

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MARY'S MACLEAN



ST JOHNS CHURCH



ST MARYS CHURCH



ST JAMES CHURCH

Parish Administrator: Father Roland Agrisola
2 McIntyres Lane Maclean NSW 2463
Email: office@stmarysparish.org.au

Postal: PO Box 19 MACLEAN NSW 2463
Tel: 02 66 451188 **ABN** 43 360 517 680
Web: stmarysparish.org.au

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A: 19 JULY 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the readings this sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time affirm the patience of God and invite us to persevere in our journey of faith.

The first reading, Wisdom 12:13, 16-19, teaches that while God is all-powerful and just, he is patient, lenient and merciful to all. He only has to will and his power is realised. His justice comes from his almighty power and he never judges unjustly. His justice coexists with his mercy. Although God's power is immense, he remains gentle and patient with everyone. As Lord of all, he has authority over both the just and the unjust, yet he does not use power to intimidate, dominate, or demand obedience. Instead, he draws people to himself and leads them to repentance through gentleness and forbearance. His patience teaches the faithful to imitate his compassion and gives sinners the opportunity to turn from sin and live according to his commandments.

The parables of Jesus in the Gospel (Matthew 13:24-43) illustrate God's patience towards us. The first parable, that of the good seed and the darnel growing together and being segregated only at harvest time shows the patience of God. The servants in the parable make the mistake of being impatient by wanting to eliminate the weeds immediately. They would like to destroy all the weeds growing with the wheat. The owner of the field does not accept his servants' advice. Good and evil, says the owner, cannot be separated immediately. They have to grow up together until harvest. The separation will take place, but not this year, not today, not immediately.

The attitude of the owner reveals to us the attitude of God towards the moral evil that exists in the world, in members of the Church, and in every individual. In every human heart one finds good and evil. Even the most wicked of people have, together with a lot darnel, some good grain in themselves. In a baptised person, the grace of God, and the supernatural virtues and gifts, and just and loving deeds coexist with weakness of human nature, sins, selfishness and temptations. The good news is that God gives us the possibility to get rid of sin in our lives with his help. Indeed, God

provides us in our journey on earth time and grace to repent of our sins, to let him purge us ever more deeply and to grow to perfection of communion of life and love with him. But the time will come when repentance is no longer possible and we will either be welcomed into his eternal kingdom or be separated from God forever.

God's patience in saving the world, in drawing people to himself is shown again in the parables of mustard seed and the yeast. The parable of the mustard seed shows that despite its small beginnings, the reign of God will yield tremendous results. A small mustard seed, almost invisible to the eye, gives rise to a shrub that grows almost four meters high. The parable of the yeast continues the theme of unimpressive beginnings yielding tremendous results. A few grams of yeast causes a large quantity of dough to rise. As an agent of fermentation, a small amount of yeast, when mixed with dough, causes the dough to expand. The presence of God and his work in our lives will have a profound effect despite its inconspicuous beginnings and hidden activity. These two parables are an invitation to trust in God's work in our lives. We may not see big results, big jumps, immediate transformation and holiness of life, but as long as we cling to him, moving one step at a time, doing what we can, we know that God is patiently, and in ways known to him alone, transforming us.

The second reading, Romans 8:26-27, shows that divine assistance is always provided in our journey towards definitive communion of life with God. In the reading St Paul observes that we do not know how to pray. That is why the Holy Spirit comes to our aid and teaches us to pray properly. The Spirit teaches us how to pray according to the mind of God. To pray, and to attain communion with God for that matter, is to let oneself be led by the Holy Spirit who will draw us closer to God.

Let us pray in this Mass for the grace to persevere in our journey of growing in faith, hope and love.

Fr Roland

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

COLLECT

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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Wisdom 12:13.16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. (R.)
2. All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. (R.)
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. (R.)

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."' "

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of

the kingdom; the dandelion, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the dandelion is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE II: SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

In the passage from the Book of Wisdom, the author lists several forceful divine characteristics and then seems to temper them with traits that could be considered their opposites. First he brings divine care and condemnation together (v.13). The principal theme of this verse is an acknowledgment of the total and exclusive providence of God. Next, God’s might is assuaged by

leniency. Actually it is because God is so powerful that God can decide to be lenient. God’s manner of dealing with the people of Israel becomes a lesson to be learned by them. They are exhorted to pattern their treatment of others after their God’s treatment of them.

Parts of an individual lament are singled out for the psalm response: a prayer to be heard by God (vv.5-6); expressions of praise (vv. 9-10); and a plea for mercy (vv. 15-16). The structure of the first section is the same as that of the third: God is extolled in the first verse (vv.5, 15); presuming on the attributes expressed there, the psalmist makes a fervent plea (vv. 6, 16). Covenant language appears throughout these verses. God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger and filled with lovingkindness. The excellence of the God of Israel is then extolled. It is no wonder that all nations praise the name of the God of Israel.

Paul provides a bold and moving explanation of prayer to God. He first acknowledges human weakness which prevents people from knowing how to pray as they ought. Paul refers to weak human beings committed to Jesus as holy ones, saints. Such a reference itself shows that Paul maintains that human weakness is not an obstacle to holiness. The Spirit does more than merely offer aid. Rather, the Spirit identifies with this weakness, takes it on, and thus comes to our assistance, acting as intermediary between God and humankind. God has a purpose, and though we do not know what that purpose is, the enabling Spirit of God moves us toward it.



