



# 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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1st Sunday of Advent—Year B 3rd December 2023

**This Week's Readings:** *Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8, Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37*

Next Week —2nd Sunday of Advent—Year B: *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, Ps 84:9-14, 1, St Peter 3:8-4, Mark 1:1-8*

Administrator: Fr Rony Kalapurackal Chacko

Administrator of Islands: Fr Rony Kalapurackal Chacko

Parish Office: 07 3207 9177

Parish Email: [victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au)

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

Parish Website: [www.stritasparish.org](http://www.stritasparish.org)

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

Archdiocese of Brisbane: [brisbanecatholic.org.au/](http://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](mailto:sc.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au)

School Principal: Carolyn Watson

School: 07 3207 6628 Email: [pvictoriapoint@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pvictoriapoint@bne.catholic.edu.au)

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

## Like Leaves in the Wind

(Mark 13:33-37)

I've known several people in the last three years who were told by their doctors they were terminally ill. In each case, these folks immediately made decisions about their lives that they'd been delaying until now. People who know they're dying can't afford to save anything until later. There may not be a "later". There's only now.

The rest of us are kidding ourselves if we think we're not dying: not now, not any time soon, maybe never. When Jesus says, "Be watchful!", we think he means the other guy. We put our faith squarely in "later". Some of us belong to the Church of Later, in which we fully intend to be good, spiritual, faithful people – at a future time to be announced.

Some of us may live to a satisfying old age and wear out with a smile. Some of us will get a deadline from our doctors and have some lead time to prepare. Many of us are left in the dark as to when we'll die or how. This can make us sloppy about the way we live, even arrogant about it. Not taking death seriously is a real mistake in the spiritual life. The church's wisdom is to remind us, right from the start of the church year, that mortality is just what it says it is: a short-term proposition.

What are the lessons that death teaches you?

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The first weekend of Advent means the blessing of the Wreath and Candles. The circle of the wreath, **without and beginning or an end, symbolises God's unending love for us and reminds us of eternity.** The evergreen leaves represented growth and hopes of eternal life. The symbol of evergreens is rather lost in our part of the world, so Australian gum leaves, nuts and flowers are sometimes substituted.



Our first Advent Candle is the Prophet Candle or the Candle of Hope because it reminds us of the prophets – those who **spoke God's word to the people during the hundreds of years before Jesus was born.** The prophets gave the people hope by telling them about God.



**"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](http://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](mailto: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@stoline.com.au](mailto:AOB@stoline.com.au) 🌐 [www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com](http://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.**

# Meet & Greet

*Meet & Greet will be held after all Masses this weekend.*



## 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>

## 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.

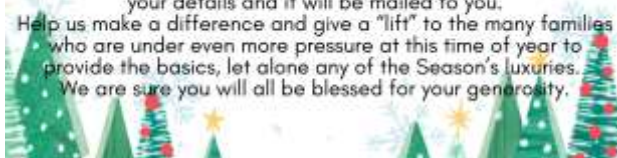
We need donations of all manner of non-perishable groceries and especially tinned hams, Christmas cakes and Christmas puddings as well as all the usual Christmas goodies.

We also need toys and gifts for children of all ages up to 16yrs. 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.



## 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 **19th November 2023** is **\$2 663.30**

### **WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS:**

RECENT ACTIVITIES – repaired inside walls of OSHC building and started painting OSHC verandah wall and internal walls.

CURRENT TASKS NEEDING TO BE DONE – repairs to corroded church/school gutters (scheduled 7th Dec), 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), 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.



## Sacramental News

### Sacrament of Penance 2023

May the children who made their 1st Penance during the week feel the joy that comes from God's forgiveness. May they always remember that out of love for us, God gave us Jesus, who died for the forgiveness of our sins, so that we can have eternal life with Him, and turn to our merciful God in this Sacrament.

Thank you for all those involved in helping and praying for the children.

God bless from Jennifer Fielding

## HOSANNA LIBRARY

Ruby Room, Beside the Parish office  
(Monday to Friday 9:00 am till 2:00pm)



The Prayer Group maintains a library, that has a variety of Resources, for children, youth, and adult, including DVD's and CD's, Novels, study books picture books and much more...

To borrow, please record your name, phone number and date in the borrowing of the book.

Everyone is welcome to use the library.

## A Notice from Fr Rony

Today Church begins a new liturgical Year and Season of Advent. Advent means waiting or coming and we wait for the coming of someone we love. The Advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. During this season we focus on waiting for the Lord, waiting for the coming of Jesus. During Advent we look forward to Jesus who will come in a total gesture of love: God becomes man. The Gospel of Mark invites all to a spiritual vigilance. He tells us all to be ever alert so that the coming of the Son does not find us unprepared for no one knows the day or hour of his coming.

The Main attractions of the Advent Season are Wreath and Advent Candles. The use of the wreath and candles during Advent is full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season.

The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the colour violet is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Like the prophets in the Old Testament, we hope for a Messiah to save us from the sin in the world (Isaiah 9:6-7).

We anticipate our Saviour's arrival. Also known as the "Prophecy Candle", this candle assures us we can have hope that God will fulfil the prophecies declared in the Old Testament about Jesus. Hope doesn't disappoint us (Romans 5:5).

On this first Sunday of Advent, let us be hopeful in our lives and continue to trust in our God who is the God of Hope.

## Harrison Carr



Will be Baptised Sunday 3rd December 2023.

We welcome Harrison and his family into our Parish Community.

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

#### St. Rita's

Saturday 23 Dec. Vigil for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 5pm at St Rita's Church  
Sunday 24 Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

Coochiemudlo Island  
Sat. 23 Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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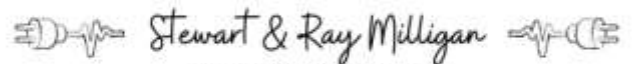
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