

St. Rita's Catholic Parish

Incorporating the areas of Victoria Point, Thornlands south, Redland Bay,
Mount Cotton, Coochiemudlo Island and the Southern Bay Islands

37-39 Benfer Road, Victoria Point Q. 4165

11th December 2011



Parish Priest: Fr. Leo Burke
Parish Pastoral Associate: Elaine Strati
Office/ Presbytery:
Ph: 07-3207 9177 Fax: 073207 9689
Email: victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au
Website: www.stritasparish.org

Parish Secretary: Patricia Watson
Finance Secretary: Beverley Van Schie
Parish Office Hours:
Mon—Thurs 9.00am- 3.30pm
School Principal: Anne McKenny
Ph: 3207 6628 Fax: 3207 6734

Third Sunday of Advent - Year B

Next week's readings: Fourth Sunday of Advent— Samuel 7:1—5, 8—12, 14, 16; Romans 16:25—27; Luke 1:26 - 38.

Taking John the Baptist Seriously



John the Baptist is a commanding figure. He is the great link between the Old and New Testaments: the last of the Old Testament prophets and the first of the New. His job was to prepare the way for the Lord and that is precisely what we are being invited to do as we prepare once again for the great feast of Christmas.

We may be tempted to respond by saying that we have heard this every time Christmas comes round, but how are we supposed to relate to this seemingly eccentric character from a bygone age? Well eccentrics can be attractive and there is ample evidence that John drew huge crowds to listen to his message. For centuries the people of Israel had been desperate for someone to liberate them from the mess they were in; and although John was offering them no easy options, his challenge to repent was accepted as a good start and his promise of more to come as providing hope for the future. In pointing the people in the direction of Jesus he was doing what all the prophets before him and the disciples after him were called to do. And of course our vocation is to be disciples of Jesus in our own time and place, pointing others in his direction.

And now we may be tempted to respond: "But how is this to be done in the midst of so many who are not interested or couldn't care less?" St Paul offers us a spirited way forward when he suggests that we be "happy at all times" and goes on to warn us not to "treat the gift of prophecy with contempt". It is important that we do not grow weary, but recognise that our very demeanour can inspire others and that we become a prophetic presence in our world simply by being true to what we believe and know to be right. Why not try to recapture that childhood joy of Christmas and think again about the extraordinary mystery we are about to celebrate: that the baby born in Bethlehem was truly the Son of God, coming to speak to us in our own language so that we could realise how precious we are and how much God loves us.

That should certainly give us something to be happy about again and enable us to radiate our joy to a world still desperate to be liberated from mess in which it finds itself.

The great Archbishop of El Salvador, Oscar Romero, who was murdered in 1980 while celebrating Mass in his own Cathedral because he was not afraid to be a prophetic voice seeking liberation for his people, wrote about our call to be prophets. He reminded us that we cannot do everything but, while we may never see the end results, we can all do something and do it very well. He spoke of us being "prophets of a future not our own." If we could all just put a smile on the faces of our families and friends this Christmas it would not be a bad start.

Source: Tim Buckley CSsR, © Redemptorists

We ask that you pause for a moment to offer a prayer for the sick in our community, especially for:



Prayer Concerns

Therese Thomas, Robyn Holmes, Marko Volarevich, Rita Peck, Neil Leone, Kaleb Love, David Ayre, Molly Daniel, Annie Weston, Elly Lendering, Ron Ghidella, Joan Lennon, Chris Smith, Kath Surridge, Frances Knudsen, John Mullins, Les Bowden, Jack Lehfeldt, Silvio Zambelli, Hazel Quilty, Mark Phairs, Bernice Muir, Harry & Connie Chivers, Marie & Jack Conway, Anne Maree Reed, Ann McCann (*Elaine Strati's mother*), Cec. & Maureen Woodward (Albury), Catherine Kennedy, Janette Ricca.

