



St. Rita's Catholic Parish

Incorporating Victoria Point, Thornlands South, Redland Bay, Mount Cotton, Coochiemudlo Island and the Southern Bay Islands. ABN: 25 328 758 007 105

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2nd Sunday of Advent—Year B 10th December 2023

This Week's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, Ps 84:9-14, 1, St Peter 3:8-4, Mark 1:1-8

Next Week —3rd Sunday of Advent—Year B: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, Ps Luke 1:46-50, 53-54, Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Administrator: Fr Rony Kalapurackal Chacko

Administrator of Islands: Fr Rony Kalapurackal Chacko

Parish Office: 07 3207 9177

Parish Email: victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am-2:00pm

Parish Website: www.stritasparish.org

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

Archdiocese of Brisbane: brisbanecatholic.org.au/

Parish Secretary: Angela Dodd

Finance Secretary: Beverley Van Schie

Safeguarding Representative: Bob Snoke

Sacramental Co-ordinator: Jennifer Fielding

Sacramental E-mail: sc.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

School Principal: Carolyn Watson

School: 07 3207 6628 Email: pvictoriapoint@bne.catholic.edu.au

Fb: <https://www.facebook.com/StRitasCatholicPrimary/>

Comfort with a Catch

(Mark 1:1-8)

"There's good news, and there's bad news". A whole body of jokes begin this way, and we laugh ruefully because that statement is generally true. The news is hardly ever good or bad, but rather a blend of results better for some than others. One ball team beats another; is this good news, or bad?

John the Baptist preaches repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Good news or bad? It's great news for sinners who repent. It's good news for people who yearn to be forgiven and know they have reason to be. It's not good news for people who have no intention of leaving their sin behind. And it's positively bad news for the self-righteous, convinced of their innocence and resentful that sinful types are getting off the hook.

The message of John the Baptist is comfort with a catch. The catch is baptism, a drowning to the old way and a resurrection into grasping new life. We can't find comfort in religion – not this religion! – if we intend to remain just as we are. John's baptism is with water, bracing and cold. The Mighty One is coming along soon with fire and spirit. Things are going to change.

How does the message of John comfort you? How does it challenge you?

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Our Second Advent candle is called the Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Peace. It reminds us of when Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace was born in the small town of Bethlehem and came among us as a baby. This candle also reminds us that Jesus promised to come again. By the light of this candle we wait in patience for Jesus.



"We acknowledge the Quandamooka People, Traditional Custodians of the lands, waters and seas where we stand today. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and future."

Be an Eternal Guardian of Your Faith

Do you want to ensure that the mission of the Catholic Church and your local parish continues well in to the future?

We need your support to sustain our faith and continue to provide parish facilities, programs and services for generations to come. Your gift, of any amount, will help carry forward the Gospel message to future generations. To find out how you can be an Eternal Guardian of your faith, please contact us on 07 3324 3632 or visit www.catholicfoundation.org.au

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.

For safeguarding inquiries or to raise any concerns, disclosures or allegations please contact our

Local Safeguarding Representative: Bob Snoke on 0419 247 698 sa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

<https://tinyurl.com/Safeguarding-Incident-Report> <https://tinyurl.com/New-Protecting-Children-Laws>

STOPline Service ☎ 1300 304 550 ✉ AOB@stopline.com.au 🌐 www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

WEEKLY DIARY

Daily (MON, TUES, WED, FRI)

8:30am Rosary - St Rita's Church

MONDAY'S

9:00am Mass—St Rita's Church

9:30am Rosary Crusade Pro Life

TUESDAY'S

9:00am Mass—St Rita's Church

7:00pm Prayer & Praise

WEDNESDAY'S

9:00am Mass—St Rita's Church

10:00am Art Group

3:30pm Choir - St Rita's Church

THURSDAY'S

Parish Priest Day Off (No masses)

FRIDAY'S

9:00am Mass & Holy Hour—
St Rita's Church

MASS TIMES

ST RITA'S CHURCH

Weekdays 9am (Except Thursday)

Saturday 5pm (Vigil)

Sunday 7am & 9am

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4:30pm

HEALING MASS: 2nd Wednesday of

the Month 9am

MAREBELLO: 1st Wednesday of the

Month 9:30am

BAY ISLAND MASS CENTRES

COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND - Coochiemudlo
Island Community Hall,

345 Victoria Parade,

Coochiemudlo Island

11:00am Saturday (2nd, 16th Dec)

MACLEAY ISLAND—Church of the Holy

Spirit, Scotts Road, Macleay Island

2pm Sunday Mass (3rd, 17th Dec)

9am Liturgy (10th, 31st Dec)

RUSSELL ISLAND

Bay Islands Community Services

55 Jackson Rd, Russell Island

2pm Sunday Mass (10th, 31st Dec)

2pm Virtual (3rd, 17th Dec)

Please take a moment to pray for:

All those who are ill, especially Ross Cooper, Elaine Prestney, Maddy Brown, Bill Mellor, Annette Doherty, Lucas Bernal, Alfio Tomarchio, Michael Quilty, Chris Venter, Doris Williamson, Fr Jim Browne, Margaret Ross, Alan Williamson, Lois Hodges, Helen Stockwell, Marlie Meehan, Denise Fowler, Emma Heinrich, Paul Trubody, Kay Grieve, Jela Cicak, Matthew Scott and those who seek healing in their lives and for all those who care for them.



We commend all the recently deceased.

We pray for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Louie Vassallo.

