

## 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**

### Fri 17 Nov Christmas Party

This will be the final Youth Group gathering for this year.

## 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

## History

**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 helping to organise this event, please contact the parish office.

## 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 Oct/Nov 2023

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Padernia		Volunteer Volunteer	Volunteer	P Mansweto	Paul Sultana	C Messa S Corben
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	E Sultana	R Bigeni		E Sultana Volunteer	Volunteer	None	Power point	M Virgee JB
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		S Corben B Simon	L Fox	V Sultana	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy			David Julien	P Mansweto	A Delara	Raymond & Co	
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family		M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn	M Sultana	M Galati	Paul Sultana	M Camilleri S Corben
Sun 5 <sup>th</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 5 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Sullivan Family	R Brown		J Sullivan R Brown	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	J Sullivan	San Pedro Calungsod	Annie Elizabeth
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy		H Greedy	F Dcruz A Dcruz	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

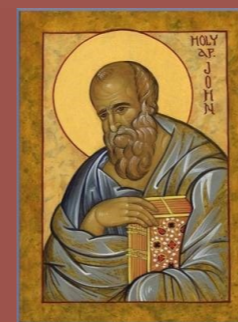
Unfortunately, piety items are not available for purchase from the parish office.

## 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



## 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

**29 October 2023**

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

*First Reading Exodus 22:20-26*

A reading from the book of Exodus

*If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.*

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan: if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Responsorial Psalm Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v.2*

*I love you, Lord, my strength.*

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
 my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
 My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
 my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
 The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
 when I call I am saved from my foes.

*I love you, Lord, my strength.*

Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
 Praised be the God who saves me.  
 He has given great victories to his king  
 and shown his love for his anointed.

*I love you, Lord, my strength.*

*Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians  
**You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.**

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Gospel Acclamation John 14:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
 All who love me will keep my words,  
 and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
 Alleluia!

*The Lord be with you.*

*And with your Spirit.*

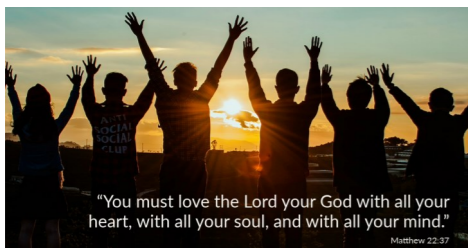
*Gospel Matthew 22:34-40*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
**You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.*



† **November Mass Offerings**

All masses during the month of November will be offered for those listed on the November envelopes. The List can be found during the month of November on the lectern at the front of the Church.

**Envelopes are now available in the porch.**

Please, CLEARLY write the names on the envelope, enclose your donation and then place the envelope in either of the collection plates during any Mass. Please be advised that there will be no intentions announced during any masses in November. A private Mass Memorial may be booked for a Mass intention. Thank you for your understanding.

Early Christmas Shopping... beautiful craft items for sale!

**St John's Parish Christmas Craft Items** - made by our Craft Ladies are now available, next to the Piety Store table, to purchase, before/after the 9am and 10:30am Sunday Masses. All proceeds will go to the Riverstone Parish.

**Piety Store - For Sale**

- God Word 2024 Book \$22 each
- Columban Calendar 2024 \$10 each

Fr Eugene Stockton will turn 89 in November. As part of this celebration there will be a launch of a book celebrating his life **Eugene Stockton: Blue Mountains Hermit**. The book will be launched on 3 December at 2pm in Lawson. For further details please contact Mick on 0451613499 or contact@bmert.com.au

**Masses & Feasts**

All Saints Mass	Wednesday	1st Nov 8:30am & 7:30pm
All Souls Mass	Thursday	2nd Nov 8:30am & 7:30pm
First Friday Mass	Friday	3rd Nov 7:30pm
Anointing Mass	Saturday	4th Nov 8:30am
St Charles Borromeo	Saturday	4th Nov

**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**

\* **SAVE THE DATE** \*

**St John's Community Christmas Carols**

Friday 1st December at 6pm

**The Youth Group Christmas Party is on Friday 17th November at 6pm** in the church hall. All school-aged children are welcome to attend and you are most welcome to bring a friend. This will be a fun night as the children will celebrate Christmas with a Christmas Party! This will be the final Youth Group gathering for 2023.

**Parish Council Meeting** - Wednesday 8th November  
 7:30pm in the Parish Hall

Could Parish Council Members please RSVP to the office by Monday 6th November. Thank you.

**Eucharist**—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.

**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. We have been getting many coins lately, please check your coins in your pockets and purses before placing in the collection plates. Thank you.

**Lost Property** can be found on the table 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.

**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. Please place this event in your Diary!

**Diocese of Parramatta**

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to its **second annual Mass for our deceased clergy on Friday 17 November at 10.30am at St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill**, followed by prayers at the gravesites of clergy buried in Pinegrove Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and give your gift of prayer to those whose lives were dedicated to bringing us all closer to Christ.

We encourage each parish to offer a Mass for the deceased priests and deacons who have served in your own parish on the same day, to unite in prayer for this special intention.

**Prayers for our Community**

† **For those who have died:**

All Souls, All Souls in Purgatory, 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, Peter Paul Sultana, Antonio Mattioli, Giuseppe Dettore, Nicola Decambli, Frank Ardizzi, Lessel & Celine DÁbreo, Michael Machado, Hazel Rebello, Sinclair Mendonca, Michael Agius, Theresa & Victor Sultana, Julieta Saranillo, Giuseppe Sgiuto, Tom Balaam & Julianna Akor.

**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.

**St John's Community Christmas Carols**

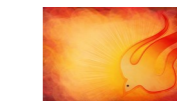
Friday 1st December at 6pm

The next **meeting** for the **St John's Community Christmas Carols** will be on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

**Donations** towards the costs involved of performing the **St John's Community Christmas Carols** would be very much appreciated. All donations will be acknowledged on the night. Please place your donation in an envelope stating Carols and your name on the front. Plain envelopes can be found in the porch. Please give the envelope to Fr Zakaria or the Parish Office.

**Raffle tickets** for a fabulous hamper will be on sale this weekend. All proceeds will be shared by both the Parish and St John's Primary School. \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5.

**Sacraments**



**Sacrament of Confirmation**

Enrolment Mass - Parent & child	Sunday 29th October at 9:00am or 10:30am
Lesson 1 - Parent & Child	Tuesday 31st October 7pm
Lesson 2 -	Tuesday 7th November

**Sacrament of Baptism**

The next Baptism Class:  
 Tuesday 7th November at 7pm in the Parish Hall.