

## 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 donated. 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 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	
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Padernia		A Jaszczyszyn S Nieves	M Sultana	P Mansweto	Paul Sultana	Volunteer
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	E Sultana	R Bigeni		C Wickman M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	M Camilleri	R Xuereb	Rondalla & Co	
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	M Satorre	H Greedy			N D'Souza R D'Souza	Volunteer	Angie	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

**Piety Store - Opening Hours**

Sundays

10am - 12pm

Tuesdays

10am - 11am

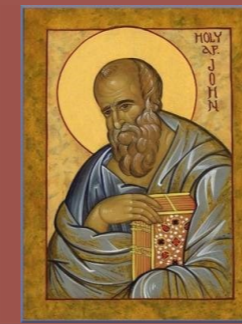
Unfortunately, piety items are not available for purchase from the parish office.

## 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

## 17 September 2023

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

*First Reading Sirach 27:30 - 28:7*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.*

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4, 9-12. R. v.8*

*The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

*The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

*The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

His wrath will come to an end;  
he will not be angry for ever.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

*The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.

*The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

*Second Reading Romans 14:7-9*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others: if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Gospel Acclamation John 13:34*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I give you a new commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.  
Alleluia!

*The Lord be with you.*

*And with your Spirit.*

*Gospel Matthew 18:21-35*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.*

Peter went up to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master’s feet. “Give me time,” he said “and I will pay the whole sum.” And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt.

Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. “Pay what you owe me”, he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, “Give me time and I will pay you.” But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported

the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. “You wicked servant,” he said. “I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?” And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ*

*Bishop Vincent will celebrate 10:30am Mass with our Parish on Sunday 24th September .*

**BBQ Celebration - Our Parish will hold morning tea after the 9am Mass and a BBQ after the 10:30am Mass. All welcome,.**

**Please bring a plate of food/drinks to share.**

**BBQ Organising Meeting** - could all interested helpers/organisers please attend a meeting to plan for this function.

Meeting: Wednesday 20th September at 9:30am in the hall



**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.

## Masses & Feasts

Wed	20 Sept	Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon
Thurs	21 Sept	St Matthew
Sat	23 Sept	St Pius of Pietrelcina

## 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 22 September at 6pm** in the church hall. All school-aged children are welcome to attend. You are welcome to bring a friend.

**Holiday Fun!** Indoor Soccer Round Robin 27th September

**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.

**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.

**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.

## 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, Barry Sturgess., Harriot Perera, Teresita Rehad, Flora Ferino, Fraternidad Ramirez, Thelma Pore, Joseph Pathrose, Peter Paul Sultana

**For those who are sick:**

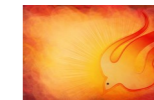
Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos T Quinteros, Francis Saliba, John Padernia, Joe Sultana, Elisabeth Juliawati Santoso, Maria Pisto, Tony & Freda Attard, Margaret Galea, Belinda Grgic, Helen Grima, Candice Basopoulos and those in our parish community.

*Thank You* **Lemons** — thank you to the family who donated the lemons. Our Parish was able to raise \$ 153 from the sale of lemons. Thank you very much!

**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.

## 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.