

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:
- 19 May 20 Oct
- 23 Jun 17 Nov Christmas Party
- 21 July
- 18 Aug

Appeals

The next appeal is:
The Bishop’s Good Samaritan Appeal

The appeal shares the story of Aunty Rhonda, an Aboriginal Elder who has benefited from the Aboriginal Catholic Care’s support and returns this kindness as a volunteer.
Dates: 20 and 21 May 2023
Envelopes will be provided

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

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

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ord.	Acolytes	Readers	Prayers of the Faithful	Children’s Liturgy	Choir/Power Point
Sat 6th May 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family	J Padernia	Volunteer Volunteer	Volunteer	To be rotated amongst 4	Katie Cameron & Paul Sultana
Sun 7th May 7am	Volunteer	E Sultana	R Bigeni	E Sultana Volunteer	Volunteer	None	Power point
Sun 7th May 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma	S Corben B Simon	L Fox	To be rotated Amongst 4	Nonoy & Tina
Sun 7th May 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy		David Julien	P Mansweto	L Fox	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

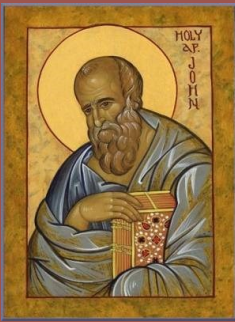
QR Code for payments directly to the Riverstone Parish - please enter your name & payment description.

Piety Store

Please visit the Piety store to purchase any of these items.
Piety Store - Opening Hours
Sundays Tuesdays
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: stjohns10@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

30 April 2023
Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 2:14. 36-41
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.
On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: ‘The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.’ Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, ‘What must we do, brothers?’ ‘You must repent,’ Peter answered ‘and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.’ He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, ‘Save yourselves from this perverse generation.’ They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.
Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults: when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

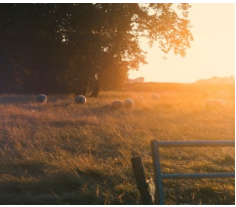
Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.
Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.
The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - *The Shepherd's Voice*

In Jesus' time, the shepherd lead from the front: the sheep followed the sound of his voice to reach good pasture. Jesus describes other voices who might try to mislead the sheep as 'thieves and brigands'.

In John's gospel, Judas, the *thief* from the common purse of the disciples, led a group of temple guards and Roman soldiers to take Jesus by force.

Barabbas was a *brigand*, a leader of an insurrection. Our Lord knew that armed rebellion against the Romans would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem.

So, Jesus is warning his followers against the seductive voices of those who advocate the use of violence.

In particular, the successor of Peter should echo the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd and no other. Popes of the modern era seem to be listening more attentively to the Good Shepherd, as successors of St Peter who was instructed: 'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep'.

We could pause for a moment to attune our ears to the sound of the Shepherd's voice and follow Him so that He may lead us to pastures where we can have life, abundantly.
Alleluia!

*God Bless Father Zakaria Gayed
on his 35th Anniversary of
Ordination 29th April 2023
Please keep Fr Zak in your
prayers as we celebrate this
special day.
We also pray that Fr Zak has a
safe and wonderful holiday.*

Fr Zakaria will be on annual leave 2nd May and will return on the 13th June.

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 marvellously 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

Some people are not respecting the **Eucharist** and Fr Zak has recently found Eucharist left in the pews and carpark. Please consume the Eucharist as soon as you receive it, whilst standing in front of the Priest, acolyte or communion minister. If you are not a practicing Catholic, you may still come forward, cross your arms and receive a blessing. Thank you.

The **St John's May Roster** is now available in the porch.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the parish office to place your name on the Roster.

The **Riverstone Festival** will be held on Saturday 13th May 2023. The parade will start from the Cricket Grounds. We are asking as many people as possible to march under the Combined Churches Banner to represent our Church. Please contact the parish office for more details.

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.

Foreign Coins - Please respect the request of no foreign coins to be placed on the collection plates.

Diocese of Parramatta

Join the Diocese of Parramatta as we listen and respond to the Holy Spirit through the People of God in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Let us go forwards towards the horizon that awaits us. Learn more at parracatholic.org/synod2023

Let's pray our Synod Prayer together!

O God, who always walks with us on the journey of life,

we call upon you to lead us forth united.

Bless and guide our Diocesan Synod.

Keep us anchored in your love.

Open our hearts as we listen and discern.

Reveal to us the way we are called to go out into the deep.

Give us the courage to pursue the mission with bold humility.

May we experience renewal in our local Church today,

and for generations to come.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ,
who in the power of the Holy Spirit continues to guide your Church,
to the fullness of your Kingdom now, and forever. Amen

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us

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, Harriot Perera, Joseph Sammit, Carmello, Victoria & Alfred Bugeja, Xerri family & Azzopardi family, Michael Agius, Cresencia Fernando, Michael Jenaras , George Theuma, Eucaristico Bajada, James D' Souza, Valerie Hayes and Savelina Faumui.

For those who are sick:

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

Mass

Friday 5 May 7:30pm First Friday Mass

Saturday 6 May 8:30am Anointing Mass

Our Parish is blessed to have Fr Andrew and Fr John Who will officiate our Masses, whilst Fr Zakaria is on annual leave.
Deacon Michael will also be helping our Parish during this time.

Thank you for joining our parish community during this time.

Our Masses will remain the same time as usual.

The only exception is *Tuesday morning masses at 8:30am* (from the 9th May for 5 weeks) which will be a Communion Service.

Sacraments



The Sacrament of Penance

Parent Information Meeting - Parent Only	Tuesday 16th May at 7pm - Galilee Room
Enrolment Mass - Parent & child	Sunday 21st May at 9:00am or 10:30am
Lesson 1 - Parent & child	Tuesday 23rd May at 7:00pm

The next Baptism Class:

Tues 2nd May at 7pm in the Church Hall.