



St. Rita's Catholic Parish

Incorporating Victoria Point, Thornlands South, Redland Bay, Mount Cotton, Coochiemudlo Island and the Southern Bay Islands. ABN: 25 328 758 007 105

Address: 37 Benfer Road, Victoria Point | Postal Address: P O Box 5285, Victoria Point QLD 4165

Phone: (07) 3207 9177 | Email: victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

3rd Sunday of Advent—Year B 17th December 2023

This Week's Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, Ps Luke 1:46-50, 53-54, Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Next Week—4th Sunday of Advent—Year B: Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Administrator: Fr Rony Kalapurackal Chacko

Administrator of Islands: Fr Rony Kalapurackal Chacko

Parish Office: 07 3207 9177

Parish Email: victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am-2:00pm

Parish Website: www.stritasparish.org

Fb: <https://www.facebook.com/stritasvictoriapoint/>

Archdiocese of Brisbane: brisbanecatholic.org.au/

Parish Secretary: Angela Dodd

Finance Secretary: Beverley Van Schie

Safeguarding Representative: Bob Snoke

Sacramental Co-ordinator: Jennifer Fielding

Sacramental E-mail: sc.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

School Principal: Carolyn Watson

School: 07 3207 6628 Email: pvictoriapoint@bne.catholic.edu.au

Fb: <https://www.facebook.com/StRitasCatholicPrimary/>

Comfort with a Catch

(John 1:6-8, 19-28)

The people around John are odd. What seems to attract them is who he is not: not the ancient saviour of Israel, not Elijah come to announce the end of the world, not the great prophet the Samaritans were expecting. But the evangelist John also tells us who the Baptist is: the testimony to the great light to follow.

What is your life's testimony? Does it proclaim fidelity, honesty, generosity? If you had to name ten things you stand for, would any of them be holy? These are hard questions. If I pose them to myself, my answer is wishy-washy: depends on when you ask. Some days are less exemplary than others. Sometimes I'm a shining example of Christian virtue, and I wish my Mum were here to see me. Other times I'm grateful she isn't and wish no one was. John the Baptist, cousin of Jesus and the fruit of a miracle birth, may have had a head start on his testimony. Or maybe he had to work out all the bugs like the rest of us in the years before he turned up at the Jordan.

But the truth is: whatever our origins, they can't be an excuse for who we are or are not, "what we've done, or failed to do". John's desert voice summons me to train mine, to learn to present another clear testimony to the light.

Describe one element of your Christian witness that is particularly strong. What element of your witness needs work?
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Our third Advent candle is the Shepherds' Candle or the Candle of Joy.

The colour of the candle this week is rose, which symbolises joy, the joy that the Lord is near. We are also reminded that God sent the angels to proclaim His arrival to common folk, shepherds: The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."



"We acknowledge the Quandamooka People, Traditional Custodians of the lands, waters and seas where we stand today. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and future."

Be an Eternal Guardian of Your Faith

Do you want to ensure that the mission of the Catholic Church and your local parish continues well in to the future?

We need your support to sustain our faith and continue to provide parish facilities, programs and services for generations to come. Your gift, of any amount, will help carry forward the Gospel message to future generations. To find out how you can be an Eternal Guardian of your faith, please contact us on 07 3324 3632 or visit www.catholicfoundation.org.au

The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded by all.

This policy applies to Clergy, Religious, Staff, Parishioners, Volunteers, students on placement and Visitors to our sites. For safeguarding inquiries or to raise any concerns, disclosures or allegations please contact our Local Safeguarding Representative: Bob Snoke on 0419 247 698 sa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au <https://tinyurl.com/Safeguarding-Incident-Report> <https://tinyurl.com/New-Protecting-Children-Laws>

STOPline Service ☎ 1300 304 550 ✉ AOB@stopline.com.au 🌐 www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

WEEKLY DIARY

Daily (MON, TUES, WED, FRI)

8:30am Rosary - St Rita's Church

MONDAY'S

9:00am Mass—St Rita's Church

9:30am Rosary Crusade Pro Life

TUESDAY'S

9:00am Mass—St Rita's Church

7:00pm Prayer & Praise

WEDNESDAY'S

9:00am Mass—St Rita's Church

10:00am Art Group

3:30pm Choir - St Rita's Church

THURSDAY'S

Parish Priest Day Off (No masses)

FRIDAY'S

9:00am Mass & Holy Hour—
St Rita's Church

MASS TIMES

ST RITA'S CHURCH

Weekdays 9am (Except Thursday)

Saturday 5pm (Vigil)

Sunday 7am & 9am

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4:30pm

HEALING MASS: 2nd Wednesday of

the Month 9am

MAREBELLO: 1st Wednesday of the

Month 9:30am

BAY ISLAND MASS CENTRES

COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND - Coochiemudlo
Island Community Hall,

345 Victoria Parade,

Coochiemudlo Island

11:00am Saturday (2nd, 16th Dec)

