

Passionist Family Group Newsletter – 19 July 2026



Reflection

This Sunday's readings invite us to reflect on God's patience, compassion and acceptance of our human frailty. The reading from Wisdom reminds us that God always offers a way forward, calling us to show kindness to others and to live in harmony with one another.

In Romans, St Paul leads us to the heart of prayer. Prayer is not constant chatter, but trust that God knows our needs. As C. H. Dodd writes, *"We cannot know our own real need; we cannot with our finite minds grasp God's plan. In the final analysis all we can bring to God is an inarticulate sigh which the Spirit will translate to God for us."*

Our experience of pain and suffering often teaches us that what first seemed difficult may later become a source of growth. William Barclay reminds us that things we once saw as disasters can become blessings. As St Paul says, *"all things work for good."* We are called to live, love and trust in God.

In the Gospel, Jesus' parable of the wheat and darnel speaks clearly to our lives. It reminds us that both good and harmful influences are present in the world, and that we must be discerning without being quick to judge. God alone is the final judge, and his judgment is shaped by mercy and compassion.

The mustard seed and the leaven also speak of growth and transformation. God's kingdom may begin quietly, but it has the power to grow within us and change how we live.

Our lives are a journey, with many opportunities to grow into the people God calls us to be. Walking with others in compassion and forgiveness helps us live more fully in the kingdom.

Rather than asking only, "What do I want to do?", we might ask, "Who am I becoming?" In our families, communities and neighbourhoods, may we help one another belong. With God at the centre, we grow through forgiveness, compassion, hope and mercy.

As Hugh Mackay says, *"We are born to love. Invest your hope in that."*

God go with you,

Paul

<https://youtu.be/bUfwVAzAlqc?si=BLTtDOqsRAFnXBUy> **We are Strong Juliet Rames**



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. July 19, 2026

The Lord is our helper



Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.

LECTIONARY READINGS

First reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Responsorial psalm: Ps 85(86):5-6, 9-10, 15-16

Second reading: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

[Link to readings - click here](#)

Our readings this Sunday reveal a God who is merciful and compassionate; who is lenient in judgment. He cares for us with love and forgiveness.

In our **First Reading** the author of Wisdom reflects on how God's power is revealed in the mildness of his judgment. His compassion teaches us to be kind in our turn towards others. The **Psalms** is a song of praise enumerating the qualities of God. The Lord is good and forgiving, compassionate and gracious. We can surely appeal to him in all our troubles. In the **Second Reading**, St Paul teaches us to pray in the Spirit. The Spirit prays within us and expresses the mind of God.

The **Gospel** presents us with three parables, all concerned with growth. The main one, about the weeds growing amidst the wheat, can be applied to our own lives, to the world around us and to the Church. God is patient, slow to judge. We can count on his mercy.

This week, may we ask the Lord to help us to be less judgmental and to look on others with kindness, as we would wish them to treat us.

While in Melbourne recently I celebrated my brother Brian's 80th with some family members and friends and of course his Passionist Community.



Safeguarding: "Working Together for a Safe Church"

Any complaints should be directed through the National Office of Professional Standards (NOPS) or reported directly to the New Zealand Police or Oranga Tamariki.

Phone: 03 365 1993 or 0800 114 622. **Email:** prof.standards@nzcbc.org.nz

www.safeguarding.catholic.org.nz

The Theme for this year's Formations is Nurturing and Nourishment. Hugh McKay prefers the term "kindness" because it is the only form of human love that does not depend on affection. It is a response to a need, and it draws on our compassion – the quality that stands out most in Jesus' life. Jesus chose to mix with and meet outcasts, inviting them to share his table. His fellowship included everyone – a family for all!

PJ Harding defines nurturing as what fills your cup, whether that is laughter, fresh air, good food or time with loved ones. In Passionist Family Groups our reaching out and being family to each other brings joy, understanding, service, care and support. It's not just about 'me' but the welfare and nourishment we can give to each other through our love, concern and compassion.

This nurturing leads to nourishment of the heart. Email: paulus663@gmail.com or Mobile: 021357933

Formation Bookings: `St Hellier's 26th July and 35th Anniversary; Ashburton 8 August and Christchurch parishes August 9th

A Blessing for Nurturing

*May you see your body as a well where water needs to be replenished.
May you learn how to balance your self-needs with the needs of others so that you can live in
harmony with the world.*

*May you take the time to notice and nurture what your inner wisdom is asking of you.
May you find a place in nature where you can be in silence and hear your Creator in the trees,
the birds, the wind, and the earth.*

May you care for all of creation in gratitude, humbleness, and respect.

— Kaki Grubbs, Spiritual Literacy Certificates Program, 2024 Cohort



Belong, Behave, Believe



Prayer:

1. We pray for the renewal of hostilities between US and Iran. Again we witness the non sensical actions of power and war while the human suffering goes unchecked.
2. We pray for all the people who continue to support, assist and help the people of Venezuela. May they find support, acceptance and comfort due to their loss.
3. We pray for peace.
4. We remember all those who are suffering as a result of wars and injustices.
5. We are reminded by Pope Leo XIV in his first encyclical to stay strong in the preservation of human dignity.
6. We pray with gratitude for all the men, women and children who have contributed to the life and spirit of our Passionist Family Group Movement over the past 38 years.
7. We pray for many members of PFG's in Whakatane who are seriously ill.
8. We pray to be like Jesus, spending ourselves in the service of others- welcoming, guiding and leading people through care, compassion and forgiveness.
9. We pray for all struggling to live due to the constraints globally impacting our world
10. Let us take up the call of Pope Leo to foster a sense of belonging in our communities.
Also to be united in Christ – united in Mission
11. We remember that God calls on us, as people of faith, to offer our voices to help those who have none.
12. Keep in mind all those who continue to struggle with mental health challenges, and their families who support them in their daily lives.

Please remember in prayer Shelley Wards's brother Brett Hansen. Please keep Jo Moorcroft and family in your prayer. Fr Robert Steele PP and family. Leonie Christian, Margaret and

Graeme Armstrong, Kev Bryant and family, Tim Walsh, Debbie Cotter; Christine and Derrick Scott; Paul, Deb and Nick Kelly, Norma Bellamy and family.

Also, please remember, Pat Carson, Graeme Matthews, Di Buckley, Adrian van de Pas and her sons Robert and Dean, Tim Bartells & family, Linda Darbyshire and family in your prayer, Christine Geoghegan's daughter Kate and extended families;

We prayer for each other and our intentions.



Humour:

- What do you get when you cross a parrot with a caterpillar? A little walkie-talkie.
- Why did the chicken cross the playground? To get to the other slide.
- What do you call a deer with no eyes? No eye deer.
- What do you call a fish with no eyes? Fshhhh
- A pony walks into a noisy bar and tries to order a beer. Bartender says "I can't hear you! You'll have to speak up!" Pony says: "Sorry! I'm a little horse!"
- Why did the chicken cross the road? To show the possum it could be done.
- Why aren't dogs allowed in bars? Because they can't control their lick!
- Why did the baseball player get fired? He ran 3 bases then walked home.
- Why don't fish play basketball? Because they're scared of the net.
- "Why do fathers take an extra pair of socks when they go golfing?" "In case they get a hole in one!"
- "What does a sprinter eat before a race?" "Nothing, they fast!"
- "My dad told me a joke about boxing. I guess I missed the punch line."
- "I don't play soccer because I enjoy the sport. I'm just doing it for kicks!"
- Where do basketball players go when they need a uniform? New Jersey.

Belong, Behave, Believe



Have a great week everyone.....

