



# Our Lady of the Valleys Catholic Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Simeon Uchendu

Email: ppvalleysregion@rok.catholic.net.au

Parish Secretaries: Colleen Nevell, Melissa Sturt

Parish Office Hours: 9.00am - 12 noon

Monday to Friday

Telephone: 4992 1252

Email: valleysregion@rok.catholic.net.au

Parish communities:

## St Joseph's, Biloela

### Mass Times

Wednesday 8.00am

Thursday 5.30pm

Friday 8.00am

Sunday 8.00am

## St Therese's, Monto

### Mass Times

Sunday 6.00pm

### Parish Contacts:

Mary Ann List  
- 0417 628 140

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

## Sacred Heart Church, Theodore

Saturday 6.00pm

Mass: 1st and 3rd  
Saturdays

Lay Led: 2nd and 4th  
Saturdays

## 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: Tina Knight

#### Monto

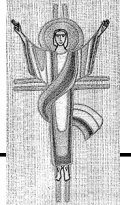
St Therese's Catholic  
School  
Phone: 4166 1654  
Principal: Scott Murray

## Second Sunday of Lent - 25th February, 2024

"BEHOLD"

**"As we journey through the wilderness of our own lives during this Lenten season, let us take heart in the example of Jesus and allow His Holy Spirit to renew and transform us."**

*Pope Francis*



### NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

#### You are my Beloved

**Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10**

***There, in their presence, he was transfigured.***

Last Sunday's Gospel described Jesus' entry into the wilderness and I suggested that this is a time of encountering God. In today's Gospel, while the setting is different, we glimpse such a moment of encounter. It is described as a moment of transformation, or transfiguration. An encounter with God changes us. In the Gospel this is depicted as the outer change in Jesus' appearance, but for most of us, the experience of God brings about an inner change, a change of heart. Jesus knows himself in this moment to be God's beloved one. When I have listened to people speak of their moments of experiencing God, they too speak of knowing themselves as God's beloved.

Sometimes things get in the way of our knowing this about ourselves. Some have grown up with harsh images of God, some may look on life events and see themselves as unlovable but the Gospel insists on another truth. 'God so loved the world he gave his son.' God so loves me he gives his son! Wow! Can I believe this? Dare I believe God loves me?

In Hebrew the word for 'wilderness' is mid'bar, and the term for 'word' is d'bar. Wilderness and word are related which is why so many prophets spent time in the wilderness to seek God's word. Listen to the words of today's Gospel again, 'This is my beloved.' Take these words into your heart this week as you continue this invitation into a wilderness time

If we were reading Mark in its narrative context we would notice that this episode of encountering God on a mountain follows on from Jesus' first announcement of what awaits him in Jerusalem, namely his death. Peter, who has just confessed Jesus as the Christ, rebukes Jesus for saying such things leading Jesus to speak further of the need for disciples to follow Jesus' pattern of self-denial. The Transfiguration episode comes therefore at a time to reaffirm Jesus' identity as the Beloved, even as he faces the cross. The experience also serves to bolster the faith of Peter, James and John who are awed by their experience. As Jesus begins his journey to the cross he receives the strength needed to be faithful to his mission. Even the two prophets, Moses and Elijah, can offer comfort since they too knew times of conflict and persecution.

If we seriously enter into the journey of Lent, there can be times of discouragement when our weakness can undermine our resolutions. The gospel encourages us to know that God is still present to us, still calling us, 'My Beloved One'.

The reading from Romans has a similar message – God is on our side and with God on our side how can we possibly fail? Jesus is the sign of God's generous love for us and nothing can destroy such love – especially not our frailty. Paul is here writing to the Christian community in Rome who are experiencing tension that will eventually become persecution. Paul reassures the members of the community that even in times of struggle and weakness these are not signs that God has abandoned them. The reading goes on to ask a series of rhetorical questions: 'Who can separate us from the love of Christ?' 'Could tribulation or distress or persecution . . .' Paul's answer is a resounding, 'No! . . . Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.'

