Readings for the week of July 19, 2026

Sunday:
Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16/ Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Monday:
Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday:
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8/ Mt 12:46-50

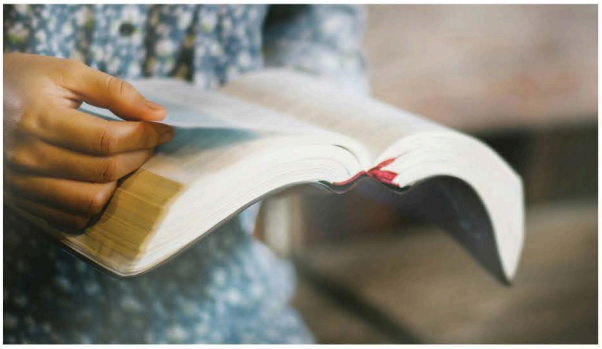
Wednesday:
Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday:
Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11/Mt 13:10-17

Friday:
Jer 3:14-17/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/ Mt 13:18-23

Saturday:
2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Mt 20:20-28

Next Sunday:
1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46



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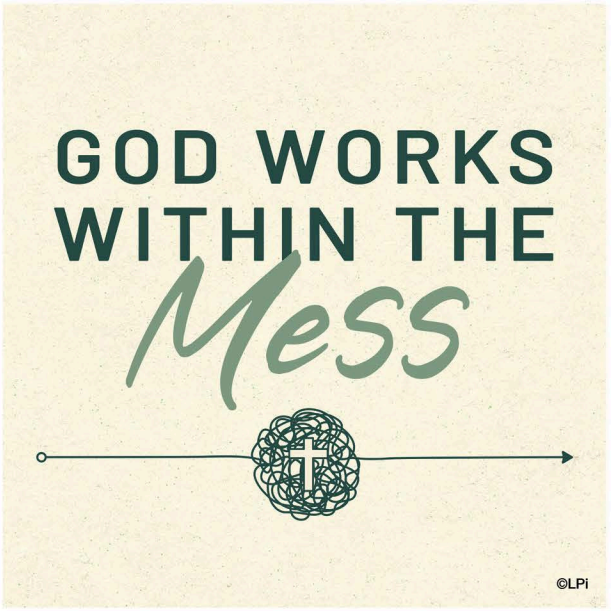

Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A man recently told me he was losing patience with the Church. **"It's supposed to be God's Kingdom on earth,"** he said, **"but it's full of contradictions and hypocrisy. Why can't the Church just be better?"** That last word landed with a judgmental thud. It hurt. Because at times the Church can look painfully ordinary, even disappointing.

But Jesus' parables in today's Gospel meet that frustration head-on. He says, **"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field,"** yet the weeds grow up with the wheat, and the master allows both to grow together until harvest. To his listeners, this sounded strange, even offensive. They expected God's reign to be pure, powerful, and glorious, anything but mixed up, hidden, or small.

Jesus is showing us something essential. The Kingdom always begins small and grows amid imperfection. Grace and weakness exist side by side until the harvest. That is why the Church often looks messy. Yet within that mess, God's quiet work continues. The weeds do not stop the wheat from growing.

When we see the Church's flaws or our own, it helps to remember that this is exactly the field in which Christ chose to plant. The miracle is not that everything looks perfect, but that his Word keeps taking root anyway.

Lord, give me patience with Your field, the Church. Help me see Your hidden life growing even among the weeds. Amen.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Weeds We Need

Driving up my street in late spring, you can see which yard is mine from a whole block away: it's the one covered in dandelions. And I like it that way.

I fear neither my husband's shame nor the snarky comments of neighbors: I will never apologize for my dandelion-filled yard. "It's for the pollinators," I say, but it's a total lie. I just think it looks lovely. Who doesn't like a splash of yellow after a long, dreary winter?

