

Catholic Parish of the Valleys Region

Parish Priest: Fr T. Lazar
(mobile: 0469 794 387)

Secretaries: Kim Campbell, Colleen Nevell

Parish Office Hours: 9.00am - 12 noon
Monday to Friday
Telephone: 4992 1252
Email: val.reg@bigpond.com

Parish communities:

St Joseph's, Biloela

Mass Times

Wednesday 8.00am
Friday 8.00am
Sunday 8.00am

St Therese's, Monto

Mass Time

Sunday 6.00pm

Parish Contacts:

Mary Ann List - 4167 2177

Sr Anne & Sr Marie, SMSM
Phone: 4166 3986
PO Box 129
Monto Q 4630

Sacred Heart Church, Theodore

Mass Times

Saturday (1st & 3rd) 6.00pm
Lay-Led Liturgy (2nd & 4th)
6.00pm

St Michael's, Moura

Mass Times

Saturday (2nd & 4th) 6.00pm

St Patrick's, Baralaba

Mass Times

Friday (3rd - by arrangement)
6.00pm

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

Biloela

St. Joseph's Catholic School,
Phone: 4992 2353

Principal: Nicole Rutten

Monto

St Therese's Catholic School,
Phone: 4166 1654

Principal: Monica White

Second Sunday of Advent 9th December 2018

"COME TO BETHLEHEM"

"How much openness is needed to welcome people who feel alone and confused as they search for a meaning in life! Lord, open my heart to all those I encounter."
Pope Francis



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Pope Francis: During Advent, ask Jesus to teach us to pray

Pope Francis on Wednesday launched a new series of catechesis, which will focus on the "Our Father".

"The Gospels have given us a very vivid portrait of Jesus as a *man of prayer*," the Pope said in the introductory catechetical instruction. Despite the importance of His mission, and the demands placed on Him by the people, Jesus often felt the need "to withdraw into solitude and pray." This was evident from the very beginning of His mission, after the initial success of his ministry in Galilee.

"In some places in the Scriptures," Pope Francis continued, "it seems that it is Jesus' prayer above all, His intimacy with the Father, that governs everything." This is particularly evident during the agony in the garden, before the Crucifixion.

The Holy Father said that, although Jesus prayed like other people do, there was also a profound mystery about His prayer to His Father. That is why His disciples asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus does not want to keep His intimacy with His Father to Himself, but "came precisely in order to introduce us into this relationship with the Father."

We too must make our own the prayer of the disciples: "Lord, teach us to pray." "Even if we have been praying for many years," Pope Francis said, "we always have something to learn." Recalling the parable of the publican and the Pharisee, the Holy Father said the first step in prayer is to humble ourselves before God.

Pope Francis concluded his first reflection on the prayer of Jesus with the advice to repeat often, during Advent, the prayer of the disciples: "Master, teach us to pray." If we do this, he said, then God will certainly not let our prayer go unanswered.

Christopher Wells © Vatican News

Reconciliation: St Joseph's, Biloela - Sunday 7.00am to 7.30am
By appointment with Father Thadayoose
St. Therese's, Monto - Before Sunday Mass

Baptisms: Bookings are made through the Parish Office in Biloela.
Advance notice and preparation are required.

Weddings: By appointment and after preparation.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday 16th December

Zephaniah 3:14-18
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

Prayers for the sick: Rose Ryan, Frank Vogels,
Henny Hay, Katryn Hay, Josefien & John de Git,
Coleman family, Chris Barron, Mark Lonsdale,
Shirley Matheson, Brian Sharpe, Michael Stoddart,
Anna Becker, Gail Harrison

Recently Deceased: Sr Marie Duffy rsm, Peter de Git,
Kerian Price, Veronica Graham

Anniversary: Madeline Gauci

VALLEYS REGION PARISH NOTICES

PLANNED GIVING

Thank you to the parishioners who contribute to our parish finances through planned giving or collections.

Last week's contributions amounted to:

Biloela: envelopes \$557.00 loose \$180.15
Monto: envelopes \$1,502.00 loose \$152.90

**Please note: Any cheques must be made out to:
Catholic Parish of the Valleys Region
If anyone wishes to use the credit card facility for your giving, this can easily be arranged.
Contact Kim at the Parish Office.**

VALLEYS' MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

9th Fair Thank You Morning tea (Biloela)
9th Parish Pastoral Council meeting (Biloela)
16th Baptism (Biloela)
16th St Therese's Sausage Sizzle after Mass (Monto)

St Vincent de Paul meets fortnightly
Biloela 5.30pm on Monday 10th December
Monto 11.30am on Monday 10th November

ST JOSEPH'S COMMUNION TO THE SICK/HOUSEBOUND

During **December** the following ministers will distribute Holy Communion to the sick and housebound.

Jeff & Val de Git

ST JOSEPH'S, BILOELA:

ARE YOU GOING TO BE HERE OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD?



A roster is available on the table near the front of the Church. Please be involved and be part of our celebrations over the Christmas period.

Thank you.

St Vincent de Paul Society, Biloela

Columban Calendars are available from the newspaper stand. Cost is \$7.00 each.

Christmas Hampers: As most of you would be aware, we distribute hampers to families who are doing it tough at Christmas time. This year we would like to leave a basket in the church for donations. Donations can be in the form of non-perishable food, toys etc. The basket will be in the Church from next weekend onwards and this will be taken up in the Offertory procession during the weeks of Advent. Any contributions to this very worthy cause is greatly appreciated.

ST THERESE'S. MONTO

There will be a Post Fete Sausage Sizzle in the hall following Mass on Sunday 16th December. Could someone please find out numbers coming to the BBQ, order and pick up the sausages and bread.

Please bring a salad or dessert. BYO drinks.

Volunteers are urgently needed to assist those teaching Christian Education once a week at Monto State School next year. The R.E. classes are for just half an hour and teachers' books, with prepared lessons, are provided. Don't be afraid to volunteer! This could be your special opportunity to share the Good News with children who might otherwise miss out.

St Joseph's Parish Fair News

A THANK YOU morning tea will be held after Mass this morning for all who helped make our Fair such a successful event.

The Catholic Leader

Your Church, Your life.

Don't forget to pick up your copy this week.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

Statement of Commitment

The Diocese of Rockhampton is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. This Policy reflects our Catholic belief that every human being has dignity that we recognise as coming directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness.

This Policy applies to everyone who works within the Diocese of Rockhampton. That is clergy, religious, employees, students on placement, volunteers and agencies operating within the Diocese. Nothing in the Policy affects the expectations set out in *Integrity in Ministry - a Document of Principles and Standards for Catholic*

Clergy and religious in Australia (June 2004) and *Integrity in the Service of the Church (September 2011)*, although this Policy has a wider remit.

Towards Healing (January 2016) is the Church's pastoral response to those harmed by individuals with pastoral responsibility within the Church and, again, this Policy has a wider scope.

The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton abides strictly with the principles and procedures of *Towards Healing*. The Diocese is committed to healing for victims by providing a sensitive and compassionate response to complaints. Contact the **Response Line** on m: **1800 830 113**
Or email: **profstdsrock@dfs.org.au**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia.

Scripture passages taken from the Jerusalem Bible published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

English translation of the roman Missal © 2010
International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL)

PRAYER FOR RAIN

Lord God, creator of the world with all its seasons.
We thank you for your answer to our prayers for rain.
We once again ask you, according to your will, to send us rain.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.