



Victoria Point Catholic Parish

Victoria Point, Thornlands South, Redland Bay, Mount Cotton,
Coochiemudlo Island and the Southern Bay Islands.

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PRIEST'S DAY OFF — TUESDAYS

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14th 2025

Year A

Look Again:

Finding the Quiet Signs of Christ in an
Unexpected World
(Matthew 11: 2 - 11)



Jesus told them, "Go back and tell John what's going on: The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the wretched of the earth learn that God is on their side. Is this what you were expecting? Then count yourselves most blessed!" (Matthew 11: 4 - 6)

John the Baptist, once so sure of who Jesus was, now sits in prison and sends a question that feels surprisingly familiar: "Are you the one who is to come?" Advent meets us right here – in the tension between faith and uncertainty. It reminds us that even the strongest disciples can have moments of doubt, and that bringing our questions to Jesus is itself an act of trust.

Jesus doesn't answer John with theories or slogans. He simply points to what is happening: the blind see, the lame walk, the poor hear good news. In other words, look at the signs of life emerging in unexpected places. Look at the quiet ways God is already at work.

For families and parish communities, this is a gentle challenge. In a season filled with noise, pressure, and busyness, can we notice where grace is breaking through? Perhaps in a small act of kindness, a moment of reconciliation, a child's curiosity about the Advent candles, or the parish reaching out to someone who feels forgotten. These might not seem dramatic, but they are signs of the same kingdom Jesus spoke of.

Jesus also praises John's role, yet says the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. This isn't to diminish John but to remind us that in Christ we share something extraordinary. We are invited not just to watch for God's work but to participate in it, to carry hope, mercy, and justice into our homes and neighbourhoods.

On this Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we are invited to rejoice – not because everything is perfect, but because Christ is near and already shaping our world in ways we sometimes overlook. May our families and parishes become places where others can see the quiet signs of God's presence and discover for themselves that Jesus truly is the One who comes.

Third Sunday of Advent—Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Psalm: Ps 145:6-10

Psalm Response: *Lord come and save us.*

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!* The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. *Alleluia, alleluia!*

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

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.

Local Safeguarding Representative: Bob Snoke on 0419 247 698;

Parish Office sa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au or <https://bne.catholic.stoplinereport.com>

STOPLine Service: Ph. 1300 304 550 | **Email:** A0B@stopline.com.au | **Online Report:** bne.catholic.stoplinereport.com

Mass & Confession Times

SATURDAY

St Rita's Church

Confessions — 4.15pm
Vigil Mass 5pm

COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND

Confessions before Mass
15 Nov & 6 Dec - 11am Mass
Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Saturday at 11am

SUNDAY

St Rita's Church

Masses 7.00am & 9.00am

MACLEAY ISLAND

Confessions before Mass
23 Nov & 7 Dec - 1.45pm Mass
Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Sunday at 9am

RUSSELL ISLAND

Confessions before Mass
16 & 30 Nov - 2pm Mass
Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Sunday at 2pm

MONDAY

St Rita's Church

8.30am Rosary
9am Mass
Pro-Life Rosary after Mass

TUESDAY

St Rita's Church

No Mass or Rosary

WEDNESDAY

St Rita's Church

8.30am Rosary
9am Mass

THURSDAY

St Rita's Church

8.30am Rosary
9am Mass

FRIDAY

St Rita's Church

9am Mass & Holy Hour



DURING THE MONTH

MAREBELLO

1st Wed of Month – Eucharist

HEALING MASS

Wed. 10th December

ST VINCENT DE PAUL meet on 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 10am in the **Ruby Room**. Next meetings: 17 Nov & 1 Dec.



Eucharistic Adoration

Every Saturday for personal silent prayer time

Exposition: 9.30am- 3.30pm

Benediction: 3.30pm

Stay for Confession: 4:15pm

Vigil Mass: 5pm



Thank you to everyone who spent time with Our Lord during October and November.

As we enter December, we need committed Adorers for one hour per month to ensure Jesus is never left alone during Adoration (Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.). Sign-up sheets are at the front of the church. All are welcome anytime, but the roster ensures every hour is covered.

