

St Rita's Newsletter



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



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 2nd August 2026 Year A

GOD THE LOVING FATHER, FEEDS AND FREES US

This weekend's Gospel presents one of the most loved miracles of Jesus - the feeding of the five thousand (Matthew 14:13-21). Faced with a hungry crowd in a deserted place, the disciples saw only scarcity: "We have only five loaves and two fish." Jesus, however, saw possibility. He took the little that was offered, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the people. Not only was everyone fed, but twelve baskets of leftovers were gathered. This miracle reminds us that when we place our small gifts into God's hands, He multiplies them beyond our imagination.

The first reading from Isaiah echoes this message of God's abundant generosity. The prophet invites everyone who thirsts to come freely to the Lord, who alone can satisfy the deepest hunger of the human heart. God's blessings are not reserved for a privileged few; they are offered generously to all who seek Him with trust.

In the second reading, St Paul assures us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ - not hardship, suffering, persecution, or any trial. This powerful assurance gives us confidence to face life's uncertainties. Even when resources seem limited or challenges overwhelming, God's faithful love remains constant.

These readings challenge us to move from an attitude of scarcity to one of generosity. In our families, parish, and community, we may sometimes feel that what we have is not enough - whether it is time, energy, talent, or material resources. Yet Jesus asks us to offer what we have rather than focus on what we lack. A small act of kindness, a listening ear, a word of encouragement, or a helping hand can become a blessing that transforms another person's life.

As we gather around the table of the Eucharist, we experience once again the Lord who feeds His people with the Bread of Life. Nourished by His Word and His Body, may we become instruments of His compassion, sharing God's love generously with those who hunger for hope, peace, and friendship.

May this week be an opportunity for each of us to trust in God's providence, to recognise His abundant blessings, and to share them joyfully with others. May God Bless you all.

Fr. Joseph Kanatt MCBS

Parish contacts:

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

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

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3

Psalm: Ps 144:8-9, 15-18

Psalm Response: . The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Event News

First Holy Communion 2026 – Enrolments Now Open

Families are warmly invited to enrol their children for First Holy Communion, which will be celebrated later this year.

Eligibility

Children are ordinarily eligible if they:

- have been baptised;
- have already celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation; and
- are in Year 4 or above.

Parent Information Evening

Wednesday 19th August - 5.30 pm in the Church

Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this important session to learn about the programme, key dates, family participation, and preparation for receiving the Eucharist.

Enrol Now

Families can commence the enrolment process by scanning the QR code or completing the online form:

<https://url.au.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/8014CRONrwwfopAAZh9fnc1CJLm?domain=fs12.formsite.com>



Please complete enrolments by the end of August to ensure participation in the **Rite of Enrolment Masses on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th September.**

If you are unsure whether your child is eligible, please contact the parish office.

We look forward to accompanying your family as your child prepares to receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time

Let's come together to celebrate the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
Australia's own saint, known for her compassion and dedication to education for all. Mass will be held at 9am,
Friday 7th August, in St Rita's church.

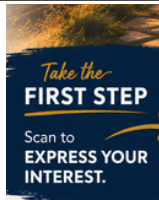
All are warmly welcome to join us.

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Join us to celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary! All welcome.
Friday, 14th August 6:00pm
St Rita's Church, Victoria Point



Faith Starts with a Question

If you've ever been curious about faith, wondered about becoming Catholic, or simply wanted a place to ask life's bigger questions, our RCIA programme may be for you. No pressure. No obligation. Just an invitation to explore. Scan the QR code and submit an Expression of Interest to learn more.



Rita's Digest – Next Edition Coming Soon!

The next edition of Rita's Digest is on its way, and we'd love it to be filled with stories from across our parish community. Whether it's a photo from a recent event, a reflection, a milestone, or news from one of our parish groups, we want to hear about it! If you have a story to share, please email it to stritasdigestvp@hotmail.com by 24th August 2026.

We look forward to celebrating our parish life together in the next edition.



Mass & Confession Times

SATURDAY

St Rita's Church

Confessions — 4:15pm

Vigil Mass 5pm

Russell Island

Confessions before Mass

8th August 7:30am Mass Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Sunday at 10am

Coochiemudlo Island

Confessions before Mass 15th August
11am Mass Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Saturday at 11am

Macleay Island

Confessions before Mass

1st August 9am Mass
Liturgy of the Word with Communion – every other Sunday at 9am

SUNDAY

St Rita's Church

Mass 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. 12th August

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: 3rd August**



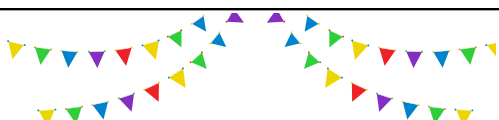
HOSANNA PRAYER and PRAISE GROUP



Mission

- Facilitate the experience of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit
- Encourage people to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Empower people to use the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives

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



Parish Office closed for the EKKA
Please note that the parish office will be closed Monday 10th August.
Regular operating times will resume as normal from Wednesday 12th Aug.
Thank you for your understanding.

Eucharistic Adoration Every Saturday for personal silent prayer time

Exposition: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Benediction: 4:00pm

Stay for Confession: 4:15pm

Vigil Mass: 5:00pm



We need committed Adorers for one hour per month to ensure Jesus is never left alone during Adoration (Saturdays, 1:00pm.-4:00p.m.).

Sign-up sheets are at the front of the church .All are welcome
"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.

Celebrating Our Grandparents & Elders ♥

Thank you to everyone who joined us last Sunday as we celebrated World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly, coinciding with the Feast of Sts Joachim and Anne. It was wonderful to see grandparents, families and recently confirmed children filling our churches, with grandparents receiving a special blessing during Mass.



New Books Available – The Eucharist

Little Kids' Book on the Eucharist and Little Books on the Eucharist have arrived and are now available for purchase through the Piety Stall and Parish Office.

A great resource for families wanting to grow in understanding and love of the Eucharist!

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

St Rita's Parish is looking for generous hearts to help support our community!

We warmly invite parishioners to get involved across a range of ministries and activities — whether that's a few hours a month or more regular service, there is a place for you.

Sign up online at:



✚ The Altar is Calling... Will You Answer?

We're looking for girls and boys, ladies and gentlemen who have completed their Sacraments of Initiation to join our team of Altar Servers. Serving at the altar is a wonderful way to grow in faith and serve our parish community. No experience needed — full training provided.

Interested? Contact the Parish Office to find out more.

STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR PARISH FAMILY

Don't miss a thing at St Rita's. Our new digital register keeps you connected with Mass times, events, newsletters, and announcements — right when you need them.

Register in 2 minutes:

Visit

stritasparish.flocknote.com/register

or scan the QR code below.



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

Newsletter Update

From the end of August, our parish newsletter will be sent only via Flocknote — the regular email mailing list will be made redundant. Registration is essential to keep receiving it — sign up now or contact the parish office for help.

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, 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 Paul Litfin.

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



Feast Days of August

Sunday, August 2

- Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tuesday, August 4

- St. John Mary Vianney, Priest
- The Cure of Ars
- Tuesday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Thursday, August 6

- The Transfiguration of the Lord (SOLEMNITY)
- This major solemnity takes full precedence

Saturday, August 8

- St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Virgin (FEAST)
- First Australian-born Saint
- St. Dominic, Priest

Sunday, August 9

- Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pope's Monthly Intention for August For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

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://bneatholic.stoplinereport.com>

STOPline Service: Ph. 1300 304550 | Email: AOB@stopline.com.au | Online Report: bneatholic.stoplinereport.com

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Thank you for reading!