

St Rita's Newsletter



VICTORIA POINT, THORNLANDS
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ISLANDS.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 22nd March 2026 Year A

LENT – A TIME TO REFLECT THE PROMISE OF NEW LIFE

As we journey into the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to reflect on one of the most powerful themes of our faith: the promise of new life. The readings of this weekend draw us into the mystery of God who brings hope where there seems to be none, and life where there is death.

In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel speaks to a people in exile, a people who feel cut off and lifeless. Yet God promises, "I will open your graves and have you rise from them." This is not just about physical restoration, but about spiritual renewal. God breaths life into what dry and broken within us.

St. Paul, in the second reading, reminds us that we are not meant to live according to the flesh, but in the Spirit. When we allow the Spirit of God to dwell in us, we begin to experience true life, a life marked by freedom, grace and hope.

The Gospel presents the moving story of the raising of Lazarus. Jesus does not remain distant from human suffering; He weeps with Martha and Mary. Yet He also reveals His divine authority: "I am the resurrection and the life." With this, He calls Lazarus out of the tomb, demonstrating that even death is not the end.

The raising of Lazarus, thus, is a symbolic narrative of Jesus' victory over sin and death at the cost of his own human life, and points to Jesus' own coming Resurrection on the third day after his death on the cross. Describing this great miracle, the Church assures us that we, too, will be raised into eternal life after our battle with sin and death in this world. Thus, Resurrection Hope is the central theme of the Scripture readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The readings assure us that our Faith in Jesus, who is "the Resurrection and the Life," promises our participation in Resurrection and new life.

As we approach Holy Week, let us trust in Christ, who alone has the power to bring life from death, and hope from despair.

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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FIFTH Sunday of LENT

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalm: Ps 129

Psalm Response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 11:1-45

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.

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 7:30am Mass Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Sunday at 10am

Coochiemudlo Island

Confessions before Mass 18th Apr
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

Good Friday Stations of the Cross - 3rd April 9am

Good Friday 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: 6th April** 

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!

A LENTEN RETREAT

"Speak Lord, your servant is listening"

Speaker: Fr Joseph Kanatt, MCBS

RECONCILIATION and STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Saturday, 28th March,
(9am – 11:30am)
St Rita's Parish**

All are Welcome
Morning Tea Provided

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

Dear Parishioners,

Please be advised that there will be **no Adoration on Saturday, 28th March 2026.**

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and look forward to welcoming you back for Adoration at its usual time.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the parish office.

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.



Archbishop Shane Mackinlay invites you to the annual

CHRISM MASS
Cathedral of St Stephen
Thursday 26th March 2026
7:00pm

A celebration for the entire Archdiocese. All Welcome

The undercover carpark will be available from 6:00pm



Join us for a cuppa and a chat after Mass on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th – all welcome!



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 22

- Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)

Monday, March 23

- St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
- Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent

Tuesday, March 24

- Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent

Wednesday, March 25

- The Annunciation of the Lord (SOLEMNITY)
- This solemnity IS celebrated even during Lent

Thursday, March 26

- Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent

Friday, March 27

- Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent

Saturday, March 28

- Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent

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!