Recently Deceased: Reverene Peter Broadbent



PARISH NEWS



Mothers Prayers

To All Mothers, Grandmothers, and Spiritual Mothers. We have started two Mothers Prayers groups here at St Rita's. They will be held weekly on a Wednesday mornings from 9.00am and on Thursday mornings from 9.30am. Each session takes about an hour. Come along and join us. For more information contact Elaine at the Parish Office on 32079177.



Keep Christ in Christmas—St Vincent de Paul

*Christmas cards & Columban Calendars will be available after masses.
The price of the cards is @ \$2.20 per pack and Columban Calendars are \$8 each.*



St. Vincent de Paul Society needs your help



It's that time of year again when the Society needs your help in making up Christmas Hampers for the families who seek our assistance. This year we expect to need to cater for around 50 families in our Parish area and this would include 100 - 150 children.

We need donations of all manner of non-perishable groceries and especially tinned hams, Christmas cakes and Christmas puddings as well as all the usual Christmas goodies.

This year we especially also need toys and gifts for children of all ages up to 16yrs as our stocks are totally depleted.

If you would like to make a financial contribution - we'll be very happy to shop for you. Donation envelopes are available on the back table of the Church and can be left on any of the collection plates. If you would like a receipt for taxation purposes, please give us your details and it will be mailed to you.

Help us make a difference and give a "lift" to the many families who are under even more pressure at this time of year to provide the basics, let alone any of the Season's luxuries.

We are sure you will all be blessed for your generosity.



Craft Group News:

The craft group is taking a well earned break over the Christmas period. We will resume next year on the 2nd February 2012 and thereafter on the first and third Thursday of each month. We look forward to meeting again in the new year!

Lectio Divina - Praying the Scriptures in Advent, Year B

Do something special for Advent this year. Break open the Advent Scriptures. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference invites you to partake in this exciting and unique journey. The innovative lectio programme is an exploration of the Sunday scriptures for Advent 2011. The Bishops will provide their insight into the Gospel each week. Contact Elaine Strati at the parish office to arrange a copy via pdf, or you can order it online from leanne.kermond@dbb.org.au This is a free publication and postage is also free.

Christmas Rosters

The roster for the Christmas Masses is available on the back table of the church. Please review it and consider adding your name if you are able to assist at any of these Masses.

Second Collection & Donations last week: \$3 029.30 Envelopes, Loose, Direct Debits, Credit Cards)



Your offering of as little as one hour's wage will help us meet our daily needs.



Welcome to St Rita's Catholic Church

If you are a visitor, we are honoured to have you celebrate with us.

If you are interested in becoming part of this spiritual, faith filled community, please put your name in the Newcomers Book and collect a New Parishioners pack which can be found on the back table of the church.

We'll be in touch soon!



Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible.



New Liturgy Books available

The following books are now available for purchase from the back table of the Church:

- The Little Blue Book for Advent and the Christmas season — It offers a daily 6 minute meditation and reflection. The price of this wonderful companion is \$4 each, or for large orders of 10 or more, the price is only \$3 per book
- Break Open the Word for Year B—2012— All ministers of the Word please ensure you have access to a copy of this publication as it will enable you to prepare for your ministry. The price of the book is \$14.

St Rita's Social Justice Christmas Appeal

Our annual appeal is being held this weekend. This year the beneficiary will be the Notre Dame sisters in Zimbabwe, in particular Sister Margaret (John Bowskill's sister) who is now located in Harare. Some of you will remember meeting her when she visited us a few years ago. You will know that the situation in Zimbabwe has deteriorated rapidly in recent years. Average life expectancy for women is now only 34. HIV/Aids is rampant and one in four children have lost one or both parents. Margaret says "the needs of the area are quite overwhelming". Please be as generous as you can. There will be collectors outside the church doors both this weekend and next weekend (for those who forgot to bring their money!)

