

## 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 for all of the wonderful donations for the recent *Catholic Mission Appeal*. Our Parish donated \$1,715.

## 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

## 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

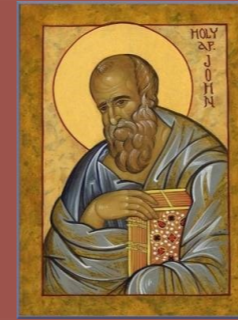
**Christ Catholic Community (CCC) Prayer Group**

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

Mary Camilleri Ph 0403116987

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 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family		M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn	M Sultana	M Galati	Paul Sultana	M Camilleri S Corben
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power point	M Virgee Tess
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> 9am	Sullivan Family	R Brown	J Padernia	J Sullivan R Brown	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	J Sullivan	San Pedro Calungsod	JB
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia	H Greedy	F Deruz A Deruz	C Mascarenhas	Angie	Jenchris & Co	
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	



## 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

## 3 September 2023

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

*First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9*

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.*

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;

you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,

everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl

and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me

insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,

I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,

I could not bear it.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2*

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you

like a dry, weary land without water.

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise.

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

For you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

*Second Reading Romans 12:1-2*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.  
Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg  
you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering  
your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.  
Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world  
around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by  
your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of  
God and know what is good, what it is that God wants,  
what is the perfect thing to do.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Gospel Acclamation Ephesians 1:17-18*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our heart,  
that we might see how great is the hope  
to which we are called.  
Alleluia!

*The Lord be with you.*

*And with your Spirit.*

*Gospel Matthew 16:21-27*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.  
Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was  
destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the  
hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put  
to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking  
him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven  
preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.'  
But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan!  
You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think  
is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a  
follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his  
cross and follow me.'

For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but any-  
one who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then,  
will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his  
life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Fa-  
ther with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward  
each one according to his behaviour.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ*



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

This will be the first celebration in the  
Parish Centre. All parishioners are invited  
to attend the Father's Day breakfast on the

**3rd September at the Parish Centre.** There will be a  
jumping castle for the children and other activities, such as  
ball games. Please bring a plate of food on the day to share  
with others. Morning Tea will be served after the 9am  
Mass. The BBQ will be served after the 10:30am Mass.

**The Parish Centre** is in need of a BBQ. If any parishioner  
has a BBQ at home that they no longer use, in good  
working order, we would be grateful if you could donate it  
to the Parish. Thank you.

### 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

Fri 8 Sept The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary 8:30am Mass

## 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.

**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.

**Thank you** to our Parishioners who have been busy setting up  
the Parish Centre and de-cluttering the Parish buildings.  
We appreciate your continued hard work to help our Parish  
Community.

## 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  
Shiple, Chris, John, Maryann Sultana & Sultana  
family, John, Michael, Angelo & Clementina Sultana  
and Sultana family, Maria & Nicholas Gatt, Joseph  
Jack Sultana, Harriot Perera, Louis Attard, Louis &  
Carmen Sultana, Michael Sultana & Peppa Attard,  
Mary Calleja, Xerri family and Azzopardi family,  
Fr Carl Ashton, Sam, Maria & Tanti families, Frank &  
Fortunata Baiada, Crensencia Fernando, Dominic  
Rodrigo and Michael Jenaras, Andrew Tee Swe Tay,  
Joseph Magro & Ronda Attich, Charlie & Jane Refalo,  
Charlie & Victoria Bugeja, Melanie Watumena & Brian  
Peterson, Florencia Boquiren Carmela & Eucharist  
Bajada, Brian Peterson, Michael Agius, Maryjane  
Sultana, Carmelo, Carmen & Michael Vella, Walter  
Mampalaw, Evonege McKasher, Joseph, Maria & Same  
Mercieca, Emmanuel, Doris & Joseph Sultana,  
Nunziato, Natale & Filice Orlando, Domenico Procopia,  
Orlando & Procopia families, Charles, Teresa Camilleri,  
Rick Polgar

### For those who are sick:

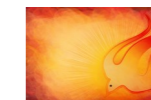
Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos T Quinteros,  
Francis Saliba, John Padernia, Joe Sultana, Elisabeth  
Juliawati Santoso, Maria Pisto, Tony & Freda Attard,  
Margaret Galea, Belinda Grgic, Helen Grima and those  
in our parish community.

**Bless our fathers, that they may be strengthened as  
Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and  
love shine forth.**

**Happy Father's Day to all of our wonderful  
Fathers in our Parish Community.**

Our Parish community, would like to express our sincere gratitude  
to Woolworths—Schofields for the food donations for the recent  
Parish Centre Opening and our school holiday St John's Eagles  
Round Robin Indoor Soccer days. Thank you.

## 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 5 September 7pm  
in the Parish Hall.