

## 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**

## Appeals

**Thank you for caring for our retired priests who have always cared for us.** Because of your compassion, our Bishop's Father's Day Appeal raised over **\$2832.10** to care for our retired priests and clergy in ill-health.

**Thank you for supporting the Catholic Mission Appeal** which was held in August. Your generous donations of **\$1715.45** will support this mission.

## 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 Sept/Oct 2023

Date	Welcomers	Mass Coordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Padernia		A Jaszczyszyn S Nieves	M Sultana		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	
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> 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	Jenchriss & 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

Tuesdays

10am - 12pm

10am - 11am

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

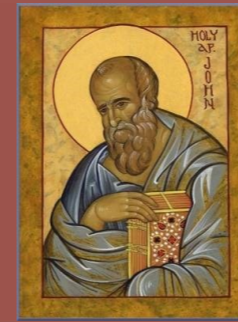
## Friday Prayer Group

**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



## 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

**24 September 2023**

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

*First Reading Isaiah 55:6-9*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*My thoughts are not your thoughts.*

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving;

for my thoughts are not your thoughts,

my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth

as my ways are above your ways,

my thoughts above your thoughts.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v.18*

*The Lord is near to all who call him.*

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. the Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured.

*The Lord is near to all who call him.*

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

*The Lord is near to all who call him.*

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts.

*The Lord is near to all who call him.*

*Second Reading Philippians 1:20-24. 27*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*For me to live is Christ.*

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is then giving good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Gospel Acclamation Apostles 16:14*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

*The Lord be with you.*

*And with your Spirit.*

*Gospel Matthew 20:1-16*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Why are you jealous because I am generous?*

Jesus said to his disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each.

They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ*

**We are blessed that Bishop Vincent will celebrate the 10:30am Mass with our Parish today, Sunday 24th September . Thank you Bishop Vincent.**

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

Please bring a plate of food/drinks to share.

### School Holiday Fun!



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

Wednesday 27th September 2023—Please note that the carpark of the centre will be closed, due to repairs. Please park on the street. Thank you.

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 bring your friends for a great day!

**Lemons** — thank you to the family who donated the lemons. Our Parish was able to raise more money with the total \$ 216 from the sale of lemons. Thank you very much!

## Masses & Feasts

Wed	27 Sept	St Vincent de Paul
Fri	29 Sept	Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael
Sat	30 Sept	St Jerome

## 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.

**Thank you parent helpers and the YFC group** who helped at the Youth Group gathering that was held on Friday. The night was a success and the children had fun!

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.

**Thank you** to the wonderful parishioner who organised the BBQ this weekend, after we celebrated mass with **Bishop Vincent**. Thank you to the parishioners who brought the yum-my food to this event.

**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.

## 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 Rezac, Flora Ferino, Fraternidad Ramirez, Thelma Pore, Joseph Pathrose, Peter Paul Sultana, Mary Calleja

### 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.

**History—In the year 2024**, our Parish will celebrate 120 years!

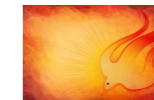
If you have any items from the past, that you are willing to donate to our Parish or share a copy, please bring them to the office. If anyone is interested in organising this event, please contact the parish office.

**Thank you Bunnings, Marsden Park** for supporting your local charities and donating 3 trestle tables to our Parish. Our Parish is very grateful. *Thank you!*

### 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.