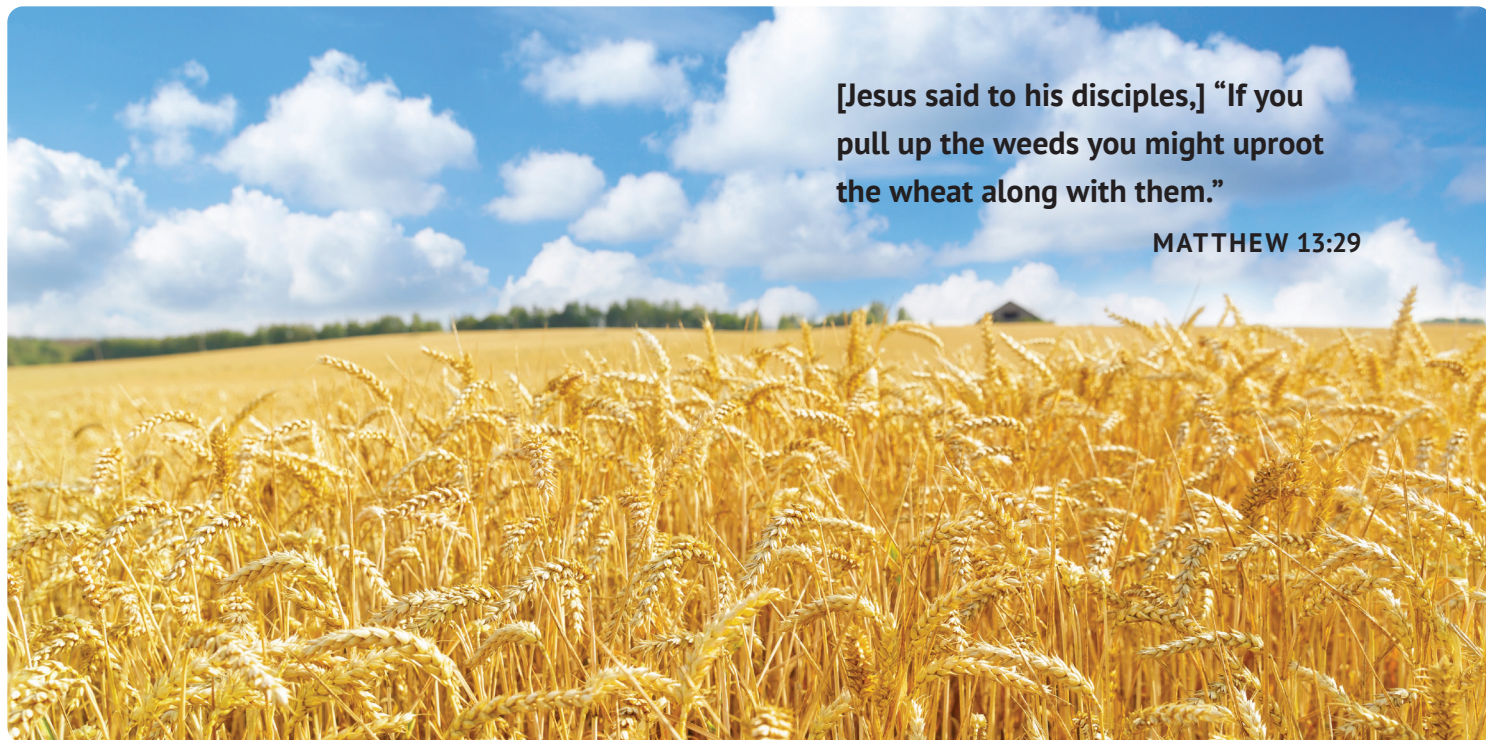




[Jesus said to his disciples,] “If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them.”

MATTHEW 13:29

Weeds in Wheat

MIGUEL DULICK

Jesus loved parables. “He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: ‘I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]’” (Matthew 13:34–35).

Indeed, parables spring from creation itself. Wheat and weeds grow, a natural process, just waiting for Jesus to read the kingdom of heaven hidden within. Jesus doesn’t force an interpretation on these elements; he, more than anyone, follows his own advice: “Whoever has ears ought to hear” (Matthew 13:43).

Matthew is the only gospel writer who records this parable. Maybe he liked it because it’s his own story. Among the beautiful wheat of the chosen people, he was an ugly weed, a tax collector for the Roman Empire. Once Jesus plucked him from obscurity to follow him, Matthew might have thought, *Why didn’t God just strike me dead for all the poison I spread among my own brethren?*

Now, in the parable, the weeds never become wheat, and they indeed meet a terrible fate, but the point is to let the wheat and weeds grow together, lest we uproot the wheat when we pull up the weeds. Oftentimes, it’s difficult to tell the difference. Those who are “wheat” should not find excuses to separate from those judged to be “weeds.” The risk is too great for the damage we may do. Let God do the separating in God’s own time. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Are you tempted to give up on someone? Or yourself?



