

Youth Group



St John's Parish, Riverstone Youth Group

All school-aged children and their parents are invited to attend a get-together for the Youth Group. Fun activities for both children and their parents.

You are most welcome to bring a friend.

6pm in the Church Hall on these Friday nights:

	18 Aug
21 Apr	22 Sept
19 May	20 Oct
23 Jun	17 Nov Christmas Party

Appeals

Project Compassion - during Lent - Money boxes available from porch.

The Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal—The Catholic Foundation - Supporting our seminarians to humbly serve our faith community - 25/26 March

Good Friday Appeal - Please give generously for the people and places of the Holy Land.

Collection Plates

The First Church Collections plus donations from Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals and goes directly towards supporting the various ministries of the Diocese of Parramatta, including the priest salary funds.

The Second Church Collection goes directly into our Parish Account. This account is used for administrative expenses, repairs & maintenance, insurance, church supplies, wages, sacrament supplies, SRE resources, telephone and electricity.

Thank you for supporting our parish & the Catholic Church

Church Roster

March 2023 Counters - A Hoare/J Shipley Cleaners - M Camilleri Thank you to all of our volunteers.
J Padernia is not available until further notice.

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ord.	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayers of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point
Sat 1st Apr 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family		M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn Volunteer	M Sultana	M Galati	Katie Cameron & Paul Sultana
Sun 2nd Apr 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnic F Bonnici	C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power point
Sun 2nd Apr 9am	Sullivan family	R Brown	J Padernia	J Sullivan R Brown	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	J Sullivan	San Pedro Calungsod
Sun 2nd Apr 10:30am	M Satorre	H Greedy	J Padernia	H Greedy	F DCruz A DCruz	C Mascarenhas	S Corben	Raymond & Co

Parish Funds

Your support, as always, is much appreciated. For those wanting to make payments directly to our bank account, these are the details:

Account Name: St John's Catholic Church Riverstone

BSB: 067950

Account No: 00000172

Message: First & Surname of Parishioner)

Please write your full name & the word donation in the message section when using internet banking)

OR

Weekly Envelopes OR Tap & Go OR

Credit Card Donations OR Collection Plates at Mass

QR Code for payments directly to the Riverstone Parish - please enter your name & payment description.



Piety Store

For Sale - God's Word Book \$20 each.

Please visit the Piety store to purchase any of these items.

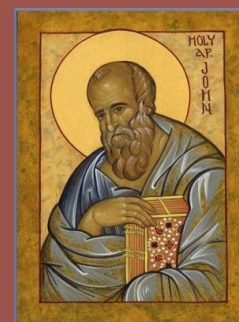
Piety Store - Opening Hours

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>
10am - 12pm	10am - 11am

Unfortunately, piety items are not available for purchase from the parish office.

Advertising

If you would like to promote your services, please contact the parish office to discuss this opportunity.



St John The Evangelist Catholic Church Riverstone

A spiritual home for the community offering hope and help for all in need



Parish Priest: Fr Zakaria Gayed
Parish Secretary: Melissa Spence
Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-2pm
Phone: 9627-1176
Email: stjohs10@bigpond.com
Website: www.stjohnsriverstone.org.au
Address: 164 Garfield Rd East, Riverstone NSW 2765

St Johns Primary School: 9854-3200
Principal: Mrs Jane Misek

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm
 Sunday Morning 7am, 9am & 10:30am

Weekday & Morning Mass Times

Tuesday-Saturday 8:30am
 First Friday 8:30am & 7:30pm

Anointing Mass

First Saturday of each month at 8:30am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Vocations

Tuesday after 8:30am Mass

Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help

Wednesday after 8:30am Mass

Mass, Benediction & Rosary

Friday 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession

Saturday 4:30pm-5:30pm

Prayer Group

Friday 10am

Marriage

Please give 6 months notice

Baptism - As From March 2023

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month at 12pm

Baptism Information Night

First Tuesday of each month at 7pm

Marriage & Baptism

By arrangement during office hours

26 March 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year A

First Reading Ez 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 129. R. v.7

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.)

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living
in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.



Baptisms

The next Baptism Class will take place on
Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 7pm in the Church Hall.

As from March 2023, Baptisms will now be held every
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month at 12pm.

Prayer to St John the Evangelist

Oh God, who through the blessed Apostle John have unlocked for us the secrets of your Word, grant, we pray, that we may grasp with proper understanding what he has so marvelously brought to our ears. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Parish Notices

**The Catholic Foundation Appeal — 25/26 March 2023
The Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal**

Support our seminarians to humbly serve our faith community this weekend. Envelopes are available. Please remember that the donations for this appeal count towards our parish quota for the Catholic Foundation.