It is helpful today to hear the words, 'Beloved' and 'Chosen'. While Lent is a time of discipline, a time of penance, its purpose is not to make us morbidly focussed on our unworthiness, but rather to consider the immensity of God's love. It is in response to this love that we embark on the journey of a disciple and discipline ourselves so we become more and more images of Christ.

© Mary Coloe

**Reconciliation:** St Joseph's, Biloela - Sunday 7.00am to 7.30am

St. Therese's, Monto - Before Mass each Sunday

**Baptisms:** Bookings are made through the Parish Office in Biloela.

Advance notice and preparation are required.

**Weddings:** By appointment and after preparation.

## VALLEYS REGION PARISH NOTICES

### PLANNED GIVING

Thank you for the generosity of parishioners who contribute to our parish finances through planned giving or collections. Please make cheques payable to the **Catholic Parish of the Valleys Region**. If you would like to be part of our planned giving program please contact the Parish Office.

Last week's total contributions amounted to:

Biloela: \$1,298.95

Monto: \$423.85

Dawson Valley: \$485.00

*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 MONTHS OF FEBRUARY/MARCH

25th Sunday: Biloela Party Sunday

28th Wednesday: Biloela Mass - 8.00am

29th Thursday: Biloela Mass - 5.30pm

#### **March:**

1st Friday: Biloela Mass - 8.00am

3rd Sunday: Biloela Young Adults Group meeting - 10.30am

#### **The next fortnightly meetings for the St Vincent de Paul Conference will be:**

Biloela: 8.30am on Thursday 7th March, 2024

Monto: 11.00am on Thursday 7th March, 2024

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St Therese's Church, Monto - Fridays at 3.30pm

St Joseph's Church, Biloela - Fridays at 5.30pm

### **Prayers for the sick and struggling:**

Henny Hay, Coleman family, Shane Corfield, Shirley Matheson, Michael Stoddart, Gail Harrison, Robert Harrison, Graham Phelan, Lorraine Stockley, Ryan Flenady, Des Maher, Myrna Demasu-ay, Lindsay Sharpe, Robin Harth, Norman Becker, Peter Mazzer

**Recently deceased:** Theodorus "Theo" Verschaeren

### DATE CLAIMERS:

#### **MONTO - ST PATRICK'S DAY MORNING TEA**

Saturday 16th March 2024 at 10.00am

St Therese's Parish Hall, Monto

Delicious morning tea, Entertainment, Multi-draw raffle  
Adults \$8.00, Children 5 years and over \$4.00

Donations for morning tea and multi-draw raffle would be appreciated.

#### **BILOELA - ST. PATRICK'S DAY CENT SALE**

at The Catholic Centre

(St. Joseph's Church Hall - Rainbow Street)

SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2024

Cent sale commences 2.00pm - Admission \$3.00

Lots of great prizes to be won. Donations can be left at the Parish Office during office hours.

### DRAKES SUPPORT FOR ST JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL CONSERVATION

For every dollar spent at Drakes Supermarkets they will contribute a percentage to the St Joseph's Cathedral Conservation Fund. Simply have your key tag scanned every time you shop at Drakes. Drakes Community Dollars have donated \$54,305 to the Cathedral's conservation fund to date. Key tags are available near the Holy Goods Shop at St Joseph's Church.

### DIOCESAN NOTICES:

The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton abides by the principles of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (2022), and is committed to safeguarding, with a specific focus on protecting children and adults at risk. For further information or support please contact the Diocesan Professional Standards and Safeguarding Office:

Response Line: 1800 830 113 (free call) or email:

pssomanager@rok.catholic.net.au

For more information see the Diocesan website:

<https://rok.catholic.net.au/our-diocese/safeguarding/>

Queensland Professional Standards Office:

[www.psoqld.catholic.net.au/](http://www.psoqld.catholic.net.au/)

Our parish Safeguarding representatives are:

Maureen Shultz (Biloela)

and Naomi Arkinstall (Monto)

### PROJECT COMPASSION

Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation, and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes,

Visiting: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)  
or by calling 1800 024 413.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord,  
in the land of the living..

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you,  
Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's  
voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you< Lord Jesus  
Christ!

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well pleased:  
listen to him.

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

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-25

For daily Mass readings  
please scan:

