

# St Rita's Newsletter



VICTORIA POINT, THORNLANDS  
SOUTH, REDLAND BAY, MOUNT  
COTTON & SOUTHERN BAY  
ISLANDS.



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 22ND February 2026 Year A

### LENT – A TIME OF PREPERATION

We are in the season of Lent, and this weekend is first Sunday of Lent. It is primarily the time of intense spiritual preparation for conquering our temptations and renewal of our faith life.

As we begin the holy season of Lent on this First Sunday, the Scripture readings gently invite us to reflect on temptation, sin, and God's saving grace. In the first reading, we hear the story of Adam and Eve, who faced temptation and chose disobedience. Their story reminds us of our own human weakness and the daily choices we make between good and evil. Temptation is not new; it is part of the human journey.

In the Gospel, we see Jesus Christ in the desert, fasting and praying for forty days. He is tempted by the devil, yet He resists by remaining faithful to God's Word. Unlike Adam and Eve, who gave in to temptation, Jesus shows us the path of obedience, trust, and inner strength. His victory over temptation gives us hope that, with God's grace, we too can overcome our struggles.

St Paul reminds us in the second reading that while sin entered the world through one man, salvation comes through Christ. Where sin increased, grace abounded even more. Lent, therefore, is not a season of sadness, but a season of grace, renewal, and transformation.

This sacred time calls us to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Through prayer, we deepen our relationship with God. Through fasting, we learn self-discipline and dependence on Him. Through almsgiving, we grow in compassion and love for others.

As a parish community, let us walk together on this Lenten journey with sincere hearts. May we resist temptation, return to God with humility, and renew our faith. Let this season be a time of conversion, where we open our hearts to God's mercy and prepare ourselves joyfully for the celebration of Easter.

May God Bless you  
Fr. Joseph Kanatt mcbs

First Sunday of LENT

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Psalm: Ps Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17

Psalm Response: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

### Parish contacts:

#### PARISH PRIEST

**Fr Joseph Kanatt MCBS**

PRIEST'S DAY OFF — TUESDAYS

#### Parish Office

**Secretary:** *Hayley Jessiman*

(Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri)

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

#### Sacramental Coordinator

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#### Finance (Mon, Tues, Wed)

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#### Columbarium Enquiries Parish Office

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#### Safeguarding Officer

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*Helen Dowling*

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#### School Principal

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#### OHSC

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# Event News

## Sacramental Program – Upcoming Schedule

Please take note of the following upcoming dates for our Sacramental Program.

**Confirmation** – Rite of Enrolment Mass will be celebrated over the weekend of **28th February and 1st March**. We encourage all candidates and their families to attend this important milestone.

**First Penance – Youth Session 1** will be held on **4th March**. Attendance is essential for all participants. Please mark these dates in your calendar. For any questions, contact the parish office or visit our website for the schedule.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Mass on Russell Island last week with Fr. Joseph! Hope to see you all again soon. All are welcome! 🙏



Join us for Stations of the Cross every Friday at 6PM, starting this Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, at St. Rita's Church. All are welcome.



### Lenten Groups

Join us this Lent for prayer and fellowship:

#### Hosanna Prayer Group

Tuesday from 17th February, 7:00 PM, St Rita's church

#### Morning Group

Thursdays from 19th February, 10:00 AM, Ruby Room

All welcome. Contact the parish office for details.



## Baptism Information Night

Tuesday, 25th February | 5:30pm |  
St Rita's

Planning for your older child's baptism? Join us for an information evening designed for families with school-aged children. We'll cover the preparation process, answer questions, and guide you through the next steps.

Questions? Contact Deb at  
[sc.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sc.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au)

## 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](mailto: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 Mar 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  
7<sup>th</sup> Mar 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. 11<sup>th</sup> March

## 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> March**



## 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

Join us for our weekly **Art group** every **Wednesday morning at 10am** in the **Ruby room**—all skill levels and creative spirits welcome!



## Supporting St Rita's

Dear Parishioners,  
Our beloved St Rita's needs your help. We are seeking donations for essential church maintenance and upgrades to ensure our sacred space remains welcoming and functional for years to come. Your generosity, no matter the amount, makes a real difference in preserving our spiritual home.

**How to Donate:**  
**Donation envelopes are available at the back of the church**

**Direct bank transfer:**  
**BSB: 064-786**  
**Account: 100027374**  
**Account Name: Parish Donation**  
**Reference: Your surname**  
Thank you for your continued support of our parish community.

## Parish Office Schedule Change

We'd like to inform you of a change to our office hours.

**Effective March 3, 2025**, the Parish Office will no longer be open on Tuesdays but will instead be open on Thursdays. This adjustment will help us better serve the parish community.

If you typically visit on Tuesdays, we welcome you to stop by on Thursday or any other weekday during our regular hours.

## Craft & Chat Afternoon

**Next Session: Saturday, March 7th | 2-4pm Ruby room**

**Join us! Deb Harris will demonstrate painting techniques, or bring your own projects.**

**Looking forward to seeing you there!**

**St Rita's Men's Social Group – Friday 27 Feb, 10am Visit to the Dohles Rock Road boat ramp café and newly-opened farm machinery museum. Car-pooling may be available – depart Parish Office 9am. Contact Mike Duggan to attend.**

**Archbishop Shane Mackinlay** has released his **first Lent Pastoral Letter** to the Archdiocese of Brisbane, drawing on Pope Leo XIV's Message for Lent to invite all the faithful into a deeper practice of listening – to God, to one another, and to our community as we seek healing and renewal this season. Read the full letter here: [brisbanecatholic.org.au](http://brisbanecatholic.org.au)

## STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR PARISHFAMILY

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](http://stritasparish.flocknote.com/register) or scan the QR code below.

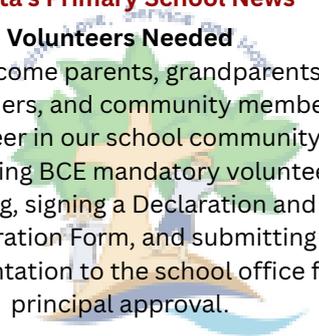


Stay connected. Stay informed. Stay part of our St Rita's family.

## St Rita's Primary School News

### 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.



**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, 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, especially Jack Taylor.

**DECEASED:** We commend our deceased to the loving care of the Lord.



## Feast Days of February

Sunday, February 22

- First Sunday of Lent

Monday, February 23

- St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr (memorial)
- Monday of the First Week of Lent

Tuesday, February 24

- Tuesday of the First Week of Lent

Wednesday, February 25

- Wednesday of the First Week of Lent

Thursday, February 26

- Thursday of the First Week of Lent

Friday, February 27

- Friday of the First Week of Lent

Saturday, February 28

- Saturday of the First Week of Lent

## Pope's Monthly Intention for February

### For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

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](mailto:sa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au) or <https://bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com>

STOPline Service: Ph. 1300 304550| Email: [A0B@stopline.com.au](mailto:A0B@stopline.com.au)| Online Report: [bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com](https://bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com)

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*Thank you for reading!*