small business, how to produce fashion items for sale in Australia, go to University etc. Students are learning how to be leaders for the future of a more just and healthy Peru. Once again I am asking for your support in saving your used stamps. (When cutting stamps from envelopes please leave a generous margin around the edge.) Unusual envelopes and covers with stamps still attached are also welcome. Stamps can be given to me directly or left at the back of the Church. Many thanks. Joan Toulmin (4233 2665; 0418 299 602)



MESSAGE FROM SR MAUREEN

I would like to wish you and your families, a very Happy Christmas, filled with blessings and lovely surprises. Thank you for your wishes and for your friendly presences. I will be taking a break from Christmas Day and will be back on deck on 24 January. God bless each of you.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be open for normal hours over the Christmas period, but will be closed Tuesday, 27 December.

SVDP HELP CENTRE

The SVDP Help Centre is closed until 30 January. If you are in need of help, please contact the Vinnies Boutique on 4232 2656.

VINNIES NEWS

Our grateful thanks to everyone in our community who has so generously given to the Christmas Appeal. The gift of witnessing the joy shown on the faces of families we have visited has been a wonderful Christmas gift for all of our members. This has been possible because of the compassion shown by our generous community. *Happy Christmas from St Vincent de Paul Conference Kiama*

GELS:

GATHER-EAT-LISTEN-SHARE

A new group called GELS...Gather-Eat-Listen-Share will start in 2023. Once a month there will be an opportunity to connect with our community, share a meal, renew our faith and engage in conversation. First gathering - Thursday 16 February, 7.00pm – 9.00pm in the Parish Hall, Kiama. (More information will be available in January).

OFFICE CLOSURE 7 – 30 JANUARY

The Parish Office will be closed for holidays from 7 – 30 January and will re-open at 9.00am on Tuesday, 31 January. Fr Chris will check the answering service each day, so if you need to contact him urgently please phone 4232 2081 and listen to the message.

If you would like a notice published in the bulletin during January, please email your notice to kiama@dow.org.au by no later than 9.00am Wednesday, 4 January.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - YEAR A

24 DECEMBER 2022

READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE 9.00PM MASS



FIRST READING

Is 9:1-7

A son is given to us.

The people that
walked in darkness

has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep
shadow
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are
dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day
of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt

and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us

and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Wide is his dominion

in a peace that has no end,

for the throne of David

and for his royal power,

which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.

From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will
do this.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

**(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ
the Lord.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his
name. **(R.)**

2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory

and his wonders among all the
peoples. **(R.)**

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be
glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder
praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for
joy
at the presence of the Lord for he
comes,
he comes to rule the earth. **(R.)**
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his
truth. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Ti 2:11-14

*God's grace has been revealed to all
people.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it
has made salvation possible for the
whole human race and taught us that
what we have to do is to give up
everything that does not lead to God,
and all our worldly ambitions; we must
be self-restrained and live good and
religious lives here in this present
world, while we are waiting in hope for
the blessing which will come with the
Appearing of the glory of our great
God and saviour Christ Jesus. He
sacrificed himself for us in order to set
us free from all wickedness and to
purify a people so that it could be his
very own and would have no ambition
except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the
world:

today is born our Saviour, Christ the
Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 2:1-14

Today a saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a
census of the whole world to be taken.
This census – the first – took place
while Quirinius was governor of Syria,
and everyone went to his own town to
be registered. So Joseph set out from
the town of Nazareth in Galilee and
travelled up to Judaea, to the town of
David called Bethlehem, since he was
of David's House and line, in order to
be registered together with Mary, his
betrothed, who was with child. While
they were there the time came for her
to have her child, and she gave birth to
a son, her first-born. She wrapped him
in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a
manger because there was no room for
them at the inn. In the countryside
close by there were shepherds who
lived in the fields and took it in turns to
watch their flocks during the night. The
angel of the Lord appeared to them
and the glory of the Lord shone round
them. They were terrified, but the angel
said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring
you news of great joy, a joy to be
shared by the whole people. Today in
the town of David a saviour has been
born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And
here is a sign for you: you will find a
baby wrapped in swaddling clothes
and lying in a manger.' And suddenly
with the angel there was a great throng
of the heavenly host, praising God and
singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven
and peace to men who enjoy his
favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the
Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 International Committee on
English in the Liturgy Inc.(ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm
texts, from **The Psalms, A New Translation**, © 1963 by The
Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The
scriptural quotations are taken from the **Jerusalem Bible**,
published and © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and
Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of
the publishers. © Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - YEAR A

25 DECEMBER 2022

READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY MASS



FIRST READING

Is 52:7-10

*All the ends of the earth
shall see the saving
power of our God.*

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **(R.)**
2. The Lord has made known his
salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and
love
for the house of Israel. **(R.)**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. **(R.)**
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the
harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the
horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Heb 1:1-6

*In our own time, God speaks to us
through his Son.*

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 1:1-18

*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt
among us, and we saw his glory.*

In the beginning was the Word:

the Word was with God

and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the **Lectionary for the Mass** © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc.(ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from **The Psalms, A New Translation**, © 1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the **Jerusalem Bible**, published and © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. © Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd

READINGS FOR 1 JANUARY

**Mary, the Holy Mother of God -
Year A/1**

* **1ST READING:** Num 6:22-27

* **PSALM:** Ps 66:2-3,5,6,8 *(R.) May God bless us in his mercy.*

* **2ND READING:** Gal 4:4-7

* **GOSPEL:** Lk 2:16-21