

St Rita's Newsletter



VICTORIA POINT, THORNLANDS
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ISLANDS.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 15TH March 2026 Year A

LENT – A TIME TO SEE GOD AND OTHERS

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday - a day of joy in the middle of our Lenten journey. The Church invites us to pause and rejoice because the light of Easter is drawing nearer. The Scripture readings this weekend focus on a powerful theme: moving from darkness into light.

In the Gospel, we hear the story of the man born blind (John 9:1–41). Jesus restores his sight, but the miracle is not only about physical healing. It is also about spiritual vision. While the blind man gradually comes to recognise who Jesus truly is, the religious leaders who believe they can see remain spiritually blind. The story reminds us that faith is not just about seeing with our eyes but recognising God's presence with our hearts.

In the first reading, God chooses David to be king. When the prophet Samuel looks at the strong and impressive sons of Jesse, God reminds him: "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart." God sees deeper than outward appearances. He sees our hearts, our intentions, and our openness to His grace.

St Paul echoes this message in the second reading when he says, "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light." Lent is a time when we allow Christ's light to shine into the darker corners of our lives – our weakness, our fears and so that we may be renewed.

In Jesus we are elevated into a new life. As the man born blind received a new capacity, a new way of experiencing the world, so, too, we receive a new capacity for a deeper way of life, to come to experience the familiar world around us in the unfamiliar light of Jesus, who is forever the Light of the World.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us ask the Lord to open our eyes - so that we may see Him more clearly, follow Him more faithfully, and live as people of His light.

May God Bless you
Fr. Joseph Kanatt mcbs

Parish contacts:

Parish Office Operating hours
Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri 9am to 2pm
Closed Tuesday

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FOURTH Sunday of LENT

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

Psalm: Ps 22

Psalm Response: The Lord is my shepherd; There is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Event News

Can You Help Make Palm Crosses?

We need willing volunteers ahead of Palm Sunday

 **10:30am 27th March** – Palm Sunday Workshop

 The Ruby Room

 Refreshments provided

All are welcome – no experience needed! Please speak to the parish office to sign up.

Sacramental Program – Upcoming Schedule

Please take note of the following upcoming dates for our Sacramental Program.

Confirmation - Workshop 2 will be held on 23rd March 5:30pm.

First Penance – Reconciliation will be held on 18th March 5:30pm.

Attendance is essential for all participants. Please mark these dates in your calendar. For any questions, contact the parish office or visit our website for the schedule.

Mass & Confession Times

SATURDAY

St Rita's Church

Confessions — 4.15pm
Vigil Mass 5pm

Russell Island

Confessions before Mass
11th Apr 7:45am Mass Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Sunday at 2pm

Coochiemudlo Island

Confessions before Mass 21st Mar
11am Mass Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Saturday at 11am

Macleay Island

Confessions before Mass
4th Apr 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. 11th March

Holy Week & Easter

St Rita's Church

All welcome.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation - 25th March 6pm

Palm Sunday Vigil Mass - 28th March 5pm

Palm Sunday Mass - 29th March 7am & 9am

1st Rite of Reconciliation - 1st April 6pm & 2nd April 9am

Holy Thursday Mass - 2nd April 6pm

Stations of the Cross - 3rd April 9am

The Passion of the Lord - 3rd April 3pm

Easter Vigil Mass - 4th April 6pm

Easter Sunday Mass - 5th April 7am & 9am

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
Thank you for partnering with us in this sacred journey!

Join us for Stations of the Cross every Friday at 6PM, during Lent, at St. Rita's Church. All are welcome.



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 **1st and 3rd Mondays** of the month, at **10am in the Ruby Room. Next meetings: 16th March** 

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

VISION: Hosanna is to be vibrant Holy Spirit-guided prayer and praise group serving the church through evangelisation, worship and healing prayer.
Meets on Tuesdays at 7pm in St Rita's Church All are welcome!



SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH –

9AM MASS

 **Thursday, 19th March**
St Rita's Church

Join us.

Supporting St Rita's

Dear Parishioners,
Our beloved St Rita's needs your help. We are seeking donations for essential church maintenance and upgrades to ensure our sacred space remains welcoming and functional for years to come.
Your generosity, no matter the amount, makes a real difference in preserving our spiritual home.

How to Donate:
Donation envelopes are available at the back of the church

Direct bank transfer:
BSB: 064-786
Account: 100027374
Account Name: Parish Donation
Reference: Your surname
Thank you for your continued support of our parish community.

A MESSAGE FOR: 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH MASS MINISTRY TEAMS

The weekend of 28/29 March is the Fifth Sunday of the month.

The First Sunday of the Month Mass Ministry Teams are asked to please minister at the Masses on the weekend of 28/29 March.

Thank you & God's blessings

MASS MINISTERS FOR HOLY WEEK at St Rita's Church

A heartfelt thank you to all who have nominated themselves to minister during Holy Week at St Rita's Church. Your service means so much to our parish community.

All nominees will be contacted on the 21st to be informed of the requirements for their respective roles. We are grateful for your commitment and look forward to serving alongside you this Holy Week.

Parish Magazine – Volunteers Wanted!

We're starting a team to help create St Rita's Digest and need willing helpers to share the load.

We're looking for people interested in layout & design, writing or gathering short articles, photography at parish and school events, and liaising with parish groups and the school.

We also welcome submissions from individuals and parish groups — short stories, reflections, prayers, photos, or anything you'd like to share with the parish.

Submit all articles to:
stritasdigestvp@hotmail.com
Interested? Contact Sarina **0400606148**.
No experience needed, just a willingness to help!

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.

A sacred moment as our candidates are entrusted with the Nicene Creed, the heartbeat of our shared faith.



Thanks to all who came along for a lovely afternoon of with **Craft & Chat** sharing and learning!

Next get-together: Saturday April 4th, 2-4pm, Ruby Room. Floral artwork with Hope as our theme — no experience needed. Own projects welcome as always.

See you there!

Prayers For all those who are ill, especially Br. Ray Ryan FSC, 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.



Feast Days of March

Sunday, March 15

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Monday, March 16

- Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent

Tuesday, March 17

- St. Patrick, Bishop

Wednesday, March 18

- St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Thursday, March 19

- St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- This solemnity IS celebrated even during Lent

Friday, March 20

- Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent

Saturday, March 21

- Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent

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Pope's Monthly Intention for March

For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

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://bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com>

STOPline Service: Ph. 1300 304550 | Email: AOb@stopline.com.au | Online Report: bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com



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Thank you for reading!