

# Catholic Parish of the Valleys Region

Parish Administrator: Fr Simeon Uchendu  
(mobile: 0456 548 254)  
Email: ppvalleysregion@rok.catholic.net.au  
Secretaries: Kim Campbell, Colleen Nevell

Parish Office Hours: 9.00am - 12 noon  
Monday to Friday  
Telephone: 4992 1252  
Email: valleysregion@rok.catholic.net.au

Parish communities:

**COVID 19 Restrictions  
apply to all Masses**

## St Joseph's, Biloela

### Mass Times

Wednesday 8.00am  
Friday 9.00am  
- School Mass  
Sunday 8.00am

## St Therese's, Monto

### Mass Time

Monday 9.00am  
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 and 3rd)  
6.00pm

## St Michael's, Moura

### Mass Times

Saturday (2nd and 4th)  
6.00pm

## St Patrick's, Baralaba

### Mass Times

Second Friday of the  
month 6.00pm

## **SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:** **Biloela**

St. Joseph's Catholic  
School  
Phone. 4994 8310  
**Principal:** Nicole Rutten

## **Monto**

St Therese's Catholic  
School  
Phone: 4166 1654  
**Principal:**  
Doiya Knapman

## *Fifth Sunday of Easter* *2nd May, 2021*

"I AM THE VINE"



**"Faith always demands that we allow ourselves to be healed and converted from our individualism and to commit ourselves to counteract indifference in the face of violations of human dignity."**

*Pope Francis*

## **NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM**

### **Make your home in me.**

### **Acts 9:26-31; John 15:1-8**

*'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.'*

'Make your home in me as I make mine in you.' These words express the profound insight of this Gospel that God dwells in us as we dwell in God. God is at home in our living and we have our home within the life of God. I struggle to find words for this truth and can only speak of a famous Icon of the Trinity where there are three figures sitting at a table with an empty space in the foreground. The icon draws the viewer into this space, inviting the viewer to sit at this table, to join the communion and become part of this divine household.

Just as I use this ancient Russian Icon as an image of our reciprocal dwelling in God, so Jesus gives his disciples an image they would be familiar with, the image of the vine. A vine is one entity. While there may be times when it is technically more accurate to speak of the vine-stock and the vine branches as separate, usually they are regarded as one. The vine has no reality apart from its interwoven branches. The image Jesus offers speaks of the profound intimacy and reciprocity God desires with us. 'I am the vine, you are the branches.'

Just as a vine needs to be cared for by the vine-dresser, being 'at home' with another requires time and tending. Home-making is the task of a lifetime. May we attend to the God who is at home with us and may we find our home within the loving embrace of God.

It is important to recognise that these verses from John are part of the Last Discourse just prior to the Johannine passion. The Discourse functions to console the disciples on the eve of Jesus' departure to the Father, and it also interprets the Johannine meaning of the Cross, which is very different to the Synoptics. For John, the cross was a means of drawing disciples into Jesus' own relationship with the Father. On the cross, Jesus changes the relationship between disciples and himself when he says to the disciple, 'behold your mother'. If the disciple now has the same mother as Jesus, then disciples are now 'brothers and sisters of Jesus,' (see 20:17) and therefore children of God. It is through the disciples' relationship with Jesus, taking on his 'sonships' that disciples are reborn as God's children. The image of the vine is one way of expressing the intimacy between disciples and Jesus and disciples in Jesus with the Father.

In the readings today, notice the language of 'brothers' (Acts) and 'children' (1 John). We can take this language for granted but it expresses the faith of the early disciples of Jesus. They are now in a new relationship with Jesus and with God. The Resurrection message in John is, 'Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' (20:17) This became the spiritual experience of the early believers who looked on each other as 'brothers and sisters' and 'children' of God.

These readings in the weeks after Easter offer an interpretation of the meaning of the Passion and how this impacted on the lives of the believers. For them, the death and resurrection was not just something that happened to Jesus; it also impacted on their own lives. They were changed. The Christian message was never meant to be an ideology, a set of belief statements or moral laws; it was a whole new way of seeing oneself, one's world and one's relationship with God and others. In the 1st Epistle of John, the impact of Easter is expressed as a commitment to love for Easter revealed the depths of God' love.

