

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

4th December 2011



Parish Priest: Fr. Leo Burke
Parish Pastoral Associate: Elaine Strati
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Finance Secretary: Beverley Van Schie
Parish Office Hours:
Mon—Thurs 9.00am- 3.30pm
School Principal: Anne McKenny
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Second Sunday of Advent - Year B

Next week's readings: Third Sunday of Advent— Isaiah 61:1—2, 10—11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16—24; John 1:6 - 8, 19—28.

John the Baptist



A man went out for a walk on a cold but bright winter's morning. The sun had just come up and was scattering light to the four corners of the sky. As he walked along he noticed that the moon too was in the sky. But it was so pale compared to the sun that it was barely visible. An hour or so ago, it was a bright and beautiful creature, and dominated the sky. Now it looked like a beggar, and had been pushed into the background. It was like a candle made redundant by electric light. But as the man looked at it, suddenly occurred to him that it was the moon's faithful light that had seen people through the darkness of the night.

The moon reminds us of the Old Testament prophets, and perhaps especially of John the Baptist. The prophets had kept alive the hopes of the people during the long night of expectation, when it seemed that the dawn would never come. It was thanks to them that the flame never went out.

John was the last and greatest of those selfless and courageous individuals who prepared the people for the coming of the Messiah. He worked hard to bring his own light to the people. For a while he dominated the scene, and enjoyed great popularity. But he was always conscious of the fact that a greater light was coming, a light he himself was not destined to walk in.

When that light appeared in the person of Jesus, John knew that his task was done. He didn't hinder or seek to delay the advent of the new light. On the contrary, he welcomed it, facilitated it, encouraged it. He pointed Jesus out to the people, and acknowledged that Jesus was far greater than himself. He was only the moon; Jesus was the sun. Then John stepped aside and allowed Jesus to shine, knowing that it meant obscurity for himself. That took greatness. Jesus recognised the greatness of John and acknowledged the debt he owed to him.

To make way, or even just to make room, for another person calls for humility and generosity. Indeed, it calls for a kind of dying to self. To retire from high office is to die a little, even more than a little. Some people, even great and holy people, spoil things and damage their cause by holding on too long to the reins of power.

Parents spend the best years of their lives preparing the way for their children, in the sense of opening them to life. But there comes a time when they have to withdraw so that their children can come into their own. Having given life to their children, parents must allow them to live that life.

All of us are tempted to hug the limelight. We often, inadvertently perhaps, dominate others and relegate them to the shadows. As a result, people feel oppressed, and a lot of light is lost to the world. We must try to shine to the best of our ability, while being careful not to block the path for others. And we must be conscious of the debt we owe to others who prepare the way for us.

We can even make the same mistake with God. We act as if it was our work that matters. We make too much of ourselves. Whereas it may be a question of getting ourselves out of the way and allowing God to take over.

Christ opened the way to salvation for all of us. We must strive to walk in his light and avoid being a source of darkness to anyone. The only way to find peace and happiness is to forget ourselves and love others.

Source: *New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies, Flor McCarthy, SDB*

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



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, Ann McCann (*Elaine Strati's mother*), Prayer Concerns Cec. & Maureen Woodward (Albury), Catherine Kennedy, Janette Ricca.

Recently Deceased: Helen Rudd, Bernard O'Toole,



PARISH NEWS



Craft Sale



Our Craft Group are holding their annual Christmas Craft Stall this weekend. There will be a lovely array of handcrafted gifts, festive decorations and tasty delicacies to assist you with your Christmas shopping!
To avoid disappointment, be sure to stop, browse and buy!



Care & Concern News

Come and enjoy a Christmas lunch on **Monday, 5th December** at 11.30am at Pelican's Nautical Treasures, 293 Esplanade, Redland Bay. Kindly RSVP to Janet on 3820 6115 to enable bookings to be made.