Christmas Masses and Reconciliation times

Non Sacramental Penitential Service

Tuesday, 20th December 7.30pm

Reconciliation

Thursday, 22nd December

5.00pm to 6.00pm 1st Rite of Reconciliation

Friday, 23rd December

9.30am to 10.30am 1st Rite of Reconciliation

Christmas Mass Times

St Rita's

Saturday, 24th December, Christmas Eve

7.00pm - Christmas Vigil Mass (*Carols at 6.30pm*)

12.00midnight - Midnight Mass (*Carols at 11.30pm*)

Sunday, 25th December, Christmas Day

7.00am Mass & 9.00am Mass

NO Evening Mass

Coochiemudlo Island—Community Centre

Saturday, 24th December, Christmas Eve

11.00am - Christmas Vigil Mass

Macleay Island—Church of the Holy Spirit, Scott Rd

Saturday, 24th December, Christmas Eve

7.00pm - Christmas Vigil Mass (*Carols at 6.30pm*)

Sunday, 25th December, Christmas Day

8.40am Mass

Russell Island—St Peter's Anglican Hall

Sunday, 25th December,

Christmas Day

7.00am Mass



To Baptise

'The verb "to baptise" means "to plunge" or "to immerse". The immersion in water, or alternatively the pouring of water over the person's head, symbolizes the baptized person's union with the death of Jesus. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, the baptized person arises from the water as "a new creature", a member of the Church.'

Excerpt from *Call and Response* p.76, Catholic Enquiry Centre <http://www.catholicenquiry.com>

Pro-Life Prayer and Rosary Crusade



In the hope of preventing the legislation of abortion in Queensland, a Pro-Life and Rosary Crusade will be held in the Church every Thursday. Prayers commence at 1.30pm followed by the Rosary.



Mass for You at Home

Mass is broadcast by the 10 Network at 6.00am every Sunday. The show's basic premise is to allow viewers to participate in a Sunday Mass from their homes. It is repeated on the Aurora Channel on Foxtel twice a day throughout the week. For more information visit www.mfyah.com.au

Do you need packing materials?

If you are moving and would like shredded paper as packing materials kindly contact the parish office.





Around the Archdiocese



FAITH ON TAP BRISBANE

Monday, 12th December

This month at Faith on Tap Brisbane we are all about thanksgiving.

Firstly there will be a Thanksgiving Mass at 6:30pm at St. Joseph's to honour the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with the FoT chaplains to concelebrate.

(The mass is open to all ages & Adoration is available from 6pm)

Then afterwards, as a thank you for the support of all our guests throughout the past year, FoT will be hosting a Christmas party upstairs at The Pineapple Hotel.

Hope to see you all at Joey's and the Pineapple on Monday the 12th of December!

Carols on the Cathedral Lawns

The Cathedral of St Stephen is hosting an open-air event on the lawns of the Cathedral. Bring folding chairs and/or blankets and a torch. **Wednesday, 14th December.** Sausage sizzle from 6.00pm, with the Carols starting at 7.30pm. Wet weather arrangements have been organised. All Welcome.



Mass for Deceased Old Boys:

This Mass will take place at St Rita's College Chapel, Clayfield on **Sunday, 22nd January 2012** at 11am. Please contact John Duggan for further information re lunch etc on 3263 6532.

Zero Gravity (Thursday 13 to Sunday 15 January 2012)

An annual outreach camp for high school aged teenagers. This camp is designed for young people at all levels of faith, not just the 'already committed'. It offers an excellent and unique ministry opportunity for your young people to hear the Gospel message and discover more about themselves and their faith in a safe, positive environment, and has proven to be a turning point in many teenager's faith journeys. The camp sells out each year, with over 150 teenagers and 40 leaders attending. The camp is run by a team of experienced young adults and parents drawn from Emmanuel Community and other Catholic ministries across the Church.

The Trading Circle

Helping women trade out of poverty – Two Christmas present for the price of one!!

There is one trading Circle shop in Brisbane – visit 100 Latrobe Terrace, Paddington or purchase over the internet at www.thetradingcircle.com.au. The Trading Circle is not for profit fair trade project established by the Good Shepherd Sisters which helps empower women to earn the money they and their families need to survive and live with dignity. The Trading Circle works in partnership with women in Africa, Asian and Latin American countries who live in situations of severe poverty.

