



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

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

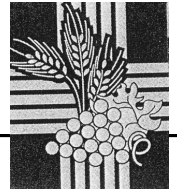
St. Joseph's Catholic
School
Phone. 4994 8310
Principal: Tina Knight

Monto

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent - 17th March, 2024

"NO GREATER LOVE"



"God loves us so much that He is not interested in putting us on trial to condemn us, but rather to embrace and save us all, so as to ensure that none of us is lost."

Pope Francis

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

A seed sprung to harvest

John 12:20-33

Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies it remains only a single grain; But if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Lazarus has been raised from his tomb. Jerusalem has welcomed Jesus as the royal son of David and now a group of non-Jews from outside Palestine come to Phillip looking for Jesus. Here is the final indication that Jesus' mission is drawing to its close. When Jesus hears about the Greeks he knows, 'Now the hour has come.' Why is this?

John is drawing on the Old Testament, particularly Zechariah 8 where the prophet proclaims that in the last days, foreigners would come to Jerusalem seeking salvation. 'Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem . . . In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."' (Zech 8:22-23) With the coming of the Greeks Jesus realises that the last days have begun.

Using the image of the seed and its harvest, Jesus then reminds his disciples that the glory promised in these last days will only be achieved through the hour of death and resurrection. There is no side-stepping the cross, even though Jesus is distressed as it approaches. The parable of the seed dying and its rich harvest reminds me of our own Foundress, Nano Nagle, who died leaving only three sisters in the congregation, but said to this small group, 'Be assured my sisters, it will surely flourish.'

It amazes me sometimes that people have few qualms about taking great risks in life about many things – the risk in buying a new house, of investing in the stock-market, of committing oneself to this person. In these matters risks are taken with a hope that in the future these risks will be justified by the rewards they bring. Yet sometimes the risk of faith is seen as too much. It seems to me that taking risks is just part of being human when we cannot see into the future. When we plant seeds we cannot see in the seed the oak that will shade others one hundred years later, but we still plant the seed, for its future promise.

Jesus is prepared to risk, to plant the seed of his own life in the ground of his relationship with God. And yes, this is a costly risk and his soul is troubled. But he has faith to speak of the bountiful harvest that will result.

God of the bountiful harvest, grant us the courage to risk placing our lives in your hands.

The letter to the Hebrews resonates with the gospel image of Jesus' anguish as he faces the consequences of his preaching and actions. Jesus does not want to die but in fidelity to the God he knows and his mission he is willing to pay even this price. In this he reminds me of other women and men who, knowing the consequences of their actions, continue resolutely in the path of justice and what Christians call the values of God's reign. I think of Oscar Romero, of Aung San Suu Kyi, of Mahatma Ghandi, Benazir Bhutto. We may never be called up to face such dire consequences, but in the daily-ness of our own life commitments to people and to work there is a very real discipline. Perhaps this week we might take note of the times when being faithful to our relationships, to work, to colleagues is not easy and calls for generosity and self-giving.

© 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: \$610.55 Monto: \$313.60
Dawson Valley: \$145.00

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 MARCH

17th Sunday: Biloela Party Sunday
18th Monday: Pre-Easter Priests Retreat commences
22nd Friday: Biloela Mass - 8.00am
22nd Friday: Monto Stations of the Cross - 3.30pm
22nd Friday: Biloela Stations of the Cross - 5.30pm

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

Biloela: 8.30am on Thursday 21st March, 2024
Monto: 11.00am on Thursday 21st March, 2024

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,
Jim "Mo" Logan, Carmel Holcombe

BILOELA - ST. PATRICK'S DAY CENT SALE

at The Catholic Centre
(St. Joseph's Church Hall - Rainbow Street)
Sunday 17th March 2024 - doors open 1.00pm
Cent sale commences 2.00pm - Admission \$3.00

SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY

All parents/guardians who wish to enrol their child/children (9 years of age or older) to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist should contact the Parish Office on 4992 1252. A parent information session will be held on Tuesday 26th March.

EASTER ROSTER

A clipboard for the EASTER ROSTER is near the front of the Church. If you are going to be here over Easter and are able to help please don't hesitate to put your name down.

EASTER 2024

Easter Confessions:

Monto: Palm Sunday, 24th March - 5.30pm
After Good Friday Liturgy, 29th March
Biloela: Monday, 25th March - 5.30pm to 6.15pm
After Good Friday Liturgy, 29th March
Moura: Saturday, 23rd March - 5.30pm

Liturgies:

Holy Thursday, 28th March: Mass of the Lord's Supper
St Joseph's Church, Biloela - 7.00pm

Good Friday:

St Therese's, Monto: Stations of the Cross - 9.00am
Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord - 10.00am
St Joseph's, Biloela: Stations of the Cross - 3.00pm
Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord - 3.45pm

Easter Vigil, Saturday, 30th March:
St Joseph's, Biloela - 7.00pm

Easter Mass, Sunday 31st March:

Sacred Heart, Theodore: 8.00am (confessions - 7.20am)
St Michael's, Moura: 10.30am
St Therese's, Monto: 6.00pm
St Patrick's, Baralaba: Friday, 5th April, 6.00pm
(confessions - 5.30pm)

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/
Our parish Safeguarding representatives are:
Maureen Shultz (Biloela) and Naomi Arkinstall (Monto)

The people of the Diocese are invited to join Bishop Michael McCarthy and the clergy of the Diocese in the celebration of the

Chrism Mass 2024

10.00am, Thursday 21st March 2024

St Joseph's Cathedral

light refreshments will be provided after.

For those unable to join in person, the Mass can be watched online at:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton>

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me,
says the Lord;

and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Amen, Amen I say to you:
Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and dies,
it remains a single grain.
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Entrance: Mark 11:1-10

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Mark 14:1-15:47

For daily Mass readings
please scan:

