

# St Rita's Newsletter



VICTORIA POINT, THORNLANDS  
SOUTH, REDLAND BAY, MOUNT  
COTTON & SOUTHERN BAY  
ISLANDS.



## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 18 January 2026 Year A

**Isa 49:3,5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; John 1:29-34**

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time -

### Mission and Baptism

The Second Sunday readings connect to the Baptism of the Lord, emphasizing that baptism calls us to mission.

In John's Gospel, John the Baptist identifies Jesus as "the lamb of God"—the ultimate sacrifice who gave everything to restore humanity's relationship with God. Jesus is both the lamb offered to God by humanity and God's gift to us, which is why we repeat "Behold the lamb of God" during the Eucharist.

The first reading from Isaiah presents the Suffering Servant, called not only to restore Israel but to be "a light to the nations"—bringing salvation to all people, including non-Jews. Jewish tradition interprets this corporately: through baptism, we join this mission to be servants of the Lord and light to the world.

Our response, like the psalm says, should be "Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will." God doesn't want more sacrifice—Jesus was sufficient. God wants our availability and willingness to announce justice.

Paul's letter to Corinth reminds us that, like Paul, we're called to bring good news to those we meet. The conclusion: God has believed in us from the womb, entrusting us to be light to the world, nourishing us with Christ's sacrifice so we can serve others.

To be baptized is to be a person on a mission.



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Second Sunday In Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3,5-6

Psalm: Ps 39:2,4,7-10

Psalm Response: Here I am Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:29-34

### Parish contacts:

#### **PARISH PRIEST**

**Fr Joseph Kanatt MCBS**

PRIEST'S DAY OFF — TUESDAYS

#### **Parish Office**

**Secretary:** Hayley Jessiman

(Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri)

**Ph:** **3207 9177**

37 Benfer Road

PO Box 5285

Victoria Point Qld 4165

[victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au)

Web: <https://www.stritasparish.org/>

Fb:

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

#### **Sacramental Coordinator**

Debra Nye

[sc.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sc.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Finance** (Mon, Tues, Wed)

Beverley Van Schie

[finance.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:finance.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Columbarium** Enquiries Parish Office

Beverley Van Schie

3207 9177

#### **Safeguarding Officer**

Bob Snode

Mob 0419 247 698

Helen Dowling

3207 9177

[sa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au)

#### **School Principal**

Nathan Mulhearn—Ph: 07 3207 6628

[pvictoriapoint@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pvictoriapoint@bne.catholic.edu.au)

#### **OHSC**

Jolene Morath—Ph: 0477 550 700

[co.victoriapointohsc@catholicearlyedcare.qld.edu.au](mailto:co.victoriapointohsc@catholicearlyedcare.qld.edu.au)

# Event News

## Greetings and Love

Peace and blessings to you all. It is with great joy and gratitude that I introduce myself to you as your new Parish Priest. My name is Fr Joseph Kanatt belongs to the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (MCBS) and I am truly honoured to be entrusted with the pastoral care of the St. Rita's community here at Victoria Point at the request of Archbishop Shane.

When I arrived from Kerala, India in early 2012, I knew little about Australia and parish life in a new country. Yet, as a priest of the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, I came with a heart ready to serve. Over the years, God's grace and your warm welcome have shaped my ministry and deepened my spirituality. For nearly seven years at St Patrick's, Beenleigh and six and half years at Sandgate Brighton Catholic Parish which enabled me to journey together as a vibrant, multicultural community. I am profoundly grateful for the commitment and love to the people whom I worked with. Leaving Sandgate Brighton is bittersweet, but priestly life calls us to embrace change and continue spreading God's love wherever we are sent.

I come among you with a spirit of faith, hope, and openness, eager to walk with you in our shared journey as disciples of Christ. Parish life is at its best when it is rooted in prayer, nourished by the Sacraments, and strengthened by genuine relationships. I look forward to getting to know you personally - your stories, your hopes, and your love for this parish.