The value of silence for prayer

'Silence requires the discipline to recognize the urge to get up and go again as a temptation to look elsewhere for what is close at hand. It offers the freedom to stroll in your own inner yard, and to rake up the leaves there and clear the paths so you can easily find the way to your heart. Perhaps there will be much fear and uncertainty when you first come upon the "unfamiliar terrain", but slowly and surely you will discover an order and familiarity which deepens your longing to stay home..... whenever you come upon this silence, it seems as though you have received a gift, one which is "promising" in the true sense of the word. It promises new life. It is the silence of peace and prayer, because it brings you back to the One who is leading you.' *Henri Nouwen*

Date Claimer: A Summer Retreat

The Dominican friars will be holding a retreat for young men aged 18–30 at the *Presentation Spirituality Centre*, 26 Kooralgin Street, Manly from 10–12 February 2012. It will be lead by Fr Dom Murphy OP and Fr Paul Rowse OP.

Theme: "Wisdom". Cost \$200—includes meals and accommodation. For more information contact Br James Baxter OP—james.baxter@op.org.au.

The Iona Passion Play—Easter 2012 - in Brisbane




Experience Easter as part of the cast or crew of
The Iona Passion Play.

All are welcome - you can involve the whole family!
Plenty of speaking, non-speaking and support roles
available.

If interested please contact
Veronica on **3333 1993** or info@ipp.org.au



Rosters for 17th/18th December – Week 3

Ministry	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 7am	Sunday 9am	Sunday 6pm
Mass Co-Ordinators	Peter Tune	Bernie Sturdy & Shaun Hennessy	Peter Cawley	Les Preston
Ministers of the Word	David McGovern Terry Green Mikaela Wheeler	John Josefski Anne Josefski Paul Smith	Terry Latchford Kerry Horvath Connor Maguire	Leanne Dyer Les Preston Kevin Billion
Communion Ministers	Laurie Smith	Eddie Dunne Kay Grieve Paul Smith	John Evans Jennifer Fielding Doris Williamson	Stephanie Lemon Debra Kruk
Altar Servers	Toni Hoffman	<i>Help Needed</i>	Daniel Groundwater Chelsea Groundwater	<i>Help Needed</i>
Projector Operator	Catherine Tune	Bernie Sturdy	Laine Groundwater	Lauren Wilson
Children's Liturgy	<i>No Children's Liturgy in School Holidays</i>			
Ministers to the Sick	Group 1: Paddy Berrell Group 2: Paul Smith			
Rosevale Ministers Thurs, 15th December	Laurie Smith & Moya Taylor.			
Other Volunteers	Church Cleaning Team 3 Saturday, 17th December	Church Flowers 17th December	Office Reception Friday 16th December 9.30am–12.00noon	
	 Leanne Dyer Mary-Anne Cullen Larry Minton Carol Wallis	 Bernadette Enright	 Tracey Cutler	

Holy Humour

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."



THE CATHOLIC LEADER: Your Church, Your Life, Your Paper - only \$2.00

In this weeks edition:

- Labor Party same-sex union proposal undermines traditional marriage.
- Brisbane vigil highlights human rights abuses in West Papua.
- East Timor trip changes the lives of young Catholic teachers.
- Church is a sign of new hope in war-ravaged Congo.
- Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett urges people to wake up and turn their hearts to Jesus.



For more information on the articles in this publication - Check out the website at www.catholicleader.com.au

A VOCATION VIEW:

There was a man sent by God, who came as witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is your name in the Gospel today? .

To talk to someone about your vocation, contact the Vocation Office: (07) 3336 9203.
vocation@bne.catholic.net.au. www.bne.catholic.net.au/vocation





WEEKLY DIARY

Rosary 30mins before Mass Mon-Sat.