St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

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Telephone: (441) 234-2321
Email: stjosephbermuda@gmail.com

PASTOR: FR. JACOB SWAPAN GOMES
(441) 292-0607 Ext. 5 or (441) 704-1874 (cell)



Mass Schedule

Saturday Afternoon - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday morning - 9:00 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	1 year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Sunday morning: 8:30 a.m.
Filipino Mass – Saturday	18 th July 2026: 11:00 a.m.
Kids & Youth Ministry	4 th October 2026
Youth/Family Mass	4 th October 2026
Pastoral & Finance Council	TBA
Coffee Social	Resumes in September
Second Collection	9 th August 2026

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA
Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak
www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson	Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
Walette Cross Stewardship Representative	Natalia Walker & Justin Tavares Religious Education - Kids & Youth Ministry
Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	Mrs. Jane Farge - Music Ministry



Today's Hymns

Entrance:	There's a Wildness in God's Mercy	#712
Offertory:	Christ Be Our Light	#824
Communion:	Seed, Scattered and Sown	#781
Recessional:	Take the Word of God	#812

Leader of Song: Justin Tavares



The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May our loving Lord always be with you and your families.



Sunday – 26th July 2026

Proclaimer of God's Word
Opening/Closing
Eucharistic Minister
Collection Counters
Altar Server
Music

Marisa Stones
Elizabeth Card
Joanne Smith
Mary Harvey
Liam/Seamus Stones
Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our sick and shut-ins in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Andrew Card, Eleanor Correia and Mary Maybury.

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Saturday 11 th July – 4:00 pm (Reg)	9	\$165.00
(Maint)		20.00
Sunday 12 th July – 9:00 am (Reg)	76	\$680.00
(Maint)		\$235.00
TOTAL:	85	\$1100.00



Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is greatly appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 –

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday, 18th July

†Eugenia Dionisio

Sunday, 19th July

†Jose & Maria Vieira

KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRY 2026/2027

We hope to resume the Kids & Youth Ministry on Sunday, 4th October 2026.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026/2027

If any of the children in the parish will attain the age of eight years old before December 2026, and you wish to register them in the First Holy Communion class, please let Liz Card know. It is anticipated that these classes will start on the 4th October.

PROPOSED EVENTS:

Fall (Autumn) Supper: looking at Friday, 25th September.
Venue: St. James Church Hall. To be confirmed.

Christmas Bingo: Friday, 4th December at the St. James Church Hall.

As you know we, as a parish, try help our little church as much as we can by putting on functions regardless of how big or how small, and are truly blessed with kindness, generosity and support, from those within, and those outside, the parish, when it comes to the actual event. However, we certainly could use a few younger helping hands, when it comes to the nitty gritty of setting up, etc. So, ladies and gentlemen, if you are willing to help, we would love to hear from you; see Annette or Liz after Mass.

BISHOP's CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Nelson Mandela International Day is celebrated annually on the 18th of July to honour the anti-apartheid revolutionary's legacy and global contributions to peace and freedom. The observance was officially launched by the UN General Assembly in November 2009. The date celebrates Nelson Mandela's birthday. He was born on the 18th of July 1918. In 2015, the UN extended the scope of this day to promote humane conditions of imprisonment. They did this by adopting a resolution that called for the formation of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, also known as the Nelson Mandela Rules.

The observance promotes the idea that every individual can make a positive difference in their community. Rather than focusing only on ceremonies or remembrance, it emphasizes volunteering, service, and civic responsibility as ways to honour Mandela's legacy and advance human dignity.

A defining feature of the day is the "67 minutes" campaign, which invites people to spend 67 minutes performing an act of service. The number represents the 67 years Mandela devoted to public service, from his activism against apartheid through his work promoting peace, reconciliation, and human rights after leaving office.

Individuals are encouraged to participate in community service by taking actions like reading to the vulnerable, volunteering at local shelters, or engaging with people from different cultural backgrounds.

Have a serene weekend and a blessed week!
Bishop Wes

Lunch & Movie

On Thursday, 23rd July, the film "The Courage to Love" from 2004, based on a true story about the first African American Saint, will be shown at the Summer Lunch & Movie event. In pre-Civil War New Orleans, Vanessa Williams portrays the beautiful African-American daughter of a wealthy white plantation owner and his kept mistress. Fighting her family's wishes, society's rules and rampant racism, she rejects the traditions of an arranged marriage and sets out on a journey fraught with danger. This inspiring true story of heroism and love illuminates the extraordinary life of Henriette Dalille, the first African-American Saint.