People call dandelions "weeds," but it's just not true. Weeds are, by definition, any plant growing where it isn't wanted. A rosebush is a weed, if it's in the middle of a cornfield. I want my dandelions. Plants that are commonly considered weeds can even have beneficial properties. They attract pollinators, for instance, and they promote nutrient cycling, whereby soil health is improved.

We all have metaphorical "weeds" in the garden of our lives. I certainly do: facets of my personality I loathe, realities of my life I resent, limitations in my abilities I dread — these are my weeds, and their roots run deep, coiling closely around those of the plants I try to cultivate. But if I could rid my garden of any one of these weeds, would it really benefit me? And if I examined them all closely, could I tell them apart — the blessing from the curse, the struggle from the triumph?

One day, it will all become clear: what is the wheat, and what is the weed. We will be put to our ultimate purpose, and we will see ourselves for what we are meant to be.

Until then, we need the weeds. It's not harvest time yet.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

I accept on faith that God is a Trinity of Persons, and I know it's something we can't fully understand. Should I just accept that, or should I try to learn more?

Answer:

There's a legend from the life of St. Augustine. As the early Church grappled with the identity of Christ and his relation to the other Persons in the Trinity, the holy theologian wrote a book about the Trinity. The story goes that, while he worked on the piece, he took a break to walk along the seashore. He came upon a small boy who had dug a hole in the sand. He was carrying a bucket, which he'd fill up with seawater and pour into the hole. Back and forth he walked. St. Augustine gently chided the young boy, *"You can't pour the whole ocean into that hole."* The boy responded, *"And you cannot fit the whole Trinity into your mind."*

The Trinity is a mystery! Our finite mind can't comprehend the infinite God. Of course, the lesson isn't about giving up trying to understand God. St. Augustine did write that treatise, after all. The hunger to know more about God is good. We can read books about the Trinity or about the fatherly love of God, the life of Christ, and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. More than that, we can deepen our life of prayer. The heart of our Trinitarian teaching is "God is love." The Three Persons are an infinite relation of love between one another. Real understanding of that comes less through our heads but through our hearts.

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Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:
For your might is the source of justice;
your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all.
(Wis 12:16)

Psalm:
Lord, you are good and forgiving. (Ps 86)

Second Reading:
And the one who searches hearts
knows what is the intention of the Spirit,
because he intercedes for the holy ones
according to God's will. (Rom 8:27)

Gospel:
"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed
that a person took and sowed in a field.
It is the smallest of all the seeds,
yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants."
(Mt 13:31-32)

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Live The Liturgy
Inspiration of the Week

The mustard seed was the smallest seed, but it grew to be the largest plant because it was well-tended. This is faith: looking past what is to see what can be, if only we make the necessary choice.

Observances for the week of July 19, 2026

Sunday:	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr
Tuesday:	St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:	St. Mary Magdalene
Thursday:	St. Bridget, Religious
Friday:	St. Sharbel Makhlūf, Priest
Saturday:	St. James, Apostle
Next Sunday:	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Virtues, *Explained!*

Generosity is a hallmark of Christian discipleship. Christ placed our needs above his own, so we likewise place the needs of others above our own. Our concern for our brothers and sisters must be evident not just in what we do but in how we do it — with cheerfulness and love.

Blessing for Summer

O God,
Pour your blessing upon these summer months of sun and clouds, flowers and growth. In this season of cultivation, cultivate us as we worship, work, play, and rest in You. May this season, and all the others, serve to draw us closer to You.
Amen.

"He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "
- Mt 13:29-30

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Wisdom speaks of God's power in terms of kindness, leniency, and mercy. What words would you use to describe God?

Second Reading:

Paul explains that the Spirit intercedes on our behalf, especially when we struggle in our prayer life. How can the Spirit help you in your prayer life?

Gospel:

In the parable of the weeds and the wheat, Jesus warns the disciples of the presence of the devil active in the world. How do we stay on guard against the evil one?

