

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 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 Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 4 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family		M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn	M Sultana	M Galati	Paul Sultana	M Camilleri S Corben
Sun 5 th 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 th 9am	Sullivan Family	R Brown		J Sullivan R Brown	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	J Sullivan	San Pedro Calungsod	Annie Elizabeth
Sun 5 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy		H Greedy	F Dcruz A Dcruz	C Mascarenhas	Substitute	Jenchriss & Co	
Sat 11 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	L Canlas	Paul Sultana	Volunteer
Sun 12 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 12 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown			J Boemi R Xuereb	S Yapa	L Fox	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 12 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		J Sultana M Syme	D Gorkic	L Fox	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

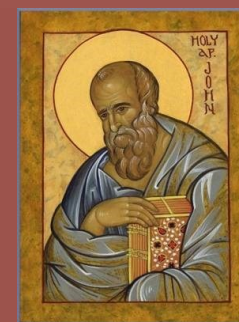
Unfortunately, piety items are not available for purchase from the parish office.

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

5 November 2023

Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading Malachi 1:14 - 2:2, 8-10

A reading from the prophet Malachi

You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 130

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes. I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me.

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul.

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever.

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13

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

We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 23:9. 10

Alleluia, alleluia!
You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel Matthew 23:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They do not practise what they preach.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

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.

Piety Store - For Sale

God Word 2024 Book \$22 each

Columban Calendar 2024 \$10 each

(Calendar includes list of Saints & Feast Days)

For Sale "The Sign" - Advent & Christmas Daily Reflection Book 2023 From The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong. **\$8 each.**

(Be quick! We only have 3 copies left for sale)

Please purchase from the Parish Office.

Fr Eugene Stockton, Riverstone Parish Priest from 1990 - 1996 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

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

Thurs 9 Nov The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Fri 10 Nov St Leo the Great

Sat 11 Nov St Martin of Tours

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**
The Mass gives perfect thanks to God.

The Church teaches us that we owe God these four things and it is our duty to give God these four things:
1. Adoration 2. Praise 3. Atonement 4. Thanksgiving

Please try to arrive to Mass before the Mass begins - as for us to enjoy God's Grace more fully, we need to be present for all parts of the Mass. Thank you.

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.

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.

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!

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 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 10th to 12th November, 2023. Please view the advertisement on the noticeboard for more information or speak to Deacon Michael Tan.

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 grave sites 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



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 now 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.

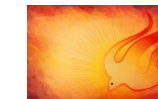
St John's Community Christmas Carols
Friday 1st December at 6pm

The next **meeting** for the **St John's Community Christmas Carols** will be on **Monday, 6th 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 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 2 - Parent & Child	Tuesday 7th November 7pm
Lesson 3- Parent & Child	Tuesday 14th November 7pm

Sacrament of Baptism

The next Baptism Class:

Tuesday 7th November at 7pm in the Parish Hall.