



# Victoria Point Catholic Parish

Victoria Point, Thornlands South, Redland Bay, Mount Cotton,  
Coochiemudlo Island and the Southern Bay Islands.

37 Benfer Road, Victoria Point | **Postal Address:** P O Box 5285, Victoria Point QLD 4165 | **Phone:** (07) 3207 9177 | **Email:** [victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au)

*We recognise the traditional owners of this land, The Quandamooka People.*



## PARISH PRIEST:

**Fr Jose Panampuzha CMI**

[panampuzhaj@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:panampuzhaj@bne.catholic.net.au)

PRIEST'S DAY OFF — TUESDAYS

## Parish Office:

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3207 9177

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## The Baptism of the Lord

12th January 2025



### *Jesus is Praying*

The first part of this Sunday's Gospel passage deals with the messianic hope of the Jews. Many people think John the Baptist might be the Messiah because of his teachings, his charitable works, and his call for people to act justly. In the Gospel, John quickly clarifies that he is not the Messiah when he says, "One who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals" (3:16). You may recall that this passage is also part of the Gospel on the Third Sunday of Advent. Remember, John is making a powerful analogy: only the lowest of the slaves, only a non-Jew, would ever be required to loosen his master's sandal thong. John suggests that in relation to the Messiah, he is even lower than the lowliest slave.

John further contrasts his baptism of water to the Messiah's baptism of the "Holy Spirit and fire" (3:16). Baptism with the Holy Spirit is about bringing to the world God's salvation as well as God's judgment (fire). In verse 17, Luke's image of the winnowing fork and the threshing floor dramatizes this baptism of fire, but we do not read it as part of the Gospel this Sunday.

The story of the baptism of Jesus is recorded for us in the first three Gospels. Jesus's baptism marks the beginning of his public life. In verses 21 and 22, Luke gives us his account of the baptism of Jesus. When you compare Luke's Gospel with Matthew's and Mark's, you see a unique difference in Luke. In Matthew and Mark, the spirit of God descends on Jesus as he comes out of the water, but in Luke, God's spirit descends on Jesus after he has been baptized and is praying. Jesus at prayer is something we read of often in the writings of Luke, who punctuates Jesus's life story by recounting episodes of prayer, particularly at critical moments. In Luke, Jesus is praying when God descends upon him in the form of a dove to proclaim, "You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (3:22). Luke also seems to draw on Genesis 1:2 in his account of Jesus's baptism. The Jerusalem Bible offers this translation of the Genesis passage: "And God's spirit hovered over the water" (1:3). God's proclamation of Jesus as God's son honours Jesus and clears any misconception about the true patrimony of Jesus. God also professes God's love for Jesus and declares that Jesus has found favour with God.

<https://www.liturgia.com.au/App/ScriptureReflections?rgicalDayID=56&YearCode=C>

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (Year C)

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30 (Year C) *R. O bless the Lord, my soul!*

**Second Reading:** Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 (Year C)

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! *John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Gospel:** Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 (Year C)

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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>

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## MASS TIMES

### SATURDAY

#### St Rita's Church

Reconciliation 4.15pm

Mass 5.00pm Vigil

#### COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND

18 Jan.—Mass

(Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Saturday at 11am)

### SUNDAY

#### St Rita's Church

Mass 7.00am & 9.00am

#### MACLEAY ISLAND

12 Jan – 1.45pm

(Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Sundays at 9am)

#### RUSSELL ISLAND

19 Jan.- 2pm

(Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Sundays at 2pm)

### MONDAY

#### St Rita's Church

Rosary 8.30am

Mass 9.00am

Pro-Life Rosary 9.30am

### TUESDAY

#### St Rita's Church

No Mass

### WEDNESDAY

#### St Rita's Church

Rosary 8.30am

Mass 9.00am

### THURSDAY

#### St Rita's Church

Rosary 8.30am

Mass 9.00am

### FRIDAY

#### St Rita's Church

Mass & Adoration at 9am

#### MAREBELLO

1st Wed of Month – Eucharist

#### HEALING MASS

2nd Wed of Month – 9.00am Mass



## THE JUBILEE YEAR OF 2025

### Pilgrims of Hope

*Continued from last newsletter*

The Jubilee looks back to the first Roman celebration in 1300. It also looks back much further to the biblical jubilee, which was celebrated every fifty years. It was a time of renewal for the people of God, a time to make a new beginning, a time of focus again on the God-given identity of ancient Israel as a community of slaves set free in a world which says that slaves can never come free. The Jubilee is therefore a call to recognise the many forms of slavery, overt and covert, that are found in this culture and in our own lives—and to renew our faith in the possibility of freedom and commit ourselves anew to what freedom requires. Any pilgrimage—even the little pilgrimage of walking through the Holy Door—is a farewell to an old enslaving way of life and an embrace of a new way of life which the Lord crucified and risen makes possible.

