

St Rita's Newsletter



VICTORIA POINT, THORNLANDS
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COTTON & SOUTHERN BAY
ISLANDS.



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8TH February 2026 Year A

CALLED TO BE LIGHT AND SALT

This weekend is the fifth Sunday in ordinary time year A and the Scripture readings remind us that our faith is not meant to be hidden or kept private. It is meant to be lived, shared, and seen in the way we love and serve others.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah tells us that true worship is shown through acts of justice, generosity, and care for those in need. When we feed the hungry, welcome the lonely, and stand with the vulnerable, the prophet says, "your light will rise in the darkness." Faith becomes real when it is expressed through compassion and action.

Saint Paul, in the second reading, speaks of his own weakness and simplicity as he proclaims the Gospel. He relies not on clever words or human wisdom, but on the power of God. This reminds us that we do not have to be perfect or impressive to witness to Christ. God works through our humility, sincerity, and trust.

In the Gospel, Jesus calls His disciples "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." Salt gives flavour and preserves; light guides and gives hope. Jesus invites us to make a difference by the way we live through small, faithful actions that reflect God's love. When our lives point to goodness, mercy, and truth, they give glory to God. These readings challenge us to ask how we are living our faith in everyday life at home, at work, in our parish, and in our community. Even simple acts of kindness, forgiveness, and generosity can become powerful signs of God's presence. As we gather this weekend, may we hear Jesus' call anew. Strengthened by His word and nourished by the Eucharist, may we go forth as salt and light, bringing hope, warmth, and Christ's love to all we meet.

May God Bless you
Fr. Joseph Kanatt mcbs

Parish contacts:

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Joseph Kanatt MCBS

PRIEST'S DAY OFF — TUESDAYS

Parish Office

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Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Psalm: Ps 111:4-9

Psalm Response: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Event News

SAVE THE DATE Baptism Information Night

Tuesday, 25th February | 5:30pm
Planning for your older child's baptism?

Mark your calendars for an important information evening designed for families with school-aged children interested in baptism:

We'll walk you through the preparation process, answer your questions, and help you take the next steps in your child's faith journey.

When: Tuesday, 25th February at 5:30pm

Where: St Rita's

More details to follow.

Questions? Contact Deb at sc.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

St Rita's Primary School News Opening School Mass

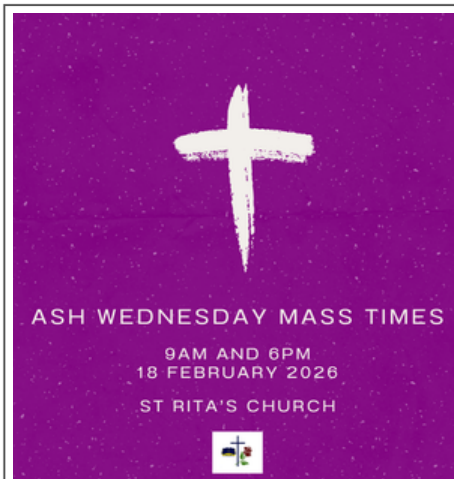
We celebrated our Opening School Mass on Thursday, 5th February, with Fr Joseph, gathering as a community to ask God's blessing over our staff, students, families, and parish, and marking a special first celebration for our Prep students who are still learning the routines of school.

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday falls on 18 February this year, with Year 5 and Year 6 students attending Mass at 9:00am and parents warmly invited to attend the parish Mass.

Volunteers Needed

We welcome parents, grandparents, parishioners, and community members to volunteer in our school community by completing BCE mandatory volunteer training, signing a Declaration and Registration Form, and submitting documentation to the school office for principal approval.



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!

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
21st Feb 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 **1st and 3rd Mondays** of the month, at **10am in the Ruby Room. Next meetings: 16th Feb**



Celebrating Australia Day with faith, community, and gratitude at St Rita's! What a privilege to gather together. God bless Australia!

"We, the community of St. Rita's, joyfully welcome you who have heard God's call and now seek to walk more deeply with Christ and His Church, and we pledge to accompany you with our prayers and support as you begin this sacred journey of faith."



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!



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.-3.30p.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

SOUTH INDIA PILGRIMAGE & LEISURE TOUR

12 NIGHTS / 13 DAYS

Lead by: FR. JOSEPH KANATT

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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.

13 FEBRUARY

National Apology Day

Australian MINISTRIES

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Lord, God of Justice,

As a nation we have said sorry for the cruel and unjust laws and policies throughout our country's history that have "inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians".

Help us, as the People of God, to be advocates of accountability and dignity so that, as we remember and learn from the past, we shape a nation where all can thrive and flourish. Amen.

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, 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.

DECEASED: We commend our deceased to the loving care of the Lord, especially Ian Grey.



Feast Days of February

Sunday, February 8

- Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- St. Jerome Emiliani
- St. Josephine Bakhita

Tuesday, February 10

- St. Scholastica (memorial)

Wednesday, February 11

- Our Lady of Lourdes
- World Day of the Sick

Saturday, February 14

- St. Cyril and St. Methodius (memorial)
- (Also the secular Valentine's Day)

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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!