



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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4th Sunday of Advent—Year B 24th December 2023

This Week's Readings: Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12,14,16 , Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Next Week —*The Feast of the Holy Family—Year B: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3 , Ps 104:1-6, 8-9, Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19, Luke 2:22-40*

Administrator: Fr Rony Kalapurackal Chacko
Priest in Service: Fr Ravi Kumar Koyya
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: p.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.edu.au
Fb: <https://www.facebook.com/StRitasCatholicPrimary/>

A Place for God to Live

(Luke 1:26-38)

Mary is called the Ark of the Covenant because, of all the places God chooses to dwell, Mary's womb is the most surprising. The Ark built in Moses' time was an elaborate throne; the Temple that housed it more astonishing still. But neither feat of craftsmanship compared with the body of a young girl who embraced the opportunity to serve God so intimately. She was not only a vessel of God-life, but her life upheld and sustained that union. Mary knit her human life together with God's. Only a mother understands how completely a unity Mary had to make with divinity to arrive at that communion.

The Church calls us to be Christ-bearers too. We carry Christ within us in a mystical way that is nonetheless real. We share Christ-life in our sacraments and are temples of the Holy Spirit, reserves of wonder and awe. We're called to prepare the way for God to pitch a tent in our midst. God's house will never be a gated community, reserved for a privileged few. We hold a treasure, like Mary did; not for ourselves, but for the world.

How do you bear Christ into the world?

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Our fourth Advent candle is called the Angels' Candle or the Candle of Love. Mary and Joseph were both visited by Angels to announce Jesus' coming and again to the shepherds upon Jesus' arrival. It was because of God's love for us, that He sent His only Son to save us.

Through the love of God then, let us prepare our hearts as the Lord's coming draws near.

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)



“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

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 and Patricia O'Leary.

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.



Sincere thanks firstly to our fellow Parishioners for your support, both large and small, to our Christmas Appeal. This enabled us to assemble and deliver 64 Hampers containing food, toys and gifts to some disadvantaged and very appreciative families and individuals living in our Parish area, including the Boy Islands.

We wish to make special mention of some very generous donations of finance and quantities of toys and food and those who gave up their time to help with sorting, making up and distributing the hampers.

We would also like to acknowledge ongoing support from the Management, Staff, Retailers and customers of the Victoria Point Shopping centre, BDO in particular, the Staff, Students and families of Carmel College and St Rita's School and the Staff at Redlands Hospital.

We received cash donations, which not only helped supplement donated goods, but will also assist with School uniforms and stationery for the coming year, as well as enabling us to carry on with our work in 2024.

We are, of necessity, a very active and busy group and if you feel you would like to investigate joining us in this important work of Christian Charity, you can reach us through the Parish Office or come to one of our Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7.00pm in the Ruby Rooms.

Please remember the Society in your prayers and God Bless you all and keep you safe in 2024!



THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTERS DURING THIS TIME

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 **10th December 2023** is **\$ 2 830.20**

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS:

RECENT ACTIVITIES – laying of turf at entrance to OSHC building.

CURRENT TASKS NEEDING TO BE DONE – finalisation of cleaning and painting OSHC internal walls (scheduled for w/e 6th Jan 2024), repair/replace several taps in presbytery, paint OSHC verandah wall, re-oiling of OSHC verandah deck (scheduled for w/e 6th Jan 2024), 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.

A Notice from Fr Rony

Dear Parishioners,

A family celebrated Christmas every year with a birthday party for Jesus. An extra chair of honour at the table became the family's reminder of Jesus' presence. A cake with candles, along with the singing of "Happy Birthday" expressed the family's joy in Jesus' presence. One year on Christmas afternoon a visitor to the home asked the five-year-old girl, "Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas?" After a moment's hesitation, she answered, "No, but it's not my birthday, It's Jesus' birthday!" Yes, it is Jesus' Birthday. Let us wish him a happy birthday and wish each other a Merry Christmas because a Saviour has been born for all of us. So, as we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, let joy be born in our hearts not just this Christmas day, but the whole year; not just the whole year, but our whole lives. Let us inspire this world, which can seem so lost in darkness, with the light of Christ in the light of our joy. Let us welcome family and friends. Let us welcome strangers and travellers in our midst who may join us to celebrate the Eucharist. Make room in the pews; greet them with a welcoming smile and gracious hospitality to those like Mary and Joseph, who are seeking room in the inn. Let us not send them away to be born in a manger like the baby Jesus. If you are returning to Church today from a long absence, or even a short one, let the joy of this celebration fill you. Let the light of Christ into your lives and your hearts so that your hearts may grow "three sizes" this day and return to the joy of celebrating the Eucharist today and every week of the year. Because it is your house...No, it is our home. My thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners, for all you do even through the tough times. It is with humble joy that we give thanks for the honour of serving as your Pastors. Thank you for all your love, care, support and prayers.

Christmas asks us a tough question. Do we close the doors of our hearts to Jesus Who is looking for a place to be reborn in our lives? There is no point in being sentimental about the doors slammed by the folk in Bethlehem, if there is no room in our hearts for the same Jesus coming in the form of the needy. We need to reverence each human life and to treat others respectfully as the living residences of the Incarnate God. To neglect the old, to be contemptuous of the poor, or to have no thought for the unemployed and the lonely, is to ignore those individuals with whom Christ has so closely identified Himself. Hence, we all need to examine ourselves daily on the doors we close to Jesus. Kindly find some time to look back to the year 2023. Look forward to making 2024 a fruitful year and making good resolutions.

May God bless you this Christmas, and on the New Year. May all darkness in your lives be removed by the light of Christ. May your hearts be filled with the Joy of Christ's birth and may you be missionaries of that joy. Thank you everyone for making this year more fruitful.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.



MASSES AFTER CHRISTMAS

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Sat 30th & Sun 31st Dec

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
Mon 1st Jan 2024
(9am Mass only)

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
Sat 6th & Sun 7th Jan 2024



There will not be any Masses on the following day:



**Tuesday 26 Dec
Wednesday 27 Dec
Thursday 28 Dec
Friday 29 Dec**

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: _____
EMAIL: _____





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3207 9177



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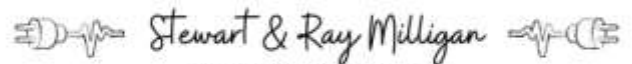
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