

Passionist Family Group Newsletter – 26 July 2026



Reflection

In the first reading, Solomon's encounter with God reveals that true leadership is grounded in humility. Aware of his need for divine guidance, Solomon asks for wisdom so that he may serve God's people well. God is central to what Solomon values most. This same spirit is reflected in the life and ministry of Jesus, who calls us to serve our neighbour with humility and to remain open before God.

In Paul's reading, we hear the conviction that God's love is always active and that our response requires cooperation. Paul understands this deeply as he guides the early household churches. Through this cooperation, God's love leads us forward and calls us to bring healing, hope and wholeness to others.

In the Gospel, the parables highlight the importance of recognising what is of greatest value: our relationships, our lives, and our faith in the kingdom of God. What we value most is God, witnessed and revealed through Jesus. He shows us a God who comes close to us, not in triumphalism, but with humility and compassion. Matthew reminds us that Jesus does not discard what has come before; rather, he brings it to fulfilment. As with all growth, there comes a time to let go of old ways and to embrace what is truly life-giving. This requires courage, commitment and trust.

Jesus is our example and encouragement in how to live this calling. In him we see the strength of humility: asking for help, giving praise to God, and recognising those who support and lift us up. As we are reminded that we are loved, we are also encouraged to go out and do the same for others. We are called to service and mercy, rather than sacrifice and honour.

As Mother Mary Killop wrote in 1909. *"Do not be afraid. Love one another and bear with one another and let love guide you in all your life."*

God go with you,

Paul



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. July 26, 2026

: A pearl of great value



O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

LECTIONARY READINGS

First reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

Responsorial psalm: Ps 118(119):57, 72, 76-77, 127-130

Second reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

Link to readings = [click here](#)

The readings for this Sunday invite us to think about what we truly value. They show the importance of wisdom, encouraging us to trust God's plan, and to value the kingdom of heaven above all else.

Solomon responds humbly when, in a dream, God asks him, 'what shall I give you?' Solomon seeks an 'understanding mind . . . to discern between good and evil in governing God's people'. Putting others' needs before his own pleases God, who gifts Solomon with wisdom. **(First Reading)**

The **Gospel** also talks about choosing what is most important. Jesus tells two parables describing the value of the kingdom of heaven. We hear how coming across treasure brings someone great joy, while finding the one pearl of great price impels a merchant to buy and keep it. The Psalmist describes God's word as more important than the finest gold: it is true treasure, offering lasting wisdom, comfort and delight.

St Paul **(Second Reading)** assures us that God already has a plan in place for all who love God. Even when life is difficult, God is guiding and shaping us to be like Jesus.

This week, we pray to live each day with the wisdom to know what truly matters, and to let go of anything that holds us back. 'Lord, help us to share the joy of following you, wherever and however we can.'

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 big shout out to St Hellers Parish who this Sunday celebrate their 35th Anniversary. Congratulations and I am sure this great spirit that exists in the parish will continue.

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 peace as the renewal of hostilities between US and Iran continue No winners here. 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 Hanlin. 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:

- Why don't football players wear glasses? It's a contact sport.
- What's the best animal in soccer? A score-pion.
- What's the difference between a quarterback and a baby? One takes a snap, one takes a nap.
- I used to be addicted to basketball, but I rebounded.
- Why can't pigs play soccer? They hog the ball.
- Why shouldn't you play tennis in the jungle? Too many cheetahs.
- What does a sports fan have in common with an angry chicken? A foul mouth.
- Why couldn't the baby score in basketball? He was always dribbling.
- "I'm afraid for the calendar. Its days are numbered."
- "My wife said I should do lunges to stay in shape. That would be a big step forward."
- "Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera."
- "What do a tick and the Eiffel Tower have in common?" "They're both Paris sites."
- "What do you call a fish wearing a bowtie?" "Sofishticated."
- "How do you follow Will Smith in the snow?" "You follow the fresh prints"

Belong, Behave, Believe



Have a great week everyone.....

