

# 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

25<sup>th</sup> 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

## Christmas - Year B

Next week's readings: Mary, the Holy Mother of God — Numbers 6:22—27; Galatians 4:4—7; Luke 2:16 - 21.

### Welcome to the family of St Rita's Catholic Community



*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 & take a New Parishioner's pack - both can be found on the back table of the church.*

*We'll be in touch soon!*



### The God Who Is Revealed in Christmas



*'Christmas is God's answer to human longing, God's response to the centuries of prayers that lay hidden in our groaning, our sighs, our frustrations, and our religious efforts, each of them a plea, mostly silent, for a divine intervention, all of them asking God to come and rid the world of injustice and our hearts of loneliness and heartache.*

*'But God's answer didn't exactly meet our expectations, even as it surpassed them. What was born with Jesus' birth and what still lies seemingly helpless in mangers all around the world wasn't exactly what the world expected. Why? Why would God choose to be born into the world in this way?*

*'The power of God revealed in Christmas is the power of a baby, nothing more, nothing less: innocence, gentleness, helplessness, a vulnerability that can soften hearts, invite in, have us hush our voices, teach us patience, and call forth what's best in us.*

*'We have always been slow to understand this; we want our messiahs to possess more immediate power. But that's not the Christmas story, nor the power revealed in it. An infant lying in the straw in Bethlehem didn't outgun anyone. He just lay there, waiting for anyone, good or bad, to come to him, see his helplessness, feel a tug at his or her heart strings, and then gently try to coax a smile or a word out of him. That's still how God meets us.'*

*Source: Fr Ron Rolheiser*

*Fr Leo would like to wish you all a blessed and holy Christmas.*

*May the involvement in the ceremonies help us to strengthen our Christian faith.  
Many thanks to our Liturgy Committee, Choir, Parish office staff and all participants  
for the splendid effort made in preparation and presentation of the beautiful  
Christmas ceremonies.*





## PARISH NEWS



### Thankyou to all our Volunteers



Fr Leo, the office staff and the Parish Pastoral Council members would like to take this opportunity to thank all volunteers who have been involved in our many and various ministry groups at St Rita's, for their commitment and dedication over the year. Many hands make light work, and we look forward to your continued support in 2012. May you have a happy and holy Christmas and many blessings for the coming year.



*The Parish Office will be closed from Christmas Eve until Tuesday, 3rd January 2012. Beverley, Pat & Elaine would like to wish all parishioners of St Rita's a happy & safe Christmas.*

### Ministry Groups on Vacation until 2012

The following ministry groups are taking a well earned break over the Christmas season: Christian Meditation, Rosary, Rosary Crusade, Holy Hour, Mother's Prayers, St Vincent de Paul, Thursday Scripture Reflection Evenings, Knights of the Southern Cross and the Choir. They will resume again in the new year.

### Social Justice Christmas Appeal 2011

Your response to this years appeal in aid of the work of Sister Margaret and the Sisters of Notre Dame in Zimbabwe has been quite overwhelming. The church collections realised \$2970.70 which represents an increase of 85% over last year. We have also received an additional \$560.00 from people outside the parish who wished to be associated with the appeal, making a grand total of \$3530.70. Thank you very much for your generosity. The Sisters will make good use of these additional funds where they are badly needed.

### Glow candles

Be sure to get a glow candle—they will be on sale for \$2 at the Vigil and Midnight Masses on Christmas Eve.

### Volunteers needed

St Vincent de Paul would be most grateful for assistance in their Victoria Point, Cleveland and Capalaba shops.

### 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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Tye-Anderson on 0438 069 521.



### 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.



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

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



**Second Collection & Donations last week: \$3 357.15 Envelopes, Loose, Direct Debits, Credit Cards)**



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






**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 Lehfeltdt, Silvio Zambelli, Hazel Quilty, Mark Phairs, Bernice Muir, Harry & Connie Chivers, Marie & Jack Conway, Anne Maree Reed, Cec. & Maureen Woodward (Albury), Catherine Kennedy & Jeanette Ricca.

## Rosters for 31st December/1st January 2012 – 1st Week Team

Ministry	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 7am	Sunday 9am	Sunday 6pm
<b>Mass Co-Ordinators</b>	Anne Maree Reed	Bernie Sturdy & Shaun Hennessy	Peter Cawley	Glenys Dowling
<b>Ministers of the Word</b>	Anne Saverin Anne Maree Reed	Kay Grieve Bernie Sturdy Eleanor Aitken	Doris Williamson Jennifer Fielding Frances Connor	Ross Cooper Angela Cooper Averil Maree
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	Moya Taylor	Stephen Croyden Marlene Corbin Barbara Elliot	Julie Steel Carmel Taylor	Glenys Dowling Leanne Dyer
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Chloe McGrath	<i>Help needed</i>	<i>Help needed</i>	<i>Help needed</i>
<b>Projector Operator</b>	Tim Surridge	Agnes McCloskey	Margo Bodley	Anoop Alapatt
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	<i>No Children's Liturgy in School Holidays</i>			
<b>Ministers to the Sick</b>	<b>Group 1:</b> Marlene Corbin <b>Group 2:</b> Phil & Dorothy Elliss			
<b>Other Volunteers</b>	<b>Church Cleaning</b> Team 2 Saturday, 31st December	<b>Church Flowers</b> 31st December	<b>Office Reception</b> Friday 30th December 9.30am–12.00noon	
	Carmel Blewitt Janet Larner-Stone Eslyne Hunter Emily Hinds 	 Clare Douglas	Office Closed 	

### A Christmas Message

*(Following Paul's message to the Corinthians: 'If I should give away to the poor all that I possess, but have not love, it will profit me nothing.')*

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cakes, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

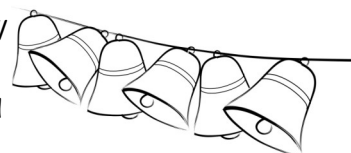
If I trim the tree with shimmering angels, attend a myriad of parties and sing in the choir but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

Merry Christmas and lots of love to you and yours!



### A VOCATION VIEW:

Christmas the promised fulfilled. God comes to dwell among his people. Before the Second Coming of Jesus, the world needs people like you to continue His work. Are you ready?

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



vocation



## WEEKLY DIARY

*Rosary 30mins before Mass Mon-Sat.*



**Monday 26th December—St Stephen**

9.00am Mass (Chapel)

**Tuesday 27th December—St John**

9.00am Mass (Chapel)

**Wednesday 28th December**

**Thursday 29th December**

9.00am Mass

**Friday 30th December—Holy Family**

9.00am Mass (Chapel)

**Saturday 31st 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 1st January — Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

7.00am Mass

9.00am Mass

6.00pm Mass

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Check out the website at [www.catholicleader.com.au](http://www.catholicleader.com.au)



Every Christmas the Christ Child in the manger at Bethlehem invites us to stop -

& to pay attention to the things that are especially important in our lives: our loved ones, our family and friends and our loving God, who holds us in existence, 'in the palm of his hand'.

When Christmas is over, an excellent way to grow in faith

and to develop one's relationship with God is to join in the celebration of the Eucharist regularly, here in your local worshipping Christian Community.

**You will be most welcome!**

If you would like to speak with a priest or a member of the parish staff,

please contact the parish office on 3207 9177.

We would love to hear from you!

Wishing you and your family a happy and a holy Christmas!



**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)

### Piety Store

**Books - Cards -  
Bibles - Medals  
Rosary Beads -**

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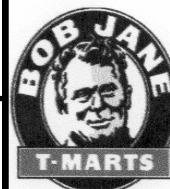
### The first people to call...

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