If you wish to have a loved one's name mentioned in the Parish Newsletter for an anniversary, a remembrance or a prayer for the sick, please contact the Parish Office. Envelopes to request Masses to be offered for the sick, dying, deceased or for special intentions are available at the back of the church. Mass Cards are available.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

It's that time of year again when the Society needs your help in making up Christmas Hampers for the families who seek our assistance. Last year we catered for 65 families in our Parish area (including the Bay Islands) and 150 children.

We need donations of all manner of non-perishable groceries and especially tinned hams, Christmas cakes and Christmas puddings as well as all the usual Christmas goodies.

We also need toys and gifts for children of all ages up to 10yrs. If you would like to make a financial contribution - we'll be very happy to shop for you. Donation envelopes are available on the back table of the Church and can be left on any of the collection plates or dropped in the St. Vincent de Paul boxes at the Church doors.

If you would like a receipt for taxation purposes, please give us your details and it will be mailed to you.

Help us make a difference and give a "lift" to the many families who are under even more pressure at this time of year to provide the basics, let alone any of the Season's luxuries. We are sure you will all be blessed for your generosity.



Pope's Prayer Intention December 2023

For persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Cathedral Masses

<https://tinyurl.com/St-Stephens-Cathedral-Masses>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are in need of additional volunteers to assist in the monthly Meet & Greet for the Saturday Vigil Mass.

If you are able to assist, please see John Evans (PPC Chairperson) or your Mass Coordinator.

Thank you.

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.

The total for both collections for the weekend of **26th November 2023** is **\$2 631.35**

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS:

RECENT ACTIVITIES – continued cleaning and painting OSHC internal walls, repairs to corroded church/school gutters, 6-monthly fire systems checks in Presbytery, parish Office and OSHC building.

CURRENT TASKS NEEDING TO BE DONE – deep clean of presbytery carpets before new priest arrives (scheduled Saturday 16th Dec), repair/replace several taps in presbytery, annual carpet deep clean in OSHC (scheduled Saturday 16th Dec), paint OSHC verandah wall, repairs to kitchen cupboards in OSHC, re-oiling of OSHC verandah deck, removal of mould and sanding/ painting of presbytery window sills doors and door frames (scheduled for 2024), repair/replace damaged fence panel in church carpark (on hold), painting of presbytery gutters and eaves (on hold).

POSSIBLE FUTURE PROJECTS DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING – replace rotted-out fence posts (presbytery yard fence along side school oval), plaster repairs to ceilings in presbytery.

St Rita's Men's Group

The St Rita's Men's Social Group will be gathering for their annual Sundowner at Thompson's Beach at 4:30pm on Friday 15th December (rain permitting) to watch the tide come in (or out) – plenty of parking available.

Bring a chair to sit on and something to eat and drink. Insect spray a good idea.
Be prepared to talk.

Please advise Mike Duggan 0429629211 or duggancasa@outlook.com if you are attending.

A Notice from Fr Rony

On the Second Sunday of Advent, we light the second purple candle- "the Candle of Peace". One of the hallmarks of the Christmas story is when the angels appear to the shepherds and proclaim, "Peace on earth,"

Jesus brought about peace, in the most unexpected ways, when he arrived. The Jews, particularly the zealots, wanted a rebellion. They wanted their Saviour to overturn the oppressive rule of the Romans and bring about peace in a violent way. But Jesus had something else in mind. Jesus brings us peace in several ways.

First, he gives us inner peace. Because of his work on the cross, we have a chance to receive salvation and be indwelt by the Holy Spirit. This grants us an inner peace. Not only do we have the peace that comes from our assurance of salvation, but we also have the peace of mind of knowing God will heal this broken world and will come again.

Second, we have peace with others. We put aside our differences, especially with other believers, because we belong to the same family. We have the same purpose: to let others know about the peace of Christ. The Peace of God allows us to look at others through Heaven's eyes and help guide the world to see God's kingdom. As a worshipping community, let us pray together for the World peace.

May the God of peace ignite the hearts of world leaders to act prudently to be the ambassadors of Peace.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION Thanksgiving Mass

The Hosanna Prayer & Praise Group will have a Thanksgiving Mass and Christmas Celebration on Tuesday 12th December at 7pm at St Rita's Church.

Celebrants are Fr Ladu and Fr Ravi

Everyone is invited to come and bring a plate to share for supper.



St. Rita's Parish Mass Times for the Christmas Weekend 2023

St. Rita's

Saturday 23 Dec. Vigil for 4th Sunday of Advent 5pm at St Rita's Church
Sunday 24 Dec. 4th Sunday of Advent 8am at St Rita's Church

Sunday 24 Dec. Vigil for Christmas 5pm at UNITAS Hall
Monday 25 Dec. Christmas Day 7am at St Rita's Church
Christmas Day 9am at St Rita's Church

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 19th Dec. 5:30pm at St. Rita's Church

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 23 Dec. 4pm to 4.45pm at St. Rita's Church

No Reconciliation before Christmas Masses

Bay Islands

Coochlemudlo Island
Sat. 23 Dec. 4th Sunday of Advent 11am at Community Hall

Macleay Island
Monday 25 Dec. Christmas Day 8am at Holy Spirit Church

Russell Island
Monday 25 Dec. Christmas Day 9.45am at Bay Islands Community Services Centre

"...but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'" Luke 2:10-12

St. Rita's Catholic Parish
37 Benfer Road, Victoria Point, Qld. 4165
Phone: (07) 3207 9177 Website: www.stritasparish.org



DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY?

Please fill out the form below and place into the collections box or contact the Parish Office
Call 3207 9177 or email victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

NAME: _____
PHONE: _____
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