

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.

History

History—In the year 2024 Our Parish will celebrate 120 years! If you have any items or photos from the past, that you are willing to donate to our Parish or share a copy, please bring them to the office. We would like to form a committee for this small event. Please call the office if you are interested in being on this committee. Thank you!

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

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.

Church Roster November 2023

Date	Welcomers	Mass Coordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 11 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	L Canlas	Paul Sultana	M Camilleri S Corben
Sun 12 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power Point	M Virgee JB
Sun 12 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown			J Boemi R Xuereb	S Yapa	L Fox	Nonoy & Tina	Annie Elizabeth
Sun 12 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		J Sultana M Syme	D Gorkic	L Fox	Raymond & Co	
Sat 18 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family			A Jaszczyszyn Volunteer	M Sultana	L Canlas	Paul Sultana	C Sultana
Sun 19 th 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		E Sultana C Wickman	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 19 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Asimus		S Corben B Simon	C Samuel	S Yapa	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 19 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		S Suri W Suri	C Mascarenhas	H Greedy	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

10am - 12pm

Tuesdays

10am - 11am

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

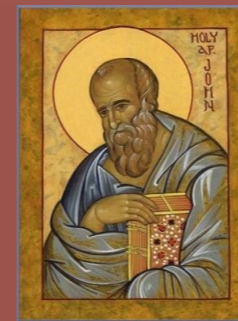
Friday Prayer Group

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

Counter: A Hoare & J Shipley



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

12 November 2023

Thirty - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.

By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her.

Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.

Watch for her early and you will find her sitting at your gates.

Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;

be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.

She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her

and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:2-8. 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.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

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

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 24:42. 44

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed.

The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



St John's Parish, Riverstone Christmas Party

All Volunteers and Parishioners are invited to our Parish Christmas Party!!

Wednesday 6th December 6pm in the Parish Centre

Invitations are also extended to all of volunteers - all those on our Roster, the Parish Council, the Finance Council, Futures Committee, choirs, musicians, readers, acolytes, Sacramental Team, SRE's, children's liturgy helpers, altar children, craft ladies, those who clean the church and look after the gardens, Youth Group helpers, Soccer Gala Day helpers, Lap top operators, counters, parish event organisers and all those involved in a committee or group. Please bring a plate of food/drinks to share. Please RSVP to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Appeals

Bishop's Christmas Appeal – 25 and 26 November 2023

This Christmas appeal will support our Catholic Care chaplaincy services, offering hope and comfort to those in hospitals, prisons, and difficult circumstances. Envelopes will be provided. Donations from this Appeal will go towards the St John's Parish Quota for the Diocese of Parramatta.

Please give generously to this appeal.

Masses & Feasts

Fri 17 Nov	St Elizabeth of Hungary
Fri 1 Dec	First Friday Mass 8:30am
Fri 1 Dec	7:30pm Mass cancelled due to carols
Sat 2 Dec	8:30am Anointing 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

Please Remember - The Importance of Getting to Mass On Time
Get to church early, so that you can be in the present moment, calm your mind and body and feel God's presence.

We get to meet the King of Kings, Lord of Lord.
Focus, focus, listen, listen, if we want to hear a fresh word from God. We give God bread and wine. God gives us back His Body and Blood.

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.

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.

Internet Banking or Cash accepted.

For Sale "The Sign" - Advent & Christmas Daily Reflection Book 2023 From The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong. **\$8 each.** (Be quick! We only have 2 copies left for sale)

Please purchase from the Parish Office.

Piety Store - For Sale

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

(Calendar includes list of Saints & Feast Days)

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. We will be forming a committee in January 2024 for this event.

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.

Lost Property - can be found on the table in the hall.

Diocese of Parramatta

A gala concert will mark the 125th Anniversary of the construction of St. Patrick's Cathedral Organ 1898 by the firm Norman & Beard. **Event Details** Sunday 12 November 2023 at 3pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral 1 Marist Place, Parramatta **[BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW](#)** (tickets will also be available at the door)

Prayers for our Community



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. The List will be updated each Friday during November.

Envelopes are available in the porch.

Please, CLEARLY write the names on the envelope, enclose your donation and then place the envelope on 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.

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

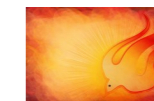


The carols will be held in the school grounds.
For your comfort, please bring a chair/blanket.
There will be a coffee van onsite.

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 again 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

Lesson 3 & Church Practise Parent & Child	Tuesday 14th November 7pm
Celebration: Sacrament of Confirmation	Tuesday 21st November 7pm

Sacrament of Baptism

The next Baptism Class:
Tuesday 6th December at 7pm in the Parish Hall.
There will be no class in January 2024.