

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

18th December 2011



Parish Priest: Fr. Leo Burke
Parish Pastoral Associate: Elaine Strati
Office/ Presbytery:
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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

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B

Next week's readings: Christmas Day— Isaiah 52:7—10; Hebrews 1:1—6; John 1:1 - 5, 9—14

Selling the Good News



Angels are messengers that God uses to promote the good news about God and God's plan for us. What we need in this world are more "angels" who will continue to promote God's Good News. Paul writes in his letter today to the people of Rome that this Good News he preaches must be "broadcast to the pagans everywhere". Obviously Paul was not thinking of the local radio station. I fear that today we Christians are reluctant to promote the faith we have been given. The science of "Apologetics" is interpreted not as one that aims to explain Christian doctrine, but rather as our attempts to apologise for the fact that we are Christians.

Reflecting on "broadcasting to the pagans", I did work for a radio station for some years, it was a large organisation and I only vaguely knew many of the people who worked at that district office. One day a Les Woolard, who worked in transcriptions, came and sat on my desk and fired a question at me: "Are you a Catholic?" he said. I was tempted to reply, "Mind your own business", but answered straight away, "Yes, I am." Les replied, "I saw you at Mass on Sunday." I was so happy I had not snapped back at him and tried to hide my faith.

We cannot all be Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, who was able through television to reach tens of millions of people, but we can and should do our bit no matter how small. Ignorance of the Catholic Faith is a great handicap today even among our own Catholics. I am constantly amazed at the little understanding of the Mass, the Sacraments, and Church teaching that so many people have who were baptised and educated as Catholics even among my own family.

There seems to be reluctance on the part of Catholics who have a good knowledge of their faith to pass it on. A fear that by correcting, directing or suggesting matters of faith may harm a relationship. I do not believe we realize that there are a lot of people out there who do want to know more about our Catholic faith, but are reluctant to ask. This was emphasised to me when I was working as chaplain at a university, there were so many students who longed to learn more about the Catholic Church and its teaching.

We must be "angels" who spread the message of the Good News. As Paul urges us, it must be broadcast to those who are struggling with little faith or with none at all. What use is cash hidden under the mattress, hidden there it benefits no one. We must show that we are followers of Jesus Christ in our actions and in our words. It does not hurt by starting to tell friends and acquaintances that you are praying for them. I think you may be surprised at the response you will get. Mary received her message in prayer and prayer is a great means of communication.

Source: John Airey CSs, © 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 Leheldt, 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, Jeanette Ricca.



PARISH NEWS



Last opportunity to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul Society Appeal



FOOD BASKETS

This is the last weekend for the collection of donations for this appeal—hampers will be made up and delivered to families in need on **Monday 19th December**.

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.



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 Rita's Social Justice Christmas Appeal 2011

The appeal last weekend realised an amount of \$1,242.65 This is actually a marked increase over last year at the same time (\$950). Thank you all very much for your generosity. It will obviously enable the Notre Sisters in Zimbabwe to extend their help to many more people. For those of you who were not ready last week, we will be accepting donations again after all masses this weekend.

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.

Glow candles



These will be on sale for \$2 at the Vigil and Midnight Masses on Christmas Eve.

Ministry Groups on Vacation until 2012

The following ministry groups noted below, are taking a well earned break over the Christmas season. They will resume again in the new year.

Christian Meditation — no meditation, Monday, 19th December, to resume again in **mid January 2012**.

Rosary — no Rosary on Monday, 19th December, to resume in **mid January 2012**.

Rosary Crusade —no gathering until **mid January 2012**.

Holy Hour — no meeting until **mid January 2012**.

Thursday Scripture Reflection Evenings — no meeting until **mid January 2012**.

Choir — will be on leave from after the Christmas Masses until **Tuesday, 17th January 2012**.

St Vincent de Paul—no Monday evening meeting until **Monday, 16th January 2012**.

Welcome to the Family

A warm welcome into our Catholic Community to Hayden and Isobel Murphy the children of Steven and Felicity, and to Harrison Mitchell the son of Shane and Amy who were baptised last weekend. We wish Hayden, Isobel, Harrison and their families many blessings as they continue their faith journey.

Congratulations!



Holy Baptism

Gardener/maintenance caretaker needed

We require a full time gardener/maintenance caretaker to slash and maintain our large acreage at Redland Bay. The job entails a motivated, self driven person who, above all, must be honest and trustworthy. It would be preferable that the applicant has some knowledge of plants/trees and can operate a tractor/slasher - with some slope slashing required. Machinery ticket also an advantage. Job to commence around 9th January 2012. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Tye-Anderson on 0438 069 521.



Second Collection & Donations last week: \$3 200.85 Envelopes, Loose, Direct Debits, Credit Cards)



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





PARISH NEWS



Christmas Masses and Reconciliation times

St Rita's Parish

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

Saturday, 24th December

5.00pm to 5.30pm 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

Christmas Masses and Reconciliation times

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



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

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.



Around the Archdiocese



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.

Mass for Deceased Downlands 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.

YCM Training Day 2012

The YCM Training Day 2012 is to be held on **11th February, 2012** offers an incredible opportunity for anyone involved in evangelisation, catechesis or ministry with young people to gather for a day of formation, prayer, networking and quality workshops from experienced presenters. For schools, this day provides an excellent opportunity to work towards fulfilling the **Evangelisation and Faith Formation** component of the *Guidelines for the Religious Life of the School*. Also of note is that the day has received approval by BCE to be used towards *Accreditation to Teach Religion in a Catholic School*. For more information and to register go to

www.ycm.org.au/training-day



WEEKLY DIARY

Rosary 30mins before Mass Mon-Sat.



Monday 19th December

7.00am Mass (Chapel)

Tuesday 20th December

7.00am Mass (Chapel)

4.00pm Choir Practice (Church)

7.30pm Non Sacramental Penitential Service (Church)

Wednesday 21st December

9.00am Mother's Prayers (Chapel)

9.00am Rosevale Aged Care Mass

Thursday 22nd December

9.00am Mass (Chapel)

9.30am Mother's Prayers (Chapel)

5.00pm—6.00pm 1st Rite of Reconciliation (Reconciliation Room)

Friday 23rd December

9.00am Mass (Chapel)

9.30am—10.30am 1st Rite of Reconciliation (Reconciliation Room)

Saturday 24th December—Christmas Eve

9.00am Mass (Chapel)

11.00am Mass Coochiemudlo Island

5.00pm — 5.30pm 1st Rite of Reconciliation (Reconciliation Room)

7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass (*Carols commence 6.30pm*) (New School Hall—Unitas Ctr)

Midnight Mass (*Carols commence at 11.30pm*) (New School Hall—Unitas Centre)

Sunday 25th December — Christmas

7.00am Mass (New School Hall—Unitas Centre)

9.00am Mass (New School Hall—Unitas Centre)

No 6.00pm Mass



Special Christmas Rosters



The roster for the Christmas Masses is available at the back of the church. Please ensure that you check for your name.

Ministers to the Sick

By special arrangement only

Rosevale Ministers
Wed, 21st December

Mass with Fr Leo. All ministers are welcome.

Church Cleaning
Team 4
Saturday, 24th December

Church Flowers
24th December

Office Reception
Friday 23rd December
9.30am—12.00noon

Clare & Keith Douglas
Peter Hart
Karen Crayford



Lara Ham &
Christine Murray



Frances Bamford

Holy Humour

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.



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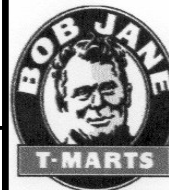
The first people to call...

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.

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