

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

Sunday 8.00am

St Therese's, Monto

Mass Times

Sunday 11.00am

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

Twentieth Sunday In Ordinary Time

18th August, 2024

"I BELIEVE"



"The Gospel explains how to live our lives. We meet God by loving because He is love."

Pope Francis

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

The Presence of the Absent One

Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

'The bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world.'

Today's Gospel is the whole purpose of this long discourse, for today's passage focuses on the Christian Eucharist. The change is signalled by the words 'flesh to eat'. Up until now, Jesus has spoken of eating bread in a metaphorical sense, but the word 'eat' that is now used is very physical, it is like 'munch' or 'chew'. The imagery Jesus uses 'to eat the flesh and drink the blood' would be particularly horrific to a Jewish audience for whom blood is forbidden, and animals are killed in a special way so that all the blood is drained out, since the blood is the life-force and belongs to God.

This language also directs attention to the future death and resurrection of Jesus – his flesh given for the life of the world. In speaking also of blood, in Jewish terms Jesus is speaking of his essential life-force. To speak of eating flesh and drinking blood is therefore not to be speaking about something that is dead, but something that is still living, something that still has its life-force. Jesus has passed through death and returned as a living presence to his community. Because Jesus now lives with eternity life, he is able to offer the same eternity life to believers. Today's passage needs to be understood as reflecting on the living presence of the risen Jesus now present with the community. Only in this resurrection perspective will the discourse have any sense and Eucharist have any meaning. 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I live in them.' In other words, those who believe in me, live in me and I live in them.

The very first disciples all had personal experience of Jesus. They were able to be with him, to hear his words and to express their belief in him directly. By the time John's Gospel was written, around 95 C.E., most of the community would be second or third generation Christians who have not had such personal contact. Where can these Christians experience the living presence of Jesus and how can they express their faith in him? The Gospel points to the presence of Christ in the celebration of the Christian Eucharist.

When the community gathers Jesus is present in their midst and the consuming of bread and wine sacramentalises that presence. Eating and drinking is something we can physically do, making our belief concrete. We are not simply giving intellectual assent to Jesus – we profess our faith bodily. How else can God come to us except through our bodies? How else do we communicate with others, except through our bodies? Our liturgical celebration of Eucharist engages our entire self, in all our senses of sight, touch, smell, hearing and taste. God has come to us incarnated in the flesh of Jesus, and through Eucharist this incarnate, bodily presence is still available to us, and we can make our bodily response in faith to him.

At this point, you and I are drawn into this Gospel, for like the Johannine community we have not encountered Jesus of Nazareth. Our encounter with Jesus must be through the sacramental symbols of bread, wine, the word and the community gathered to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Again, the contrast is made between the Eucharist and the manna, for the life Jesus offers is life forever. The Jewish Christians of John's first community have not lost touch with their traditions, nor have they lost touch with the God of their ancestors who fed them bread from heaven. In and through Jesus, God's nourishing gift of life for the world is available to all people of all ages.

But what is our response? The invitation is given, 'Come and eat my bread and drink my wine,' but some find this too hard to accept. This long Gospel passage continues with this question next week.

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Reconciliation:

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

Baptisms:

St. Therese's, Monto - Before Mass each Sunday
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 **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: \$1,400.20

Monto: \$221.00

Dawson Valley: \$177.00

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 AUGUST

19th Monday: Fr Simeon on annual leave

21st Wednesday: Biloela - Rosary - 5.30pm

28th Wednesday: Biloela - Rosary - 5.30pm

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

Biloela: 8.00am on Friday 23rd August, 2024

Monto: 11.00am on Thursday 22nd August, 2024

Prayers for the sick:

Henny Hay, Coleman family, Shane Corfield, Shirley Matheson, Michael Stoddart, Gail Harrison, Robert Harrison, Graham Phelan, Ryan Flenady, Des Maher, Myrna Demasu-ay, Robin Harth, Lindsay Sharpe, Peter Mazzer, Jim "Mo" Hogan

Recently deceased:

Katrina Mears

ST VINCENT DE PAUL FREE MORNING TEA AND SING-A-LONG

A free morning tea and sing-a-long is held on the second last Tuesday of the month at 9.30am. The next one will be on Tuesday 20th August.

IGNITE CONFERENCE 24 - RISE UP!

St Laurence's College, South Brisbane

Ignite is a National Catholic Conference for people of all ages to experience real world formation, powerful worship and encouragement in their Catholic faith in an exciting, and ground-breaking way. Our diocese is taking a group which is open to all high school students and young adults. This year Ignite runs from September 19th to 22nd.

For more details scan the QR code or contact

Mick on 0433 897 973 or

youth@rok.catholic.net.au



MONTO SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Sunday Mass times for St Therese's Church, Monto, will be as follows:

25th August	11.00am	(Fr Simeon on leave)
1st September	11.00am	
8th September	11.00am	
15th September	11.00am	
22nd September	6.00pm	(Fr Simeon returns)
29th September	6.00pm	
6th October	11.00am	(1st Sunday of month)
13th October	11.00am	(Bishop's visit - First Communion/Confirmation)
20th October	6.00pm	
27th October	6.00pm	

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 Arkinstall (Monto)

DIOCESAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

To view the Diocesan Newsletter:

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

Professional Standards and Safeguarding Manager Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton

The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton is committed to the safety of children, young people, and adults-at-risk. We are looking for an experienced professional in justice, social work, child protection or education to support the Bishop with safeguarding and professional standards within the Diocese of Rockhampton. This role is responsible for fostering and enhancing a culture that encourages cultural safety for children, young people, and adults-at-risk in compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

For information or a copy of the Position Description, visit www.rok.catholic.net.au or email hr@rok.catholic.net.au.

Applications are to be submitted no later than 10.00am (AEST) on Thursday, 29th August 2024 and should include a cover letter, addressing your suitability for the role against the Key Selection Criteria and resume (including two professional referees). Please note that the position may be filled before the close date.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I in them, says the Lord.

Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

21st Sunday In Ordinary Time

Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

Ephesians 5:21-32

John 6:60-69

For daily Mass readings please scan:

