

# Catholic Parish of the Valleys Region

Parish Priest: Fr Simeon Uchendu

Email: ppvalleysregion@rok.catholic.net.au

Parish Secretary: Colleen Nevell

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	8.00am
- Anzac Day Mass	
Friday	8.00am
Sunday	8.00am

## St Therese's, Monto

### Mass Times

Monday	9.00am
Sunday	6.00pm

### Parish Contacts:

Mary Ann List  
- 0417 628 140

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

## Sacred Heart Church, Theodore

Saturday	6.00pm
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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

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

21st April, 2024

"I AM THE  
GOOD SHEPHERD"



**"Mercy opens the doors of the heart because it makes us feel like we are all children of the one Father."**

Pope Francis

### NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

I lay down my life.

Acts 4:8-12; John 10:11-18

**'The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.'**

The image of the good shepherd expresses Jesus' utterly free gift of himself for us. Later in Gethsemane, there will be armed soldiers and he will be arrested, and from then on it could appear that Jesus is a victim of Jewish and Roman law. Today's Gospel makes it clear that Jesus' death is an act of loving self-surrender. He is the shepherd who places his own life at risk to defend his flock. He is the shepherd who will even die if that will enable his flock to live. This is a difficult image to transpose to our Australian culture. Perhaps we need to look at life-savers or firemen/women, who go into danger for others. Jesus is a volunteer.

This then raises two questions – what does Jesus save us from? What does Jesus save us for?

In this brief space, I can only say that Jesus saves us from the evil of ignorance of God, as Jesus knows God. The God Jesus reveals is one who loves this world and calls us to be beloved sons and daughters. In making this God known, Jesus drew down the wrath of those whose god was too small and restrictive. Faced with their opposition Jesus could have withdrawn and saved his life, but instead he chose to continue teaching and revealing his God, knowing that his choice would lead to death. So that we would know the depths of God's love, Jesus laid down his life. He is the shepherd who dies that we may be truly alive.

The passage from John 10 occurs in the context of the Feast of Tabernacles, which starts in John 7 and then continues until 10:21. An aspect of this Feast was a heightened expectation of the Messiah, understood by many in terms of a leader like Moses or David. Prior to this passage Jesus had restored sight to a man born blind and this had led him into conflict with the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, as this cure had taken place on the Sabbath (9:14), and as part of the cure Jesus had 'made clay' (9:6,14,15). Jesus enacts the love of God that is not restricted by religious rules and expectations. In Chapter 5, Jesus had been in a similar conflict with the Jerusalem authorities about his healing of a crippled man on the Sabbath, and now that Jesus is back in Jerusalem this conflict continues. Because the feast is associated with the hope of a future saviour figure, some in the crowd are wondering if Jesus could be the Messiah: 'Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ (in Hebrew – Messiah)' (7:26).

When Jesus confronts the Jerusalem leaders, he draws upon an Old Testament image of leadership, that of the good shepherd. This image recalls that David, Israel's great king, was once a shepherd. The Prophet Ezekiel, at the time of the Exile in Babylon (587 BCE), criticised the leaders of Judah and called them false shepherds. Because these leaders had not cared for the people, Ezekiel declares that God will be the true shepherd of Israel. 'Thus says the Lord God, "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep. I will seek the lost, I will bring back the strayed, I will bind up the crippled and I will strengthen the weak."' (Ezek 34:15-16) In his dispute with the leaders of Jerusalem, Jesus draws on this image to speak of himself: 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.' (10:11) Where the one who is hired has no real care and flees when threatened, the Good Shepherd knows his sheep and is prepared to give his life for them.

Throughout the Gospel, some of the people have looked to Jesus as the long awaited Jewish Messiah, the one expected at the end of time to bring about the reign of God in peace and justice. Frequently the people want a political Messiah like David, a warrior who will liberate them from Rome. Jesus refuses to accept these messianic images. The one image he will accept is that of the messianic good shepherd, prepared to lay down his life.

During the Easter ceremonies, this image of the good shepherd willing to lay down his life was symbolised in the Washing of the Feet where these same words are used to describe Jesus 'laying aside' his outer garments, and then 'taking them up'. What was expressed in symbol and imagery has now been accomplished in Jesus giving over of his life on the Cross and taking it up again in the Resurrection.

© Mary Coloe

## 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 **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: \$1,436.40

Monto: \$402.00

Dawson Valley: \$495.00

*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 APRIL

20th/21st Second collection - Holy Spirit Seminary Appeal

21st Sunday: Parish Finance Council meeting

22nd Monday: Monto - Mass - 9.00am

22nd-25th Parish Office closed due to staff in-service

24th Wednesday: Biloela - Mass - 8.00am

24th Wednesday: Biloela - Rosary - 5.30pm

25th Thursday: Anzac Day Mass - Biloela - 8.00am

26th Friday: Biloela - Mass 8.00am

27th Saturday: Biloela - Eucharistic Adoration - 8.30am

28th Sunday: Biloela Party Sunday

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

Biloela: 8.30am on Thursday 2nd May, 2024

Monto: 11.00am on Thursday 2nd May, 2024

### ***Date Claimer:***

St Joseph's Parish have been asked to run a BBQ at the Biloela Rodeo on Saturday 15th June. If you are able to help please advise the office.

### **Wednesdays Weekly Parish Rosary/Bible Study**

Venue: St Joseph's, Biloela or join us online using Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 859 8507 1652

### **BIBLE OVER TEA/COFFEE**

8.00pm on Tuesdays (for 30 minutes)

Reading: Galatians 6:1-10

- ◇ Get your bible
- ◇ Get your cup of tea/coffee
- ◇ Join us on zoom. Let us read and discuss

Link/ Zoom Meeting ID: 85985071652

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

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" Hogan, Carmel Holcombe

### ***Recently deceased:***

Lawrence Mazzer, Gwen Lehmann

### **ST JOSEPH'S PARISH FAIR**

A meeting to discuss further the planning for the parish fair will be held on Thursday 25th April at 3.00pm at 26 Valley View drive.

### **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.

### **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 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/>

Our parish Safeguarding representatives are:

Maureen Shultz (Biloela)

and Naomi Arkinstall (Monto)

### **HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARY APPEAL**

There will be a second collection for this appeal this weekend.

**Support your regional seminary:** With your kind support, you ensure the future of our faith through ordained leadership. You remind our seminarians in formation that they have a congregation of the faithful carrying them in prayer as they discern God's calling in their lives. Please know that you are always included in the daily prayers of seminarians and staff at Holy Spirit Seminary. We are so grateful for your continued support, and we pray that God will bless you abundantly for your generosity. Make your gift to support seminarians using the envelopes provided, call us on (07) 3324 3200, scan the QR code or go to [catholicfoundation.org.au/seminary](http://catholicfoundation.org.au/seminary)



### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts :9:26-31

1 John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8

For daily Mass readings please scan:

