

St Rita's Newsletter



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



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 15TH February 2026 Year A

FOLLOW GOD'S LAW

In this Sunday's readings, we are invited to reflect on the deeper meaning of God's commandments. In the first reading from Sirach, we hear a powerful reminder: "If you choose, you can keep the commandments." God does not force us to love Him or to follow His ways. Instead, He gives us the dignity of freedom. Each day we are presented with choices of life or death, good or evil and we are responsible for the direction we take.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that He has not come to abolish the Law but to fulfil it. He challenges His listeners to move beyond a superficial observance of rules. It is not enough simply to avoid wrongdoing outwardly; discipleship requires an inner transformation. Anger, resentment, dishonesty, and impurity of heart can damage relationships just as deeply as outward actions. Jesus calls us to a higher standard, not one of fear, but of love. He invites us to examine our hearts. Do our words build others up or tear them down? Are we quick to forgive, or do we hold onto grudges? Is our "yes" truly yes, and our "no" truly, no?

St Paul reminds us that God's wisdom is not the wisdom of the world. True wisdom is found in Christ, who sees beyond appearances and looks into the heart. As a parish community, we are called to grow in this wisdom to become people of integrity, reconciliation, and compassion.

May this week be an opportunity for each of us to choose what leads to life. With God's grace, may we live not just by the letter of the law, but by the spirit of love that fulfils it.

May God Bless you
Fr. Joseph Kanatt mcbs

Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

Psalm: Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

Psalm Response: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

Parish contacts:

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Joseph Kanatt MCBS

PRIEST'S DAY OFF — TUESDAYS

Parish Office

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Event News



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES
9AM AND 6PM
18 FEBRUARY 2026
ST RITA'S CHURCH



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



Ash Wednesday

Join us for Ash Wednesday Mass on TUESDAY 17th February at 9am (yes, Tuesday!) at Church of the Holy Spirit, Macleay Island - all welcome! †



Lenten Groups

Join us this Lent for prayer and fellowship:

Hosanna Prayer Group

Mondays 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.

SAVE THE DATE: 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

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 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. 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: **16th Feb**



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.-3:30pm). 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?" –Matthew26:40

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



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.

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.

St Rita's Primary School News

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday falls on 18 February this year, with Year 5 and Year 6 students attending Mass at 9:00am and parents warmly invited to attend the parish Mass.

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.



Craft & Chat Afternoon
A small but lovely group enjoyed our recent Craft & Chat afternoon.
Next Session: Saturday, March 7th | 2-4pm
Join us! Deb Harris will demonstrate painting techniques, or bring your own projects.
Looking forward to seeing you there!

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 or scan the QR code below.



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

Feast Days of February

Tuesday, February 17

- The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Wednesday, February 18

- Ash Wednesday
- Beginning of Lent

Thursday, February 19

- Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Friday, February 20

- Friday after Ash Wednesday

Saturday, February 21

- St. Peter Damian
- Saturday after Ash Wednesday

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Dr. Gill van Iddekinge
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Thank you for reading!