"Could you not watch one hour with Me?" – Matthew 26:40



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

ST RITA'S CHURCH - VICTORIA POINT

Wed 24 Dec: 5:40pm Carols | 6pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

Thu 25 Dec: 8am Christmas Day Mass

No Midnight Mass or 6pm Mass on Christmas Day

RECONCILIATION

Thu 18 Dec: 6pm - 2nd Rite (St Rita's)

Sat 20 Dec: 4:15pm - 1st Rite (St Rita's)

"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11

Christian Meditation

Thursdays at 4pm
in St Rita's Chapel

For information please contact the Parish Office and your enquiry will be directed to Lorr Popple



HOSANNA PRAYER and PRAISE GROUP

Meets on Tuesdays at 7pm
in St Rita's Church - All are welcome!

Stay Connected with Your Parish Family

St Rita's is moving to a digital register to keep you better connected with parish life. By signing up, you'll receive timely updates about Mass times, events, newsletter and important announcements directly to your inbox or phone.

It takes just 2 minutes to register:
Visit stritasparish.flocknote.com/register or scan the QR code below.



Stay connected. Stay informed. Stay part of our St Rita's family.

Reminder - Containers for change to go towards a parish ride on mower



Join us at one of 5 locations on the summer school holidays for 'Catch the Wave' a day of fun, faith and friends.
From Wednesday 14th to Thursday 22nd Jan
Hosted at Birkdale, Redcliffe, Sunnybank, Petrie and Surfers Paradise.



SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

WWW.ENCOUNTERCATHOLICKIDS.COM.AU/SUMMER-HOLIDAY-PROGRAM

PRAYERS

For all those who are ill, especially Denise Woosnam, Dorothy Byrnes, Helen Clarke, Mariano Molina, Claire Douglas, Keith Douglas, Miles Muscroft, Sebastian Ricca, Elaine Prestney, Maddy Brown, Lucas Bernal, Annette Doherty, Alfio Tomarchio, Chris Venter, Fr Jim Browne, Alan Williamson, Helen Stockwell, Marlie Meehan, Denise Fowler, Emma Heinrich, Paul Trubody, Jela Cicak, Matthew Scott, and those who seek healing in their lives and for all those who care for them.



ANNIVERSARIES: We pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

DECEASED: We commend our deceased to the loving care of the Lord, especially Mike Quilty and Carmen Zeltins.

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

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 14th December – or to join us in making up the hampers on Monday, 15th December from 7.00am – they will be most welcome.

Thank you.

A Cuppa After Mass – Has concluded for 2025 & will resume in Jan 26. Volunteers welcome.

St Rita's Men's Social Group – Has concluded for 2025 & will resume in Jan 2026

Wednesday Art group - Has concluded for 2025 & will resume in Jan 2026

We hope all members have a safe & happy Christmas.

Parish Office Closure

The St Rita's Parish office will be closed as of Wednesday, 24th December and will reopen Monday, 5th January.

Mass Schedule Changes

No masses will be held on:

26th, 29th, 30th & 31st December.

The Second Rite of Reconciliation

(Penance or Confession)

The Second Rite of Reconciliation is a communal reconciliation which celebrates God's love and mercy. It is often celebrated in parish communities during Advent and Lent.

The Second Rite of Reconciliation begins with a hymn, celebration of the Word – scripture and prayer - then a personal examination of conscience. This is followed by a one-to-one brief interaction with the priest as sins are confessed and absolved. (There will be extra priests available so that the sacrament does not take too long.)

The Rite concludes with a short thanksgiving, blessing and sending forth to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. You are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity as part of your Christmas preparation, if you possibly can.

**The Second Rite of Reconciliation
will be celebrated on**

THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER

at 6 PM in ST RITA'S CHURCH



Thanksgiving and
Christmas Mass
Tuesday, 16 December
2025 , 7pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

This festive season, turn your holiday celebrations into positive change—return your containers and give back to the community.



FEAST DAYS OF DECEMBER

- December 3 - Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Australia
- December 4 - Saint John Damascene
- December 6—Saint Nicholas
- December 8 - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Solemnity) Catholic Australia
- December 9 - Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
- December 10 - Our Lady of Loreto
- December 11 - Saint Damasus I
- December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe
- December 13 - Saint Lucy Catholic Australia
- December 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas - Solemnity) Catholic Australia
- December 26 - Saint Stephen (Feast) Catholic Australia
- December 27 - Saint John (Feast) Catholic Australia
- December 28 - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH (Feast) Catholic Australia
- December 29 - Saint Thomas Becket
- December 31 — Saint Sylvester

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The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

(Pope Francis)



POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

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