Wednesday 12th April 2023 9.30am – 2.30pm
ST JOHN'S EAGLES Round Robin Indoor Soccer
INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE, Cnr Hamilton St & Garfield Rd, Riverstone. \$15 per player. Opened to boys and girls aged 5-16. Any child under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer. Lucky door prizes and sausage sizzle lunch is included. Just turn up on the day and please bring your friends! Flyers are available in the porch.

Triumph Lent Program — Reduced to \$5. This booklet is A5 size and is available to purchase from the Piety store. Do not miss out! There are only 4 copies available.

Easter Raffle - our parish will be holding an Easter raffle with beautiful dome statue as 1st & 2nd Prize. Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Please purchase tickets after weekend masses. Thanks for supporting our Parish.

Project Compassion - Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from our parish.

Holy Week Roster - the roster for Holy Week is in the porch. Please add your name to this roster if you would like to volunteer.

The **April Roster** is now available in the porch.

For Sale - The Craft Ladies are selling plants. These plants are displayed under the pergola. Prices are displayed on a sign in the area. If you would like to purchase a plant, please see Fr Zak or Jenny from the piety store.

Gluten free hosts are available for those who wish to receive Holy Communion. To arrange, please contact the parish office the week before.

Tea & Coffee After Mass - Everyone is welcome, after Mass on Sunday mornings, in the church hall.

St John's Primary School is now accepting enrolments for 2024.

Applications are due by 31/3/2023

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DOWNLOAD THE ENROLMENT APPLICATION FORM A, FORM B AND FORM C.
www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au ENROL > HOW TO ENROL. YOU WILL FIND A LIST OF ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED IN THE ENROLMENT INSTRUCTIONS OR CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE AND WE CAN ARRANGE FOR AN ENROLMENT PACK TO BE SENT TO YOU.

Prayers for our Community

For those who have died:

All Souls, John & Rosy Attard, Philip Azzopardi, Br Joe Byrne, Anthony Buttigieg, Sam Bugeja, Alex Calleja, John Cannata, John Grima, Alan Hoare, Maureen Muccillo, Peter Shipley, Chris, John, Maryann Sultana & Sultana family, John, Michael, Angelo & Clementina Sultana and Sultana family, Maria & Nicholas Gatt, George Micallef, Carmelo, Carmen, Michael Vella, Michael Agius, Harriot Perera, Grace Millares & family, Josephine Salinas, Norma Sciara, Michael Georgion, Joseph Sammit, Carmello, Victoria & Alfred Bugeja and All Souls, The Abandoned Souls & Souls of Children in Purgatory.

For those who are sick:

Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos T Quinteros, Charlie Spiteri, Francis Saliba, John Padernia, Marianne Sultana and those in our parish community.

Liturgical Feasts /Masses this Week

2 April - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Easter Mass & Reconciliation Schedule

Easter 2023 Schedule:
Wednesday April 5
Mass of the Holy Chrism (St Patrick's, Parramatta)
7:30pm
Holy Thursday April 6
Mass of the Lord's Supper
7pm
Good Friday April 7
The Stations of the Cross
10am
Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm
Holy Saturday April 8
Celebration of the Paschal Vigil
7pm
Easter Sunday April 9
Easter Sunday Celebration
7am, 9am, 10:30am

St John's Church First Rite (Individual Confession)

Tuesday 4 April
9:30am – 10:30am & 6pm – 7pm

Wednesday 5 April
9:30am – 10:30am

Thursday 6 April
9:30 am – 10:30am

Communion Service
Easter Monday **8:30am Apr 10**

NO MORNING MASS 8:30am on THUR, FRI and SAT during HOLY WEEK

Stations of the Cross



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held during Lent. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Wednesday after the 8.30am Mass and

Friday evenings at 7pm before Mass at 7:30pm

Please be advised that the 7:30pm Mass will be held every Friday night during Lent.

Sacraments

Sacraments 2023 - The parent information and dates letter is now available in the porch. If you have a child who will be making their sacrament this year, please take a copy home. The letter will explain the process to enrol your child in our sacramental program.

The Sacrament of Penance - The enrolment form completed and returned with donation, is required by 24th April. The Parent Information Meeting is on Tuesday 16th May at 7pm in the Galilee Room.