*The movie's length is 90 minutes.
It is rated PG 13 because of some mature thematic elements.*

PATIENCE AND THE KINGDOM

The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A invites us to think about God's patience and care. The readings show us that God is powerful, but He is also gentle. He rules with justice, yet He gives time for change and forgiveness. This balance of strength and mercy is a theme throughout the readings.

In the first reading, we see how God's might is joined with kindness. In the psalm, we hear about His mercy and faithfulness. The second reading reminds us that the Spirit helps us when we cannot find the right words to pray. Each passage points to a God who listens, forgives, and guides.

The Gospel brings these ideas together with parables about seeds, weeds, and yeast. The kingdom of God may look small at first, but it grows in hidden ways. The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A teaches us to trust in this growth and wait with hope.

REFLECTIONS:

- What does the parable of the wheat and weeds teach about patience and trust in God?
- How have you experienced God's patience in your own life?
- What small acts of faith can you nurture, like the mustard seed?
- How can you spread goodness in quiet and unnoticed ways, like yeast in dough?
- What areas of your life need more trust in God's timing?
- How do you respond when you see both good and bad in the world?
- What are some hidden ways God might be working in your life right now?
- How can you encourage others in their faith, even in small ways?
- What helps you stay patient when you do not see immediate results in your spiritual growth?
- How can you make space in your life for God's quiet work to take root and grow?

Prayer: Lord, thank You for Your patience and kindness. Help me to trust in Your timing and to see the small ways You are working in my life. Give me the strength to choose what is good and to grow in faith each day. May I bring love and kindness to those around me. Amen.

Source: Young Catholics 2026



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



MAIN MESSAGE



- God is strong and kind.
- He gives time to change.
- His kingdom grows in small and hidden ways.
- The Holy Spirit helps us in prayer.



KEY SCRIPTURE



"Let them grow
together until
harvest."
(Matthew 13:30)

THE READINGS



FIRST READING

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
God is just and kind;
He gives hope.



PSALM

Psalm 86
God is good, merciful,
and faithful.



SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-27
The Spirit helps us
when we don't know
what to pray.



GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-43
Parables of the weeds,
mustard seed, and yeast.
The kingdom grows.

THEMES TO KNOW



God is patient
and merciful.



Small beginnings,
big growth.



The Holy Spirit
helps us pray.



God gives time
for change.



Trust in God's
timing.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US



Be patient with others.



Pray, even when words
are hard to find.



Look for God in the small
things.



Trust God's timing.

TRY THIS



Spend a few minutes in
quiet prayer this week.
Ask the Holy Spirit to
help you listen to God.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Where do I see God's patience in my life?
- How can I be more patient with others?
- What small step can I take to grow closer to God?



Dear Padre,

My former boyfriend died recently. He was very abusive and caused me a lot of pain. Should I pray for him even if I believe that no amount of prayer could help him?

Yes, you should pray for him and, despite your lingering hurt from the relationship, resist the urge to make a judgment about him. This decision is not only a healthy spiritual choice, but it will also help you heal the wounds that you still carry. Praying for him does not mean that you are denying any of the hurt that he inflicted on you but rather that you are capable of maturity and choices that were seemingly beyond his ability. Praying for him really says more about you than it says about him. It is also an act of grace-inspired honesty and faithfulness. It is a statement that you believe wholeheartedly in the merciful and forgiving God who is capable of healing the deepest hurts and is even capable of helping his faithful people ultimately forgive those who have inflicted harm upon them. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

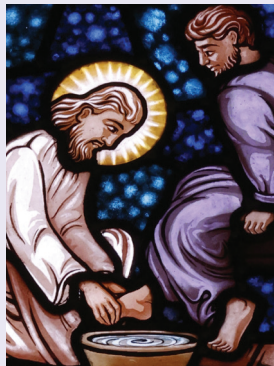


VASYLCHENKO NIKITA / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

While unity attracts, division scatters....

Therefore, in order to be a truly missionary Church, one that is capable of witnessing to the attractive power of Christ's love, we must first of all put into practice his commandment, the only one he gave us after washing his disciples' feet: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."



**EXTRAORDINARY CONSISTORY,
ROME, JANUARY 7, 2026**

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about **Dear Padre**.

Monday

July 20
Weekday
Mi 6:1-4, 6-8
Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday

July 21
Weekday
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20
Mt 12:46-50

Wednesday

July 22
St. Mary Magdalene
Sg 3:1-4b or
2 Cor 5:14-17
Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday

July 23
Weekday
Jer 2:1-3, 7-8,
12-13
Mt 13:10-17

Friday

July 24
Weekday
Jer 3:14-17
Mt 13:18-23

Saturday

July 25
St. James, Apostle
2 Cor 4:7-15
Mt 20:20-28

Sunday

July 26
Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12
Rom 8:28-30
Mt 13:44-52
or 13:44-46