

## 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 the following Friday nights in 2023:**

**Fri 20 Oct**

**Fri 17 Nov Christmas Party**

## 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.



## Appeals

**Catholic Foundation Bishop's Christmas Appeal** - featuring our Catholic Care Chaplaincy and all the good works they do in hospitals and prisons.

25th and 26th November 2023

## Piety Store

**Piety Store - Opening Hours**

Sundays

Tuesdays

10am - 12pm

10am - 11am

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

## Friday Prayer Group

**Christ Catholic Community (CCC) Prayer Group**

Prayer meeting held every Friday 10am in the classroom building. For further information, please contact:

Mary Camilleri Ph 0403116987

Counters- J Shipley & A Hoare

## Collection Plates

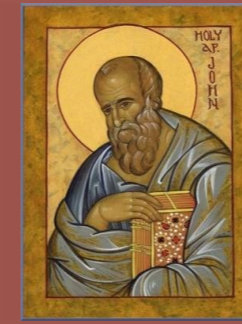
**The First Church Collections** plus donations from Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals goes directly towards supporting the various ministries of the Diocese of Parramatta, including the priest salary funds.

**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 October 2023

Date	Welcomers	Mass Coordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family		M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn Volunteer	M Sultana	M Galati	Paul Sultana	C Mesa S Corben
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power point	M Virgee JB
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> 9am	Sullivan family	R Brown	J Padernia	J Sullivan R Brown	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	J Sullivan	San Pedro Calungsod	
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia	H Greedy	David Julien	C Mascarenhas	S Corben	Jenchris & Co	
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	J Eroles	Paul Sultana	Volunteer
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Padernia		J Boemi R Xuereb	S Yapa	R Brown	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		J Sultana M Syme	D Gorkic	L Fox	Raymond & Co	



## 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  
**Deacon:** Rev. Dr. Michael Tan  
**Parish Secretary:** Melissa Spence  
**Parish Manager:** Tony Brooker  
**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 -**

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

**1 October 2023**

**Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

*First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28*

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6*

*Remember your mercies, O Lord.*

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

*Remember your mercies, O Lord.*

Remember your mercy, Lord,

and the love you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth.

In your love remember me,

because of your goodness, O Lord.

*Remember your mercies, O Lord.*

The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor.

*Remember your mercies, O Lord.*

### Second Reading **Philippians 2:1-11**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*  
If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

### Gospel Acclamation **John 10:27**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;  
I know them, and they follow me.  
Alleluia!

*The Lord be with you.*

*And with your Spirit.*

### Gospel **Matthew 21:28-32**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.*  
Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.'

For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ*



*We were blessed that Bishop Vincent celebrated the 10:30am Mass with our Parish last Sunday. Thank you Bishop Vincent.*

**BBQ Celebration** - Thank you to all of our wonderful parishioners who organised the BBQ and brought the lovely food to share.



### **St John's Eagles Indoor Soccer Round Robin**

Last Wednesday, our Parish held the Indoor Soccer Round Robin. It was a successful day and the children had fun.

Thank you to the families for their patience as their car park was undergoing repairs. Thank you to Marija and the parent helpers for all of their help organising the day.

*Thank you to Woolworths—Schofields for their kind donation of food for this day. It is wonderful to have the support from a local business for our church community—Thank you!*

## Masses & Feasts

Mon	2 Oct	The Holy Guardian Angels
Wed	4 Oct	St Francis of Assisi
Sat	7 Oct	Our Lady of the Rosary

## 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

**Eucharist**—From 1st October 2023, on the First Sunday of each month, the Eucharist will be offered as Body and Blood. You may continue to receive only the Host or proceed to the special ministers to also partake of the precious Blood.

The **next Youth Group meeting: Fri 20 October at 6pm** in the church hall. All school-aged children are welcome to attend. You are welcome to bring a friend.

**St John's Community Christmas Carols** - Please save the date- Friday 1st December 2023. The next meeting for the Christmas Carol Committee will be held on Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

The first **National Conference for the Catholic Medical Association** will take place at St. Joseph's Conference and Retreat Centre, Baulkham Hills from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. Please view the advertisement on the noticeboard for more information or speak to Deacon Michael Tan.

**Tea & Coffee After Mass** - Everyone is welcome, after 9am and 10:30am Masses on Sunday mornings, at the Parish Centre side of the verandah.

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

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

**Lost Property** can be found in the Parish Hall.

**History—In the year 2024**, our Parish will celebrate 120 years! If you have any items from the past, that you are willing to donate to our Parish or share a copy, please bring them to the office. If anyone is interested in organising this event, please contact the parish office.

The annual Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday 29 October at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. [marriage@parracatholic.org](mailto:marriage@parracatholic.org) or phone (02) 8838 3460 by 20 October. Family and friends are welcome.

## Diocese of Parramatta

**Synod 2023** -

**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.

More information: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

## Prayers for our Community



### **For those who have died:**

All Souls, All Souls in Purgatory x2, 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, Joseph Jack Sultana, Maryjane Sultana, Nunziato, Natale & Filice Orlando, Domenico Procopia, Orlando & Procopia families, Barry Sturgess., Harriot Perera, Teresita Rehac, Flora Ferino, Fraternidad Ramirez and Peter Paul Sultana.

### **For those who are sick:**

Especialy Adrian Bugeja, Carlos T Quinteros, Francis Saliba, John Padernia, Joe Sultana, Elisabeth Juliawati Santoso, Maria Pisto, Tony & Freda Attard, Margaret Galea, Belinda Grgic, Helen Grima, Candice Basopoulos and those in our parish community.

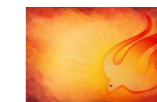
### **Pentecost 2024**

We are planning to celebrate **Pentecost 2024** with a display of national flags in front of the altar, together with an international food festival. Please enter your details on the form in the porch, if you would like to be involved.

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday 2nd October due to the public holiday.

This Sunday 1 October is the beginning of Week 8 of the Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod. Join the whole Diocesan community in continuing to pray for our first Diocesan Synod in the lead-up to the Synod Assembly: Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October. You are invited to pray once a week as a parish community, with your family, ministry groups or during personal prayer. More information: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

## Sacraments



### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

Enrolment form to be completed and returned with donation to participate in this Sacrament.

*Please Register by 9th October 2023*

**\*Parent Information Meeting Tues 24 October at 7pm in the Galilee Room**

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

The next Baptism Class: Tuesday 3 October 7pm in the Parish Hall.