St. Rita's has a reputation for being a welcoming and faith-filled community, and I am grateful for the many parishioners, volunteers, and staff who give so generously of their time and talents. Your commitment to worship, service, and outreach is a living testimony to the Gospel. I thank you in advance for your continued support, patience, and collaboration as we move forward together.

As your Parish Priest, my desire is to serve you with compassion, humility, and joy - to proclaim God's Word faithfully, to celebrate the Sacraments reverently, and to encourage a parish culture where everyone feels valued and included. Together, may we continue to grow as a community of faith that reflects Christ's love in our families, our parish, and the wider community. I look forward to walking with you in faith, building community, and witnessing God's presence among us. I will be available for you in your needs, and we will journey together.

I invite you to keep me in your prayers, just as I assure you of mine. May St. Rita, our patron saint, intercede for us and guide our parish in faith, hope, and love. I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks. Until then, may God bless you and your loved ones abundantly.

With every blessing  
**Fr. Joseph Kanatt MCBS**  
Parish Priest.

## Mass & Confession Times

### SATURDAY

#### **St Rita's Church**

Confessions — 4.15pm

Vigil Mass 5pm

### Russell Island

Confessions before Mass

14th Feb 7:45am Mass

Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Sunday at 2pm

### Coochiemudlo Island

Confessions before Mass

17th Jan 11am Mass

Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Saturday at 11am

### Macleay Island

Confessions before Mass

7th Feb 9am Mass

Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Sunday at 9am

### SUNDAY

#### **St Rita's Church**

Masses 7.00am & 9.00am

### 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

Estia Health 1st Wed of Month Eucharist

Healing Mass Wed. 14th Jan

## 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.*

# Community Highlights

**St Vincent de Paul** meet on **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays** of the month, **at 10am in the Ruby Room**. **Next meetings:** Jan 26



## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who attended the farewell morning teas for Fr. Jose on January 10th & 11th. It was lovely to see our community come together to send him off with our best wishes. Special thanks to all who contributed and helped make the events so special.

## HOSANNA PRAYER and PRAISE GROUP

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



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.

As we enter a new year, 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

## 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

## 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 [stritasparishflocknote.com/register](http://stritasparishflocknote.com/register) or scan the QR code below.



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

## St Rita's Men's Social Group

Our first event for this year will be our annual BBQ under the Presbytery Trees to celebrate Australia Day – at 11am on Friday 23rd Jan – bring food, drinks, chair, cooking utensils, and your Australian flag.

Best Regards, Mike Duggan (0429629211)



## Your Child's Sacramental Journey

What a joy to walk this path with your family! Please complete these two quick steps:

### Step 1: Update Your Contact Info

Scan the QR code to review your family's contact details so we can keep you informed.



### Step 2: Complete Enrolment

Scan the QR code to submit your child's enrolment application.



Questions? Contact Deb SC at [sc.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sc.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au)

Thank you for partnering with us in this sacred journey!

## Australia Day Mass

Join us for a special Australia Day Mass at 9am on Sunday, 26th January at St Rita's Church as we give thanks for our nation and pray for unity, peace, and blessing upon our country.

## 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, Ian Gray, 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, especially Doris Litfin & Christopher Smith.

**DECEASED:** We commend our deceased to the loving care of the Lord, especially Eileen O'Halloran, Maria Rybarczyk.



## Feast Days of January

**January 17** - St. Anthony, Abbot (Obligatory Memorial)  
**January 20** - St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr / St. Sebastian, Martyr (Obligatory Memorial)  
**January 21** - St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr (Obligatory Memorial)  
**January 22** - St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr (Obligatory Memorial)  
**January 24** - St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor (Obligatory Memorial) **January 25** - The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle (Feast)  
**January 26** - Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops (Obligatory Memorial)  
**January 28** - St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor (Obligatory Memorial) **January 31** - St. John Bosco, Priest

## Pope's Monthly Intention for January

For prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

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 Snode on 0419 247 698;

Parish Office [sa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au) or <https://bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com>

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Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

Dr. Gill van Iddekinge  
M.B.B.Ch., F.C.O.G., M.Med.,  
F.R.A.N.Z.C.O.G.  
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*Thank you for reading!*