Monday 12th December

- 7.00am Mass (Chapel)
- 9.30am —10.30am Christian Meditation (Chapel)
- 2.00pm Rosary (Chapel)
- 7.00pm Knights of the Southern Cross (Ruby Function Room)
- 7.30pm 2nd Baptismal Parent Information Night (Chapel)

Tuesday 13th December—St Lucy

- 7.00am Mass (Chapel)
- 4.00pm Choir Practice (Church)

Wednesday 14th December— St John of the Cross

- 9.00am Mother's Prayers (Chapel)

Thursday 15th December

- 9.00am Mass
- 9.30am Mother's Prayers (Chapel)
- 1.30pm Pro Life Rosary Crusade (Chapel)
- 7.30pm Scripture Reflection Evening (Chapel)

Friday 16th December

- 9.00am Mass followed by Holy Hour (Chapel)

Saturday 17th December

- 9.00am Mass (Chapel)
- 11.00am Liturgy of the Word & Communion Service Coochiemudlo Island
- 5.00pm — 5.30pm 1st Rite of Reconciliation
- 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 18th December — Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 7.00am Mass
- 9.00am Mass
- 6.00pm Mass

BENNETT Family real estate

Janet Bennett
Mobile
0404 477 839

Tel: **3820 7922**
Fax: **3820 9442**

Shop 9, Pelican's Nest Shopping Centre, 149 Colburn Ave, Victoria Pt Q 4165
Email: janet@bennettfamily.com.au Web: www.bennettfamily.com.au

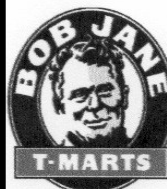
The first people to call...

Hopefully you won't need us for some time,
but if you ever do, you can rest assured
that we'll be there to help.

Phone **Greg Saunders** anytime -
0409 063 951



George Hartnett Funerals
137 Queen Street Cleveland
Phone: 3286 5069 - 24 Hours
PROUDLY AUSTRALIAN OWNED



David O'Bryan
Owner

46 Redland Bay Road
Capalaba QLD 4157

Telephone: 07 3245 4233
Fax: 07 3390 3631

Email: bjcapalaba@tmarts.com.au
Website: www.bobjane.com.au

BOB JANE T-MARTS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 11th DECEMBER 2011

First reading: *Isaiah 61: 1-2, 1-11.*

Advent is already half over! How am I going to bring a greater peace and contentment into the broken world in which I live? What am I going to do about it? Let me be as practical as I can!

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps. 1: 46-50, 53-54.*

This is part of Mary's "Magnificat" prayer. Let me listen and hear Mary praying this prayer to her God, - and to mine too!

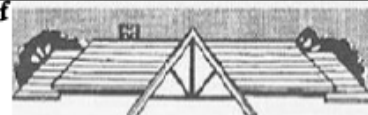
Second reading: *1 Thess. 5: 16-24.*

This is a really beautiful, but short, reading that deserves to be listened to, - especially the last sentence! Remember that one!!

Gospel: *John 1: 6-8, 19-28.*

Let me listen as John the Evangelist, talks about the humility of John the Baptist, - who was the cousin of Jesus. How much humility do I have in my life? Can I honestly (now!) look at that?

Restore your roof
to as new!



Full Insurance
Cover!

A & B Roof Restoration

Over 26 years Experience
QBSA Lic. No. 104 3230

Total Roof Restorations & Repairs
Whirlybirds & Skylights, Extensions & Re-roofs
We buy & sell roof tiles

BRUCE BENNETT

Ph: 3801 4441, Fax: 3801 4446 Mobile: 0404 897 277

RAY MILLIGAN

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
FOR ALL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS
& REPAIRS ALL AREAS



- DOMESTIC *
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL



Transient Electrical Pty. Ltd.
74 Avalon Road, SHELDON. Qld. 4157.
Ph: 3206-3174
Mobile: 0408 198 228

Piety Store

Books - Cards -
Bibles - Medals
Rosary Beads -

Open After All
Weekend
Masses

If we don't have it
we will order it in
for you.



Matthew Woosnam
Director
0432 679 667

Shop L-06
Lakeside Shopping Centre
Bunker Rd, VICTORIA POINT 4165
07 3207 6633
Fax 07 3207 6649
Australia Wide 1300 766 266
redlands@walkonwheels.com.au
www.walkonwheels.com.au

walk on wheels
COMFORT & MOBILITY CENTRE