

## 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 the following Friday nights in 2023:**

**Fri 22 Sept**

**Fri 20 Oct**

**Fri 17 Nov Christmas Party**

## Appeals

02 & 03 September Bishop's Fathers Day Appeal

Thank you to all those parishioners who have already donated. If you were unable to donate last weekend, please place your envelope in either of the collection plates. Please remember that these donations contribute towards our quota for the Catholic Foundation.

## 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 August 2023

Counters- J Shipley & A Hoare

Date	Welcomers	Mass Coordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	J Eroles	Paul Sultana	Volunteer
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Padernia		J Boemi R Xuereb	S Yapa	R Brown	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		J Sultana M Syme	D Gorkic	L Fox	Raymond & Co	
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family			A Jaszczyszyn Volunteer	M Sultana	L Canlas	Paul Sultana	C Messa S Corben
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		E Sultana C Wickman	P Perera	None	Power point	M Virgee Tess
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Asimus		S Corben B Simon	C Samuael	S Yapa S Brown	Nonoy & Tina	JB
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		S Suri W Suri	C Mascarenhas	L Fox	Jenchris & 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

**Piety Store - Opening Hours**

Sundays

10am - 12pm

Tuesdays

10am - 11am

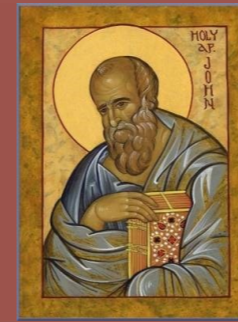
Unfortunately, piety items are not available for purchase from the parish office.

## 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



## 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

**10 September 2023**

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

*First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-9*

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8*

*O that today you would listen to his voice!  
 Harden not your hearts.*

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
 hail the rock who saves us.  
 Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
 with songs let us hail the Lord.

*O that today you would listen to his voice!  
 Harden not your hearts.*

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.

*O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.*

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

*O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.*

*Second Reading Romans 13:8-10*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Love is the fulfilment of the Law.*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Gospel Acclamation 2 Corinthians 5:19*

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;  
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.  
Alleluia!

*The Lord be with you.*

*And with your Spirit.*

*Gospel Matthew 18:15-20*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ*



### St John's Father's Day Celebration

Thank you to all of the wonderful parishioners who helped and those who donated very nice food for our Father's Day celebration last weekend. The celebration was the first for the Parish Centre and everyone had a wonderful time.

**Thank you** to the family whom have donated the BBQ for our Parish Centre. We really appreciate it and it will be put to good use.

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

 Wednesday 27 September 2023 9:30am - 2:30pm

Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer or responsible person over the age of 15. Cost of \$15 per person includes a sausage sizzle and a ticket for Lucky Door Prizes. Please return the form to the office or just turn up on the day.

**Please Save the Date & Bring a Plate:**

**19<sup>th</sup> May 2024 for Pentecost Sunday at the 10:30am Mass.**

We will have a Feast Mass for Pentecost. We would like to have a flag bearing procession during the Masses, with representation from each nation within our community. We will request you to bring a national dish to share. More information to be shared at a later date.

## Masses & Feasts

Wed	13 Sept	St John Chrysostom
Thurs	14 Sept	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Fri	15 Sept	Our Lady of Sorrows
Sat	16 Sept	Sts Cornelius & Cyprian

## 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

**Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 13 September at 7:30pm**

in the Parish Hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Please note that the date of meeting had to be changed due to Fr Zakaria having another commitment.

**Photographs** - if you took some photos from our Parish

Opening, could you please share by sending them to the Parish Office by email or drop off prints to the parish office.

The **next Youth Group meeting: Fri 22 September at 6pm**

in the church hall. All school-aged children are welcome to attend. You are welcome to bring a friend.

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

**St John's Community Christmas Carols** - Please save the date- Friday 1st December 2023. We have formed a committee to organise the Carols. The next meeting 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.

**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 an event, please contact the parish office.

**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.

## 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.

## 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, Fr Carl Ashton, Brian Peterson, Carmela & Eucharist Bajada, Michael Agius, Maryjane Sultana, Carmelo, Carmen & Michael Vella, Walter Mampalaw, Evonege McKasher, Joseph, Nunziato, Natale & Filice Orlando, Domenico Procopia, Orlando & Procopia families, Charles, Teresa Camilleri, Rick Polgar, Joseph, Mario & Sam Mercieca, Emmanuel, Doris & Joseph Sultana, Barry Sturgess.

**For those who are sick:**

Especially 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 and those in our parish community.

**Safeguarding Sunday is on 10<sup>th</sup> September.**

**This year's theme is: 'Where We Start Matters'.** Prayer -

Gracious God, you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable.

We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been abused, neglected or exploited and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken. Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard.

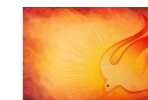
We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children and adults at risk, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

## 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.