

# 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

## 1st January 2012



Parish Priest: Fr. Leo Burke  
Parish Pastoral Associate: Elaine Strati  
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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

## Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Year B

Next week's readings: The Epiphany of the Lord— Isaiah 60:1—6; Ephesians 3:2—3, 5—6; Matthew 2:1 - 12.

### Mary at the Birth



Christian art privileges three pivotal scenes to mark the beginnings of Christian faith: the nativity, crucifixion and Pentecost. In all three scenes, Mary the mother of Jesus plays a key role in the unfolding drama.

**Nativity:** Mary, Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. In Luke's account (2:16-21), they are visited by shepherds who have heard voices of angels telling them what to expect. Indeed, "it was exactly as they had been told". Unlike the Magi in Matthew, Luke's shepherds do not worship the child; they simply recount their story and return to their places "glorifying and praising God". There is music on the lips and in the hearts of these simple men who experience God's grace and beauty in the birth of this Palestinian-Jewish child.

Had not others also heard? If so, why did they not make the trip to Bethlehem? Perhaps their curiosity was not as strong as their fear of Herod. This is in contrast to the courage of the shepherds who make the journey. Even stronger is the contrast with the perilous journey of Mary and Joseph. We recall Mary's earlier words at the Annunciation: "Be it done to me according to your word". She is not paralyzed by fear nor forgetful of the angel's message.

Rather, Mary "treasures all these things and ponders them in her heart". Without understanding what is being asked of her, Mary's 'yes' to the Holy Spirit is wholehearted. She proceeds with Joseph to follow Jewish custom by circumcising the child—and naming him 'Jesus' as the angel had instructed. In Luke's gospel, Mary is first among those praised for hearing God's word and putting it into practice. She is true believer and first disciple.

**Crucifixion:** Mary stands at the foot of the cross of her tortured and crucified Son (Jn 19:25-27). In this stark scene, Mary's fidelity to the Word of God, and to her own word, is put to full test. Again, her courage is contrasted to that of the absent apostles. She is then appointed by Jesus to be 'mother' to the 'beloved disciple', symbol of all those brought to life through Jesus' death. Now, to be a disciple of Jesus also means to make a place for Mary in our hearts and homes.

**Pentecost:** Mary in the midst of the apostles, women and other disciples as the Holy Spirit descends (Acts 1-2). Mary's earlier role in the birth of Jesus is shared with Joseph; her role in bringing the church to birth is shared with the apostles. In both cases, she is empowered by the Holy Spirit. In Acts, Mary is presented as a model of persevering prayer joined in oneness of mind and heart with Jesus' disciples. In Christian tradition, this woman of Pentecost will be acclaimed 'queen of apostles' as well as 'mother' and 'image' of the church.

In these three scriptural scenes celebrated in Christian art, Mary plays a critical role in the unfolding drama. A simple, Jewish girl says 'yes' to the Holy Spirit. From this, the Saviour is born (nativity); salvation is won (crucifixion); and the church comes to birth (Pentecost).

Source: Gerard Hall SM, *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



### *Keep Christ in Christmas—St Vincent de Paul*

*Columban Calendars will be available after masses at the cost of \$8 each.*



#### 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 as noted below.

**Christian Meditation** — mid January 2012.

**Rosary** — mid January 2012.

**Rosary Crusade** — mid January 2012.

**Holy Hour** — mid January 2012.

**Thursday Scripture Reflection Evenings** — mid January 2012.

**Choir** — Tuesday, 17th January 2012.

**St Vincent de Paul**— Monday, 16th January 2012.

**Knights of the Southern Cross** - Monday, 13th February 2012

**Craft Group** — Thursday, 2nd February 2012



#### 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.



*Let us take a moment to consider all the blessings we receive from God and how we in turn thank God for His blessings through our gifts of time, talent and treasure.*

**Second Collection & Donations last week: \$4 326.60 Envelopes, Loose, Direct Debits, Credit Cards)**



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



#### St Rita's Social Justice Christmas Appeal 2011—A letter of Thanks

Dear Friends of St Rita's Parish

This is to say a very big **THANK YOU** for the wonderful and most generous gift send to us for our work here in Zimbabwe. It is quite wonderful to realize that many people will be helped because of your great love and spirit in sharing with us.

We will let you know exactly what is done with the money as time goes on. I can tell you that immediately we will be buying towels for the Orphan groups. We found that they were reduced to using Rags for towels so we feel it is an urgent need. God bless you all for making this possible. Be assured of our love and prayers for you all. May you all be blessed this Christmas and may the New Year 2012 be filled with many Blessings, good health and lots of peace and joy for you all.

Renewed thanks to each one for such a wonderful Christmas gift and May our good God bless you all.