MACLEAY ISLAND—Church of the Holy

Spirit, Scotts Road, Macleay Island

2pm Sunday Mass (3rd, 17th Dec)

9am Liturgy (10th, 31st Dec)

RUSSELL ISLAND

Bay Islands Community Services

55 Jackson Rd, Russell Island

2pm Sunday Mass (10th, 31st Dec)

2pm Virtual (3rd, 17th Dec)

Please take a moment to pray for:

All those who are ill, especially Ross Cooper, Elaine Prestney, Maddy Brown, Bill Mellor, Annette Doherty, Lucas Bernal, Alfio Tomarchio, Michael Quilty, Chris Venter, Doris Williamson, Fr Jim Browne, Margaret Ross, Alan Williamson, Lois Hodges, Helen Stockwell, Marlie Meehan, Denise Fowler, Emma Heinrich, Paul Trubody, Kay Grieve, Jela Cicak, Matthew Scott and those who seek healing in their lives and for all those who care for them.

We commend all the recently deceased.

We pray for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Louie Vassallo.

If you wish to have a loved one's name mentioned in the Parish Newsletter for an anniversary, a remembrance or a prayer for the sick, please contact the Parish Office. Envelopes to request Masses to be offered for the sick, dying, deceased or for special intentions are available at the back of the church. Mass Cards are available.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL FINAL WEEKEND

This is the final weekend for our Christmas Appeal.

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed.

If any Parishioners would like to spare an hour to help sort the donations after the 7.00am Mass on Sunday 17th December - or to join us in making up the hampers on Monday, 18th December from 7.00am - they will be most welcome.

Thank you.



Pope's Prayer Intention December 2023

For persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Cathedral Masses

<https://tinyurl.com/St-Stephens-Cathedral-Masses>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are in need of additional volunteers to assist in the monthly Meet & Greet for the Saturday Vigil Mass.

If you are able to assist, please see John Evans (PPC Chairperson) or your Mass Coordinator.

Thank you.

SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

Our faith will sustain us through challenging times.
Please keep supporting your Parish by continuing your weekly offering if you can, either by using our periodic direct debit or credit card facility or by direct deposit.

Our planned giving bank account details for direct deposits are as follows:

BSB: 064 786

Account No: 100027374

Account Name: Parish Donation

Kindly **reference** your deposit with your **surname** and your **planned giving number/envelope** number if you have one. Please contact the parish office for further information on 3207 9177.

The total for both collections for the weekend of **2023** is \$

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS:

RECENT ACTIVITIES – continued cleaning and painting OSHC internal walls, deep clean of presbytery carpets before new priest arrives, annual carpet deep clean in OSHC.

CURRENT TASKS NEEDING TO BE DONE – repair/replace several taps in presbytery, paint OSHC verandah wall, repairs to kitchen cupboards in OSHC, re-oiling of OSHC verandah deck, removal of mould and sanding/ painting of presbytery window sills doors and door frames (scheduled for 2024), repair/replace damaged fence panel in church carpark (on hold), painting of presbytery gutters and eaves (on hold).

POSSIBLE FUTURE PROJECTS DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING – replace rotted-out fence posts (presbytery yard fence along side school oval), plaster repairs to ceilings in presbytery.



2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Tuesday 19th December 2023
5:30pm
St Rita's Catholic Parish, Victoria Point



HOSANNA PAYER AND PRAISE GROUP

God gave His greatest gift to us on that first Christmas Day and may the wonder of it always guide and light your way.
Merry Christmas!

Prayer meeting will resume on the 9 January 2024 at 7:00pm, St Rita Parish Church.



HELP!!!!

Can you please HELP set up the Unitas Hall for Christmas Vigil Mass?

**9am Sunday
24th December!**

We need chairs set up, items bought over from the Church and MORE!



St. Rita's Parish Mass Times for the Christmas Weekend 2023

St. Rita's

Saturday 23 Dec. Vigil for 4th Sunday of Advent 5pm at St Rita's Church
Sunday 24 Dec. 4th Sunday of Advent 8am at St Rita's Church

Sunday 24 Dec. Vigil for Christmas 5pm at UNITAS Hall
Monday 25 Dec. Christmas Day 7am at St Rita's Church
Christmas Day 9am at St Rita's Church

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 19th Dec. 5:30pm at St. Rita's Church

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 23 Dec. 4pm to 4.45pm at St. Rita's Church

No Reconciliation before Christmas Masses

Bay Islands

Coochlemudlo Island
Sat. 23 Dec. 4th Sunday of Advent 11am at Community Hall

Macleay Island
Monday 25 Dec. Christmas Day 8am at Holy Spirit Church

Russell Island
Monday 25 Dec. Christmas Day 9.45am at Bay Islands Community Services Centre

"...but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'" Luke 2:10-11

St. Rita's Catholic Parish
37 Benfer Road, Victoria Point, Qld. 4165
Phone: (07) 3207 9177 Website: www.stritasparish.org



DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY?

Please fill out the form below and place into the collections box or contact the Parish Office
Call 3207 9177 or email victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

NAME: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____





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