

St Rita's Newsletter



VICTORIA POINT, THORNLANDS
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COTTON & SOUTHERN BAY
ISLANDS.



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
25 January 2026 Year A

Walking in the light of Christ

This Third Sunday in Ordinary Time invites us to reflect on the transforming power of God's light and the call to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. The prophet Isaiah speaks to a people who were living in darkness and despair, promising that "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." This promise is fulfilled in today's Gospel as Jesus begins his public ministry in Galilee, a place once overshadowed by hardship, now illuminated by hope. Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus proclaims a simple but powerful message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repentance is not merely about turning away from sin; it is about turning towards God, choosing light over darkness, hope over fear, and love over indifference. Wherever Christ is welcomed darkness loses its grip.

The Gospel also presents the call of the first disciples. Jesus calls ordinary fishermen - Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John - and they respond immediately, leaving behind their nets to follow him. Their response challenges us to reflect on our own discipleship. What are the "nets" that hold us back - habits, fears, comfort, or divisions - that prevent us from fully following Christ? St Paul's letter to the Corinthians reminds us that discipleship is lived in unity. He appeals to the community to be of "one mind and one heart" and warns against divisions. In a world marked by conflict and fragmentation, the Church is called to be a sign of unity, reconciliation and shared mission.

As we gather for the Eucharist, we are reminded that Christ continues to walk among us, calling us to follow him and to become bearers of his light. May this Sunday renew our commitment to live as disciples - walking in the light of Christ, building unity, and proclaiming hope through our words and actions.

May God Bless you,
Fr. Joseph Kanatt mcbs

Third Sunday In Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 8:23-9:3

Psalm: Ps 26:1,4,13-14

Psalm Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom & healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Parish contacts:

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Joseph Kanatt MCBS

PRIEST'S DAY OFF — TUESDAYS

Parish Office

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Event News

To Families with baptised, confirmed children who have received First Holy Communion are invited to our First Penance Information Night.

Learn about the program, key dates, and how to support your child's faith journey

17 Monday, 9th February

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

St. Rita's Catholic Church

Fr. Joseph will welcome families and share the significance of this sacrament.

RSVP by 4th February:

stritasparish.flocknote.com/signup/242580

You are warmly invited to our Confirmation Information Night to learn about the program, key dates, and how to support your child's faith journey.



17 Date: Wednesday, 11th February

Time: 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Location: St. Rita's Catholic Church

Fr. Joseph will join us to welcome families and share the significance of this special sacrament. We look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Please RSVP by 4th February:

<https://stritasparish.flocknote.com/signup/242578>

Welcome back to St Rita's Primary School for 2026, where we celebrate the return of Catholic education and warmly welcome all new families joining our community as their children begin their learning journey with us this year.



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

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 Feb 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

7th Feb 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. 14th Jan

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: 2nd Feb



Art group has returned for 2026. Every Wednesday from 10am in the Ruby room. All welcome.



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.–3:30 p.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

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

Join Fr. Joseph Kanatt on a South India Pilgrimage

Our parish priest, Fr. Joseph Kanatt, warmly invites you to join him on a beautiful 12-night pilgrimage through South India, departing Brisbane on September 15, 2026.

A Sacred Journey Together

Travel with Fr. Joseph and fellow parishioners through stunning destinations including Bangalore, Mysore, Wayanad, Trivandrum, Kanyakumari, Alleppey, and Cochin. Experience ancient temples, serene backwaters, and breathtaking landscapes while deepening your faith in community.

This all-inclusive package offers comfortable accommodations, daily meals, private transfers, and Singapore Airlines flights—everything detailed in the flyer above.

Don't miss this blessed opportunity to walk in faith with Fr. Joseph and create lasting memories with your parish family.

For more information and bookings, contact Rojin at Flyworld:

+61 434067604 | +61 423591527 | +61 410366089

rojin@flyworldau.com | holidays@flyworldau.com

Christmas Appeal - Thank You

Thank you to Parishioners for supporting our Christmas Appeal. Your generosity enabled us to deliver over 60 hampers to disadvantaged families in our Parish area, including the Bay Islands.

We also thank Victoria Point Shopping Centre, Carmel College, St Rita's School, and Redlands Hospital for their ongoing support.

Cash donations exceeded \$4,300, funding school supplies and our 2026 work. Interested in joining us? Contact the Parish Office or attend meetings on 1st and 3rd Mondays at 10am in the Ruby Room.

Please keep the Society in your prayers. God bless you in 2026!



Prayers

For all those who are ill, especially 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, Ian Gray, 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 our deceased to the loving care of the Lord, especially Ian Grey.

Australia Day Mass

Join us for a special Australia Day Mass at 9am on Monday, 26th January at St Rita's Church as we give thanks for our nation and pray for unity, peace, and blessing upon our country.

STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR PARISH FAMILY

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 or scan the QR code below.



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



Feast Days of January

January 25 - The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle (Feast)

January 26 - Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops (Obligatory Memorial)

January 28 - St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor (Obligatory Memorial)

January 31 - St. John Bosco, Priest

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Thank you for reading!