With love and many thanks  
Sister Margaret SND, Harare



#### Holy Humour

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"





## Around the Archdiocese



### Mass for Deceased Downlands' Old Boys:

This Mass will take place at St Rita's College Chapel, 41 Enderley Road, Clayfield on **Sunday, 22nd January 2012** at 11am. Lunch to follow in the Alan Border Pavilion.

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 **11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ycm.org.au/training-day)

## Rosters for 7th/8th January – Week 2

| Ministry  | Saturday 6pm   | Sunday 7am   | Sunday 9am  | Sunday 6pm                    |
|---|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Mass Co-Ordinators</b>                       | Karel & Edith Thieme   | Bernie Sturdy & Shaun Hennessy   | Jennifer Fielding   | Amanda Bush                   |
| <b>Ministers of the Word</b>                    | Laurie Smith<br>Mike Duggan  | Tom Burkett<br>Mike Quilty   | Dianne Thomas<br>Marie Shepherd<br>Tricia McNamee   | Les Preston<br>Debra Kruk     |
| <b>Communion Ministers</b>                      | Edith Thieme<br>Margaret Smith   | Janet Lerner Stone<br>Kevin Elliot<br>Anne Josefski  | Julie Steel<br>Paddy Berrell<br>Kerry Horvath   | Emily Hinds<br>Peter Enright  |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                            | Bradley Hall   | <i>Help Needed</i>   | Emma Cutler<br>Naomi Hunter   | Brendan Hinds<br>Austin Hinds |
| <b>Projector Operator</b>                       | Karel Thieme   | <i>Help needed</i>   | Guida Cabrita   | Mary-Anne Cullen              |
| <b>Children's Liturgy</b>                       | <i>No Children's Liturgy in School Holidays</i>  |  |   |                               |
| <b>Ministers to the Sick</b>                    | <b>Group 1:</b> Jack & Dorn Davis<br><b>Group 2:</b> Elaine Pascoe   |  |   |                               |
| <b>Rosevale Ministers</b><br>Thurs, 5th January | Bill Mellor & Jenny Fielding.  |  |   |                               |
| <b>Other Volunteers</b>                         | <b>Church Cleaning</b><br>Team 1<br>Saturday, 7th January  | <b>Church Flowers</b><br>7th January, 2012   | <b>Office Reception</b><br>Friday 6th January<br>9.30am–12.00noon                                   |                               |
|   | Elaine Prestney<br>Christine Gordon<br>Chris Paul<br>Anne Wigan<br> | <br>Betty Eaton | Anne Wigan<br> |                               |

### A VOCATION VIEW:

The Old Law said that every first born male shall be dedicated to the Lord. Is there a priest, deacon, brother, or sister from your family? Now is the time for families to encourage a vocation!

To talk to someone about your vocation, contact the Vocation Office: (07) 3336 9203.

[vocation@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:vocation@bne.catholic.net.au). [www.bne.catholic.net.au/vocation](http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/vocation)



vocation



## WEEKLY DIARY

*Rosary 30mins before Mass Mon-Sat.*



### Monday 2nd January - St Basil & St Gregory Nazianzen

9.00am Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service (Chapel)

### Tuesday 3rd January

7.00am Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service (Chapel)

### Wednesday 4th January

9.00am Mother's Prayers (Chapel)

### Thursday 5th January

9.00am Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service (Chapel)

9.30am Mother's Prayers (Chapel)

### Friday 6th January

9.00am Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service (Chapel)

### Saturday 7th January

9.00am Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service (Chapel)

11.00am Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service Coochiemudlo Island

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

6.00pm Vigil Mass—Fr Paul Rooney

### Sunday 8th January - The Epiphany of the Lord

7.00am Mass— Fr Pan Jordan

9.00am Mass — Fr Pan Jordan

6.00pm Mass—Mons. John Butler

### A Quote from St Paul - as we face the New Year

'I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength.' *Phil 4:12-13*

### Scripture Reflections - January 1st 2012

#### First Reading: Numbers 6: 22-27.

This is a beautiful tri-fold "Blessing Prayer" that has been used on many occasions. To whom would you like to direct it to today?

#### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66: 2-3, 5, 6, 8.

Yet another psalm of thanksgiving directed towards the God by David, - who is now our God too. Can I make it my prayer today? Listen to the last two lines.

#### Second Reading: Galatians 4: 4-7.

This is one of the few times when Paul indirectly talks about Mary the mother of God. Listen to the beautiful relationship between God and each one of us because of Mary's openness to God's providence.

#### Gospel: Luke 2: 16-21.

This is the last part of the Christmas story. Listen to Mary's part in this story. Would that we could "ponder" (= reflect upon) more things in our hearts. Can her attitude become ours?

### 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

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## 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](mailto:janet@bennettfamily.com.au) Web: [www.bennettfamily.com.au](http://www.bennettfamily.com.au)

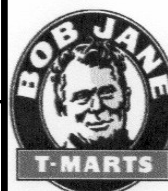
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