

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	5.30pm
Thursday	5.30pm
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 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

Twelfth Sunday In Ordinary Time 23rd June, 2024

**"DO NOT BE AFRAID
- HAVE FAITH"**

**"God never dwells on our past with all its errors, but rather looks
with infinite confidence at what we can become."**

Pope Francis



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Brendan Byrne SJ

Today's dramatic First Reading comes from that part of the Book of Job (38:1, 8-11) where God, refusing to answer Job's questions, withdraws more and more deeply into mystery. God puts to Job a series of questions that serve simply to drive home more and more the distance between Creator and human creature. The questions bear upon God's mighty acts in creation, the chief of them being victory over the primeval watery chaos, a victory that allowed dry land and vegetative life to appear (Gen 1:9-10). In biblical thought and imagery water out of control is the prime symbol of chaos and destruction. To control such forces, as poetically described in the present text, was considered a prerogative of God alone.

The same idea appears in the Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 106): because of their exposure to the dangers of the deep 'those who go down to the sea in ships' (sailors) are uniquely placed to experience the creative power of God.

Both of these texts offer an appropriate background to the Gospel (Mark 4:35-41), where Christ calms the storm that threatens to engulf the boat on which he and his disciples are crossing the Sea of Galilee. Mark's account of the episode features a wonderful combination of the human and the divine. At first the disciples are very much in control. When Jesus makes the suggestion, 'Let us cross over to the other side', they take him 'just as he was, in the boat'. On land he may be in control but the sea is their sphere of competence: they are after all, most of them, fishermen. Completely in their hands, it seems, Jesus takes the opportunity to have a little nap, commandeering, we are told in a delightfully human touch, the helmsman's cushion for the purpose.

The sudden onset of a storm (something for which the Sea of Galilee is notorious) changes everything. The disciples become desperate, wake him and rather rudely ask if he cares at all that they are about to sink! In Mark's account they are not necessarily at this stage asking him for a miracle: simply to render what assistance he can – by bailing out water or the like. Swiftly, the One who moments before had been so humanly asleep like a child, rises and majestically commands the wind and the sea in the way that, as we have seen, belongs to God alone. The fury of the storm gives way to a divinely-created calm. Jesus then turns to the disciples and questions them about their fear and lack of faith. Did they not understand that with him present, even if asleep, there was no chance that the forces of chaos and destruction could overwhelm them? Did they not realise who precisely was among them in the Master they had come to follow?

It seems that their faith still had a long way to go before being adequate to the mystery of Jesus. But at least they ask the right question, 'Who is this, who even the winds and the sea obey?' From their biblical understanding they know that they have witnessed an exercise of divine power. Hence they are 'filled with awe' – the true human response in the presence of the divine. In the brief compass of this one short scene we have moved so swiftly from a very human view of Jesus to one where he is exercising divine power in a most dramatic way. The original readers of Mark's Gospel would have found this episode rich in symbolism. In all four gospels the boat is a symbol of the Church; the sea – especially the sea out of control – is a symbol of all the forces that are hostile to the Church and seek to destroy it. Yet, to fulfil its mission and win people ('fish') for the Kingdom, the Church must go out upon the sea. There are times in the history of the Church when its Lord seems to be absent or asleep – times when faith in the divine presence and power is put to the test. In such situations the story told in this Gospel gives great hope and encouragement. At the same time, it takes us more deeply into the mystery of Christ as, along with the disciples, we too ask, 'Who is this ...?'

Amid all this imagery focused upon the sea, the Second Reading (2 Corinthians 5:14-17) stands rather apart. But it contains some of Paul's most stirring reflections upon the implications of really coming to appreciate the heart of the paschal mystery. The thought of the love involved in Christ's dying for all is simply 'overwhelming': it can completely transform one's attitude to others and communicate a readiness to place one's life entirely at the service of his self-sacrificing mission to 'catch' people for the Kingdom.

© Brendan Byrne SJ

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: \$1,135.65

Monto: \$440.90

Dawson Valley: \$4,510.00

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

Envelopes for the new financial year will be prepared soon. To save unnecessary costs, if you no longer require envelopes please advise the Parish Office.

VALLEYS' MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE/JULY

- 24th Monday: Monto Mass - 9.00am
- 26th Wednesday: Biloela Mass - 5.30pm
- 27th Thursday: Biloela Mass - 5.30pm
- 28th Friday: Biloela Mass - 8.00am
- 29th Saturday: Biloela Eucharistic Adoration - 8.30am
- 30th Sunday: Clergy Support Foundation Appeal

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

- Biloela: 8.30am on Thursday 27th June, 2024
- Monto: 11.00am on Thursday 27th June, 2024

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, Robin Harth, Lindsay Sharpe, Peter Mazzer, Jim "Mo" Hogan

Recently deceased: Bill Oram

CLERGY SUPPORT FOUNDATION APPEAL

This Appeal provides financial means to care for sick and retired priests providing accommodation, health support and many other services that allow dignity to our priests in retirement and poor health.

The appeal will be held on the weekend of 29th-30th June. Envelopes will be available at that time.

BISHOP MICHAEL UKPONG VISIT

Bishop Michael Ukpogong from Nigeria will be visiting Biloela in July. The Bishop will arrive in Biloela on Thursday 4th July and celebrate 8.00am Mass on Friday 5th July.

RECLAIM YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

Brisbane Archdiocese is running a young adults retreat in the Sunshine Coast on the weekend of the 5th-7th of July. A chance to get away, rest, make some new friends and make space for God.

Registration for the event is at <https://app.tickets.org.au/eb/reclaimretreat24>

Click on the QR code for more information or to register.

If you're interested in carpooling with other young adults from our diocese then contact Mick at 0433 897 973 or youth@rok.catholic.net.au.



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: pssoadin@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 Arkininstall (Monto)

WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Sisters of Mary Morning Star present 'How to Hear from God' Women's Retreat 13th July 2024 - St Patrick's Church, Calliope 10.00am to 3.00pm

Followed by Adoration, Reconciliation and Mass

\$25 Per Ticket. Lunch is provided.

Register with Laura at

sosgladstone@rok.catholic.net.au

DIOCESAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

To view the Diocesan Newsletter:

rok.catholic.net.au/news-events/bishops-newsletter

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Give thanks to the Lord,
his love is everlasting.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared
among us;

God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food
in due season.

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

13th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

Mark 5:21-43

For daily Mass readings
please scan:

