

St Rita's Newsletter



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



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 29th March 2026 Year A

HOLY WEEK – A TIME TO REFLECT ABOUT OUR SALVATION.

As we gather to celebrate Palm Sunday, we enter into the most sacred week of the Church's year—Holy Week. Palm Sunday we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, greeted with palms and praise, yet we also hear the Passion, reminding us that the path to glory passes through suffering and the Cross.

Palm Sunday celebration is full of symbols. The green palm is a symbol of peace: "He shall be the prince, and king of peace" (Is 11: 1-9; 9:6). It also represents royalty and restoration. The crowd symbolizes both praise and denial. This is because, the same crowd singing "hosanna" today, soon will shout, "crucify him!" Finally, the donkey is symbolic of Christ's humility: "...He is humble. He rides on a donkey, the foal of a beast of burden" (Zac 9: 9).

Holy Week invites us to walk closely with Christ in the final days of His earthly life. On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper, where Jesus gave us the gift of the Eucharist and showed us the meaning of humble service by washing the feet of His disciples. It is a day that calls us to love one another with the same selfless love.

On Good Friday, we stand at the foot of the Cross. It is a solemn day when we reflect on the depth of God's love revealed in Jesus' sacrifice. In silence and reverence, we venerate the Cross, recognising that through His suffering, we are given new life.

Then, in the joy of Easter Sunday, we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. Darkness is overcome, and hope is renewed. The empty tomb proclaims that sin and death do not have the final word - Christ is risen, and with Him comes the promise of new life for all.

As we journey through this Holy Week, may we open our hearts more deeply to God's grace. Let us walk with Jesus in His Passion so that we may share fully in the joy of His Resurrection.

May God bless you
Fr. Joseph Kanatt mcbs

Parish contacts:

Parish Office Operating hours
Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri 9am to 2pm
Closed Tuesday

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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm: Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Psalm Response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Gospel Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

Event News

Holy Week & Easter – Bay Islands

Macleay Island – Church of the Holy Spirit

Holy Thursday – 2nd April, Mass 6pm

Good Friday Stations of the Cross – 3rd April, 8am

Good Friday The Passion of the Lord – 3rd April, 3:15pm

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass – 4th April, 6pm

Russell Island

Good Friday Stations of the Cross – 3rd April, 9:45am @ Sue's house

Easter Sunday Mass – 5th April, 10am @ Community Hall



Easter Vigil Mass

6PM 4th April
St Rita's Church

Battery-operated candles will be provided by the parish for use during Mass — please return them as you exit.

You are also welcome to bring your own battery-operated candles.

Mass & Confession Times

SATURDAY

St Rita's Church

Confessions — 4.15pm
Vigil Mass 5pm

Russell Island

Confessions before Mass
11th Apr 7:30am Mass Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Sunday at 10am

Coochiemudlo Island

Confessions before Mass 18th Apr
11am Mass Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Saturday at 11am

Macleay Island

Confessions before Mass
4th Apr 6pm 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. 11th March

Holy Week & Easter

St Rita's Church

All welcome.

Palm Sunday Vigil Mass - 28th March 5pm

Palm Sunday Mass - 29th March 7am & 9am

1st Rite of Reconciliation - 1st April 6pm & 2nd April 9am

Holy Thursday Mass - 2nd April 6pm

Good Friday Stations of the Cross - 3rd April 9am

Good Friday The Passion of the Lord - 3rd April 3pm

Easter Vigil Mass - 4th April 6pm

Easter Sunday Mass - 5th April 7am & 9am

Please return your Project Compassion envelopes and boxes at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper – 2 April, 6pm.

Place offerings in the baskets near the doors; these will be collected at the Offertory.

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

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

at 9am

To be held outside the church - weather permitting
Please remember to bring a hat



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: 20th April** 

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) will not be held this Easter Sunday. We invite all children to remain with their families to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection together. CLOW will resume the following week. **If you are interested in volunteering with CLOW, we would love to hear from you** — please reach out to Deb, Sacramental Coordinator, or Grace Fogarty to find out more.

HOSANNA PRAYER and PRAISE GROUP

Meets on Tuesdays at 7pm in St Rita's Church All are welcome! 

EASTER OFFICE CLOSURE

Just a reminder that the Parish Office will be **closed over the Easter Long Weekend — from Good Friday (3 April) through to Tuesday 7 April 26 inclusive.**

We'll be back and ready to assist you from Wednesday 8 April.

Wishing you and your loved ones a peaceful and joyful Easter celebration!



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Sunday 12 April 2026 St Rita's Church

Warmly invites all parishioners and visitors to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with Holy Mass at 9:00am, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

All are welcome. Please bring your family and friends.

**Mass: 9:00am
Adoration to follow**

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.

NOTICE – MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

Please be advised that the St Rita's Men's Social Group event scheduled for Thursday, 2nd April has been cancelled.

A replacement event will be held on Tuesday, 14th April – further details to be announced in due course.

We apologise for any inconvenience and look forward to seeing you on the 14th!

FAITH FORMATION GROUP Thursday 9th April | Ruby Room | 10:00am

Join us as we reflect together using The Little White Book. Copies available for \$5.00 each. Unable to attend? The book is still available for purchase. Register your interest or purchase a copy from the Parish Office.

Dear Parishioners,

Please be advised that there will be **no Adoration on Saturday, 4th April 2026.**

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and look forward to welcoming you back for Adoration at its usual time.

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.

Congratulations to Our First Reconciliation Candidates

We congratulate the young people who recently received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. A big thank you to our sacramental team and families for their support. Please keep these children in your prayers as they continue to grow in their faith.



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.

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



Feast Days of March & April

Sunday, March 29

- Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
- Beginning of Holy Week

Thursday, April 2

- Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday)
- Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
- Beginning of the Sacred Paschal Triduum

Friday, April 3

- Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord
- Day of Fast and Abstinence
- Celebration of the Lord's Passion (afternoon/evening)

Saturday, April 4

- Holy Saturday
- Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (after nightfall)

Sunday, April 5

- EASTER SUNDAY - The Resurrection of the Lord (SOLEMNITY)
- Most important feast of the liturgical year

Pope's Monthly Intention for March

For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

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 or <https://bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com>

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Thank you for reading!