Aria Angels - Music, Movement, Art and ...More

Reaching out to parents before and after Baptism, through the parish, it offers a special time for children from birth to 5 years with parents/grandparents. We will gather in the Ruby Room at the parish office every second Thursday, the next one is on **8th December** from 9.30am to 11am. The cost is \$5 including morning tea. For more information please contact Elaine at the parish office.



Mothers Prayers

To All Mothers, Grandmothers, and Spiritual Mothers, We had a wonderful session on Wednesday morning with Rosa Montegrando telling us about Mothers Prayers and praying for our children. We are starting a Mothers Prayers group here at St Rita's. The next gathering will be this **Wednesday, 7th December** at 9am in the Chapel. It will go for about an hour. Come along and join us. If this day doesn't suit maybe you would like to organize another day it's very simple to do. For more information contact Elaine at the Parish Office on 32079177.



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.

FOOD BASKETS

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.



A Big Thank you to all our parishioners who gave of their time and talent to host the BBQ for the Annual St Rita's Primary School Carols Evening. Special thanks too, to Eddie and Lorraine Dunne who organized and ran it, it was a great success. The sharing of your time, talent and treasure is greatly appreciated by our Parish Community.

Second Collection & Donations last week: \$3 145.10 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!





PARISH NEWS



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.

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.



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.*



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.

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

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

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



St Rita's Social Justice Christmas Appeal 2011

This appeal will be held next weekend **10/11th December**. Instead of one of our regular charities such as Care Australia, Tear, Catholic Mission and Christian Blind Mission, this year's 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".

One example of great need is a school with 1300 children, 14 classrooms and 37 classes. They run double sessions with some classes under the trees. A major problem is dilapidated toilets which are set to become a serious health hazard when the rains come. More information next week but please come prepared to be as generous as you can.

The Grace of Humiliation

Fr Richard Rohr writes: 'I tell holy people who come to me to pray for one good humiliation every day. And then I tell them to keep careful watch over their reaction to those humiliations. That is the only way you can avoid religious grandiosity, and know that you are seeking God and not yourself.'



PARISH NEWS



Welcome to the Family

A warm welcome into our Catholic Community to Lucy Scholl the daughter of Guisepe & Katherine and to Phoenix Bugeja the daughter of Daniel and Yvette who were baptised recently. We wish Lucy, Phoenix and their families many blessings as they continue their faith journey.

Congratulations!



Mark your diaries: St Rita's Community Fete 2012 will be held on Saturday, 28th July 2012.



Around the Archdiocese



The Tara Singers present

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

Come along and enjoy many of our favourite Christmas Carols lead by conductor Rosanna Napurand join in with the community singing



VENUE: Irish Club, 175 Elizabeth St.

WHEN: Sunday 4th December 2-4 pm

BOOKINGS: Phone Anne Lunney 3274 3649, Tickets \$10



One day Presentation on Domestic Violence

Joint Churches Domestic Violence prevention project invite you to participate in an important community event on **Wednesday, 7th December** at the Ipswich Library complex, Barry Jones Auditorium from 9am to 3pm. RSVP by 30th November to Quest Care on 3281 1100 or email questc@tpg.com.au

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.

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 10th/11th December – Week 2

Ministry	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 7am	Sunday 9am	Sunday 6pm
Mass Co-Ordinators	Karel & Edith Thieme	Bernie Sturdy & Shaun Hennessy	Jennifer Fielding	Amanda Bush
Ministers of the Word	Laurie Smith Mike Duggan	Tom Burkett Mike Quilty	Dianne Thomas Marie Shepherd Tricia McNamee	Les Preston Debra Kruk
Communion Ministers	Edith Thieme Margaret Smith	Janet Larner Stone Kevin Elliot Anne Josefski	Julie Steel Paddy Berrell Kerry Horvath	Emily Hinds Peter Enright
Altar Servers	Daniel Hardie Brett Hardie Bradley Hall Connor Hall	<i>Help Needed</i>	Emma Cutler Naomi Hunter	Brendan Hinds Austin Hinds
Projector Operator	Karel Thieme	<i>Help needed</i>	Guida Cabrita	Mary-Anne Cullen
Children's Liturgy	<i>No Children's Liturgy in School Holidays</i>			
Ministers to the Sick	Group 1: Sandra Foley Group 2: Phil & Dorothy Elliss			
Other Volunteers	Church Cleaning Team 2 Saturday, 10th December	Church Flowers 10th December	Office Reception Friday 9th December 9.30am–12.00noon	
	 Janet Larner-Stone Carmel Blewitt Eslyne Hunter Emily Hinds	 Lara Ham	Doris Williamson 	