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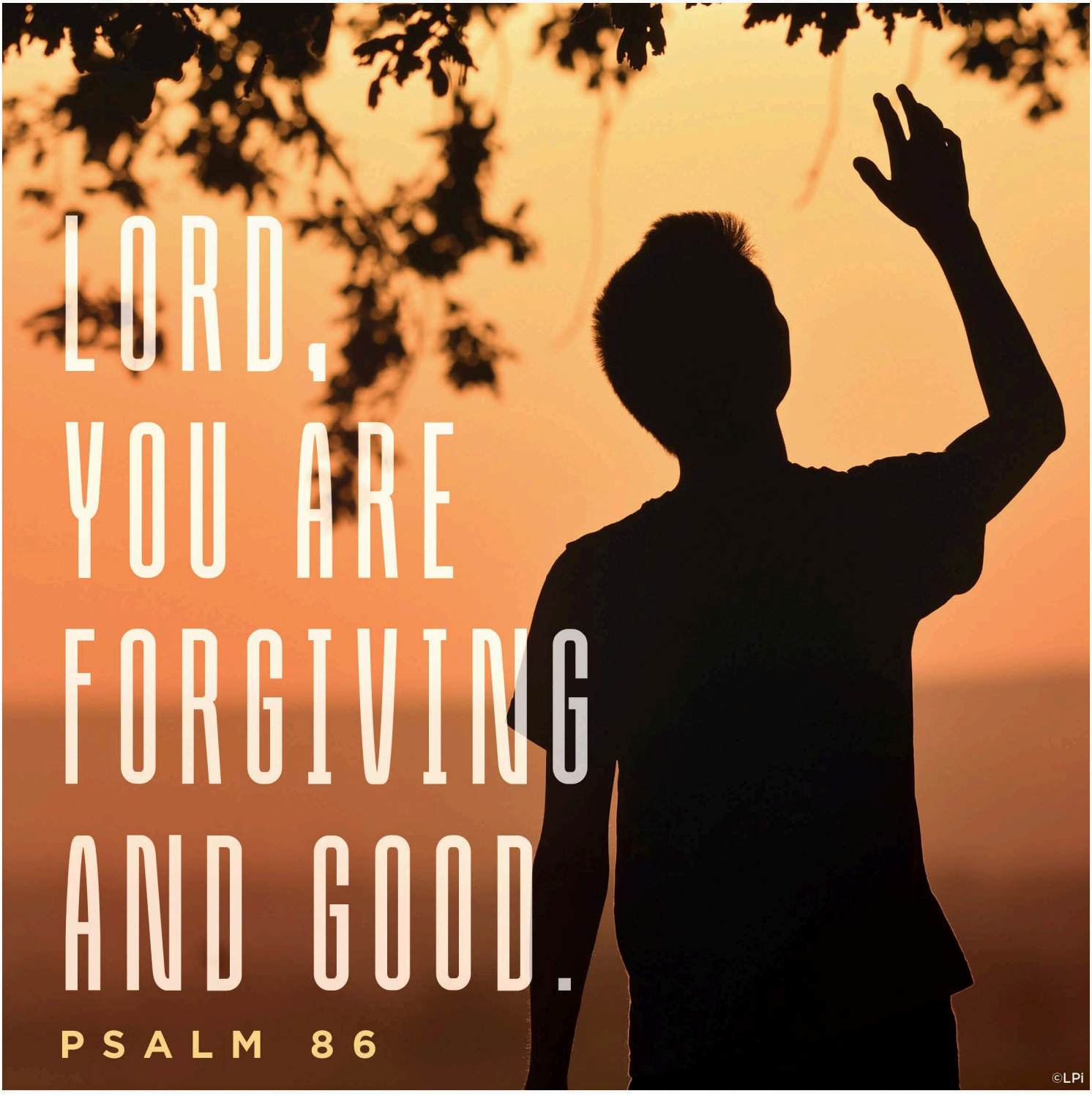

"The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father." - Mt 13:41-43a

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