The motto of this Jubilee Year is “Pilgrims of Hope”. Any journey we make through this year we make not as tourists or holiday-makers but as pilgrims. It is a journey of faith. And it is driven by a hope which is not mere wishful thinking but the proclamation of a true hope in a world which often seems hopeless, a hope grounded ultimately in Easter. This hope is an expectation that what God has done in Jesus he will do in the world and even the cosmos. God will bring light from darkness, life from death.

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that “there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God” (4:9). In a deeply restless world, may this Jubilee Year be a time of Sabbath which God alone can provide, refreshing our souls and putting new heart into the Church as we take the path traced by the Archdiocesan Synod and its Action Plans. Amen.

*Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane*

### FEASTS in JANUARY

Mon. 13th	St Hilary
Fri. 17th	St Anthony
Mon. 20th	St Fabian, Pope St Sebastian
Tues. 21st	St Agnes
Wed. 22nd	St Vincent
Fri. 24th	St Francis de Sales
Sat. 25th	Conversion of St Paul the Apostle
Mon. 27th	Sts Timothy & Titus St Angela Merici
Tues. 28th	St Thomas Aquinas
Fri. 31st	St John Bosco

### POPES' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

#### **For the right to an education:**

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



### **Please Order Your Lenten Books Now**

Journey through Lent with the  
***Metanoia—Lenten Book.***

This Lent, embark on a journey of *metanoia*, a transformative change of heart inspired by the Gospels. ***Metanoia*** is rich with insights that inspire and challenge us to live the true meaning of Lent.

Whether you are journeying individually or with a group, ***Metanoia*** offers the tools to rediscover hope, mercy, and the life-giving power of God's grace.

**ORDER YOUR COPY by putting your name on the Order Sheet at the church doors or by contacting the parish office:**

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

## PRAYERS

**For all those who are ill**, especially Miles Muscroft, Nicola Hardaker, Sebastian Ricca, Elaine Prestney, Maddy Brown, Lucas Bernal, Annette Doherty, Alfio Tomarchio, Michael Quilty, Chris Venter, Doris Williamson, 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 the recently deceased to the loving care of the Lord.



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Each Sunday during the 9am Mass



**ST VINCENT DE PAUL** meet on  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the  
month, at 10am in the  
Ruby Room.

### HOSANNA PRAYER AND PRAISE

Meetings will resume on  
**Tuesday 21st January at 7pm** at  
St Rita's Church.



### Christian Meditation

The Group resumes on Wednesday 29th January at 5pm  
in St Rita's Chapel

For more information: please contact the Parish Office and your  
enquiry will be directed to Lorr Popple



### Art Group

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

If you are interested in art and would like to paint, please  
join us on Wednesdays. The Group is starting back again on  
**Wednesday 15 January** in the Ruby Room (next to parish office).

## 2025 Brisbane Sinulog Festival is being held in honour of the Feast of the Holy Child

on Sunday, 19 January 2025 at St. Stephen's Cathedral 249 Elizabeth St. Brisbane City

**Program:** 1:30pm Novena to Sr. Sto. Nino; 2:00pm Holy Mass; 3:15pm Cathedral grounds Parade/Procession; 3:45pm Sinulog Cultural Performances; 4:45pm Refreshments (bring a plate to share). You may bring your Sto. Nino images/icons for blessing/procession and come in Filipiniana attire. **Further info:** Glenn 0468820333; Paul 0450957181; and Jima 0432374239



## THANK YOU MIKE!

On behalf of St Rita's Parish, we would like to thank Mike Duggan for his tireless involvement with the WH&S, maintenance and improvements of our church buildings and OSHC facilities over many years. Mike is now stepping back and Tony Harris has taken up the role of attending to these tasks. We wish Mike well during the years that lie ahead.

*Parish Priest and Parishioners*

## WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

### WH&S, Maintenance and Improvements

**Recent Activities** – annual gutter cleaning parish office, presbytery, chapel, OSHC, replaced filter in overhead data projector in church.

**Current Tasks needing to be done** – repairs to downpipe on OSHC building, removal /sale of chairs and tables on presbytery side patio, complete the painting of OSHC verandah wall, removal of mould and sanding/ painting of presbytery window sills doors and door frames (scheduled for 2025), repair/replace damaged fence panel in church carpark (on hold), painting of presbytery gutters and eaves (on hold), plaster repairs to ceilings in presbytery.

**Possible Future projects depending on availability of funding** – replace rotted-out fence posts (presbytery yard fence along side school oval), replace carpet in chapel and church.

**For any issues that need attention PLEASE CONTACT TONY HARRIS via the parish office**

### 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 Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy spirit, Reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, Be glory and praise for ever. Amen. (Pope Francis)



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Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

**Dr. Gill van Iddekinge**  
M.B.B.Ch., F.C.O.G., M.Med.,  
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