Once again the gospel shows us Jesus as a wisdom teacher, using parables to illustrate aspects of the growth of the kingdom of heaven. The field sown with weeds illustrates the fact that, despite all of the dedicated work that goes into the establishment of the kingdom of God, there will not be a perfect yield. The parables of the mustard seed; and the yeast in the dough both address the unimpressive beginnings of the kingdom of heaven, its gradual and imperceptible growth, and the extraordinary yield that it will ultimately produce. The fate of the righteous is reminiscent of a passage found in the Book of Daniel (12:3). Their radiance will be like that of the cosmic bodies.

© *Dianne Bergant CSA*

ONLINE GIVING

Internet donations to assist our parish are always welcome. Details for donating online via Electronic Funds Transfer BSB: 032582 Account Number: 810033 [Surname, parish envelope no]

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for the Sick: Maureen Robertson, Clive McLachlan, Ben & Nadine Shaw, Patrick Wheeler, Denise & Bob, Tim Scherger, Jan Taylor, Miriam Scherger, Kathy Leseberg, Ava Blay, Mark Thurbon, Alma Bailey, Mary Wiseman, Sue Gravalin, Ron Weekes, Pam Lewis, Matthew & Paul Gallagher, Chris Naismith, Trevor Nicolai, Peter Burns, Matthew Tierney, Sharon Grayson, Dennis Catheral, Allan Dick. **Recently Deceased:** Audrey Hancock. **Anniversary:** Dulc Sinderberry, Frank & Marie Ryan, Les Barnett. **Pray for:** All the suffering souls in Purgatory especially the dec'd members of F.O.S.S.

MASS TIMES:

Sunday Masses: Yamba: 5:30pm (SAT); Maclean: 8:30am (SUN); Iluka: 10:30am (SUN).

Weekday Masses: Tuesday, 9:00am: Iluka; Wednesday, 9:30am: Yamba; Friday, 12:00nn, Maclean; First Saturday: 11:30am, Maclean.

RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturday, 11:00am, Maclean; 5:00pm, Yamba

Sunday, 8:00am, Maclean

Tuesday, 9:30am, Iluka

Wednesday, 10:00am, Yamba

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

First Wednesday: 10:00am, Yamba

First Saturday: 12:00pm, Maclean

MINISTRY ROSTER: 25/26 JULY 2026

Readers: Yamba: G Drummond/A Schofield;

Maclean: C Newton/R Harvey; Iluka: D Speirs.

Commentators: Yamba: P Edgar; Maclean: J de Roos,

Iluka: T Sullivan. **E Communion:** Maclean: J

Moloney. **Count team:** Davies.

READINGS: 25/26 JULY 2026

First: 1 Kings 3:5. 7-12; **Second:** Romans 8:28-30; **Gospel:** Matthew 13:44-52.

NEWS & EVENTS

Emergency contact: In case of emergency outside of parish office hours, contact Fr Roland 0401 508 812.

Office days/times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00am-2:30pm.

Parish bulletin online: Our bulletin is now uploaded weekly to our website <http://stmarysparish.org.au>

Thinking of Becoming a Catholic? Contact Fr Roland 0401 508 812

Ignite Conference 2026: This youth conference will be held in Brisbane 24-27 September. This national youth conference is a real world formation with

something for everyone. Please see the noticeboard for more information. To express interest scan the QR code on the noticeboard.

ASPIRE Young Adults Spiritual Formation

invitation: Please see the noticeboard for the dates on the poster.

Cursillo Weekend: 5pm 15/10—5pm 18/10 at

Marian Valley for the Lismore Diocese. The team encourages anyone willing to put their name forward to contact Rex or Carryl Tory PH: 0478 793 618.

Vinnies Winter Appeal – Donation envelopes will be available at our churches for the next 8 weeks. Your generous support helps us to give much needed assistance to people in need in our local community. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible, receipt issued upon request.

Claiming the dates: Please mark your calendars for TWO great Parish events in the planning! Souper Sunday singalong! Sunday 9 August—Cranney Room Maclean after morning mass. Feast of Christ the King! Sunday 22 November—Cranney Room, Maclean.

First Holy Communion in our Parish will take place in Yamba on 29 August and Maclean on 30 August. First Communion workshop for parents and candidates will be held on 6 August at St Josephs Maclean. Candidates who do not attend our Catholic Schools please contact the parish office.

Ring found: please see Father Roland if you are missing one.

Rosary Group: to be held at St Mary's Church Maclean, every Saturday at 9am. Seeking expressions of interest, please contact John on 0450 922 686 or the office.

Training of old and new liturgy ministers: in September those involved in liturgical ministries will have their training.

Morning tea at Yamba: Wednesday 22 July after morning Mass. Please come and enjoy a cuppa with fellow parishioners.

Platinum (70) and Golden Jubilee (50) Priestly Ordination anniversary of Father John Dacey and Father Colin Reinhard: 29 August 2026, 11am Mass. Please see the poster on the noticeboard for RSVP instructions.

Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop: Join the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place as we celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop on Saturday 8 August. See the noticeboard for more information.

Diocesan Youth Council: Please see the noticeboard for information on their new initiative.