Sage Advice from Children

- Never trust a dog to watch your food. - *Patrick (10)*
- When you want something expensive, ask your grandparents. - *Matt (12)*
- Wear a hat when feeding seagulls. - *Rocky (9)*
- Sleep in your clothes so you'll be dressed in the morning. - *Stephanie (8)*
- Never dare your little brother to paint the family car. - *Phil (13)*
- When you get a bad grade in school, show it to your Mum when she's on the phone. - *Alan (13)*



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

In this weeks edition:

- Catholic couple recognized with national award for their efforts in flood aftermath.
- Ray Colbert's ride raises \$ 60 000 for asbestosis sufferers.
- Pope urges international leaders to reach an agreement on climate change.
- Bishops officially launch new translation of the Roman Missal.
- Brisbane seminarians to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.
- Call for Catholics to fight the same-sex marriage push.
- Two Australian bishops reflect on how World Youth Day has been a blessing for young Catholics.



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

A VOCATION VIEW:

The cry of the people: "Lord, let us see your kindness". Who will prepare the way of the Lord coming to us 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



vocation



WEEKLY DIARY

Rosary 30mins before Mass Mon-Sat.



Monday 5th December

- 7.00am Mass (Chapel)
- 9.30am —10.30am Christian Meditation (Chapel)
- 11.30am Care & Concern Christmas Lunch at Pelican's Nautical Pleasures, Redland Bay
- 2.00pm Rosary (Chapel)
- 7.00pm St Vincent de Paul (Ruby Function Room)
- 7.30pm 1st Baptismal Parent Information Night (Chapel)

Tuesday 6th December

- 7.00am Mass (Chapel)
- 1.30pm Liturgy Committee Meeting (Ruby Function Room)
- 4.00pm Choir Practice (Church)

Wednesday 7th December— St Ambrose

- 9.00am Mother's Prayers (Chapel)

Thursday 8th December—Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

- 9.00am Mass
- 9.30am—11.00am Aria's Angels (Ruby Function Room)
- 1.30pm Pro Life Rosary Crusade (Chapel)
- 7.30pm Scripture Reflection Evening (Chapel)

Friday 9th December

- 9.00am Mass followed by Holy Hour (Chapel)

Saturday 10th 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, No Children's Liturgy

Sunday 11th December — Third Sunday of Advent

- 7.00am Mass
- 9.00am Mass, No Children's Liturgy
- 6.00pm Mass

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 4th Dec Yr B 2011

First reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11.

This passage, immortalized by Handel's Messiah's, has good news for the people in exile, - they are about to be delivered. Here we have a God of forgiveness and tenderness. How do I relate to this now?

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 84: 9-14.

This again ties in with the first reading, - as the psalmist asks for God's kindness to be upon His people. Can I do the same at this Mass?

Second reading: 2 Peter 8-15.

As we wait, and even long, for the Lord's coming (again), let us ask for the strength we need to live good and thoughtful lives. We don't know when we will go to Him, or when He will come to us!

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8.

See the tie in here with the first reading, - as always happens, - as John prepares his people for the public coming of Christ in their lives. How am I preparing to celebrate His coming in my life this Christmas?

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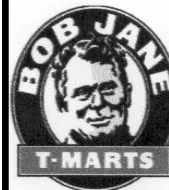
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