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## VALLEYS REGION PARISH NOTICES

### PLANNED GIVING

Thank you for the generosity of parishioners who contribute to our parish finances through planned giving or collections. Last week's total contributions amounted to:

Biloela: \$332.00  
Monto: \$142.00

*Payment options for Planned Giving: Credit Card, Direct Debit or Envelopes. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.*

### VALLEYS' MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

- 7th Eucharistic Adoration - St Joseph's Church - 5.30pm  
13th St Therese's Fair Committee Meeting - Monto - 10.00am  
15th Baptisms - Theodore - 6.00pm

The next fortnightly meeting for the St Vincent de Paul Conference will be:

Biloela: 8.30am on Thursday 13th May, 2021  
Monto: 11.00am on Thursday 13th May, 2021

### WAHROONGA AUXILIARY STREET STALL

The Wahroonga Auxiliary will be holding a Street Stall on Thursday 6th May in Biloela Shoppingworld starting at 8.30am. Any donations of cooking, craft or plants gratefully received. All monies raised will be used to purchase useful items for our residents in Wahroonga.

**CASH FOR CONTAINERS:** Any parishioners who would like to take part in this scheme, quote this number C10180573 at any collection site.

### ST THERESE'S FAIR

The first St. Therese's Fair Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday 13th of May at 10.00am in the school staff room. All welcome to attend.

### **Australian Catholic Bishops Conference – National Count of Attendance To be held 1/2 May, 8/9 May, 15/16 May and 22/23 May 2021**

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has asked that for the first four weekends of May, that there be a count of all the people who attend masses across Australia. This is to provide a realistic picture of our situations and aid administration. On the 3rd weekend, we will be required to be counted according to gender. On the 4th weekend, the age brackets of our congregations will also be counted. Please give us a few minutes to make the count before each final blessing.

### ST JOSEPH'S MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

Tickets are being sold at Simmons Bakery on 6th May and Biloela ShoppingWorld on 8th May. Drawn on 8th May.

**Help needed:** three or four people and a suitable vehicle are needed to transport a photocopier at a Biloela business to the Parish Office. If you are able to help please contact the Parish Office.

### **Prayers for the sick:**

Rose Ryan, Henny Hay, Katryn Hay, Coleman family, Chris Barron, Mark Lonsdale, Shirley Matheson, Michael Stoddart, Gail Harrison, Graham Phelan, Merle McMillan, Mary Barry, Peter Mahony, Lorraine Stockley

### **DIOCESAN NOTICES:**

The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton abides by the principles of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (2013), and is committed to safeguarding, with a specific focus on protecting children and vulnerable adults.

For further information or support please contact the Diocesan Professional Standards and Safeguarding Office:  
Response Line: 1800 830 113 (free call)  
or email: [pssoadmin@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:pssoadmin@rok.catholic.net.au)  
Diocesan Website for more information:

<https://rok.catholic.net.au/our-diocese/safeguarding/>  
To view the Diocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults commitment statement and Policy:  
<http://www.rok.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html>  
Queensland Professional Standards Office:  
[www.psoqld.catholic.net.au/](http://www.psoqld.catholic.net.au/)

The parish Safeguarding representative is Mariana Rutten who can be contacted on 0448 155 051.

### **Reconciliation:**

St Joseph's, Biloela - Sunday 7.00am to 7.30am  
St. Therese's, Monto - Before Sunday Mass on first two Sundays of the month.

### **Baptisms:**

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

### **Weddings:**

By appointment and after preparation

### **Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal 2021 Hearts On Fire Conference**

25th-27th June, 2021  
Kevin Castles Centre, 152 West Street, Rockhampton

Event registration: \$60 per person  
Contact Kim Campbell (0412 836 157)  
or email: [kimmcampbell@aapt.net.au](mailto:kimmcampbell@aapt.net.au)

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

I will praise you, Lord,  
in the assembly of your people.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;  
my branches bear much fruit.  
Alleluia!

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.  
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty,  
alleluia.

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### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48  
1 John 4:7-10  
John 15:9-17