

Youth Group

Youth

St John’s Parish, Riverstone Youth Group

We look forward to Youth Group in 2024!

Dates to be advised early 2024.

Indoor Soccer

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN!

St John’s Eagles Round Robin Soccer Gala Day

Date will be advised soon for the January 2024 Day.

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.

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

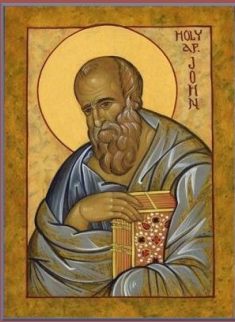
Prayer meeting held every Friday 10am in the classroom building. For further information, please contact:

Mary Camilleri Ph 0403116987

Counters- J Shipley & A Hoare

Church Roster December 2023

Date	Welcomers	Mass Coordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children’s Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 9 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	L Canlas	Paul Sultana	Volunteer
Sun 10 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 10 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown			K Amanda N Tsui	S Yapa	L Fox	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 10 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		J Sultana M Syme		L Fox	Raymond & Co	
Sat 16 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family			A Jaszczyszyn Volunteer	M Sultana	L Canlas	Paul Sultana	C Sultana
Sun 17 th 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		E Sultana C Wickman	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 17 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Asimus		S Corben B Simon	C Samuel	S Yapa	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 17 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		W Suri I Spram	L Bird	H Greedy	Jenchris & 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: stjohns10@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

10 December 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.
And with your Spirit.

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him,
and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they con-
fessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived
on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said,
‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I
am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his san-
dals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with
the Holy Spirit.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Second Sunday of Advent

Christmas Roster There is a clipboard in the porch containing a roster for the Christmas Masses. Some names have already been confirmed. If you would like to volunteer for our Christmas Masses, please place your name on the roster.

St John’s Parish, Riverstone Christmas Party was held on Wednesday 6th December 6pm in the Parish Centre

Everyone enjoyed a lovely night. The weather was sunny with a beautiful cool breeze underneath the verandah at the Parish Centre. We all enjoyed great company and great food.

Thank you to Fr Zakaria and Fr Andrew who blessed the food. Thank you to the wonderful group of people who set up, prepared and cleaned up on the night. Thank you to everyone who brought the beautiful food for everyone to share. Thank you to Tony who carved the ham that was supplied by the Parish.

Thank you to all of the St John’s Parish Volunteers and Parishioners for attending the party!

Reconciliation (First Rite/Individual)				
Thurs	21 Dec	10am -11am	and	7pm - 8pm
Fri	22 Dec	10am - 11am	and	7pm - 8pm
Sat	23 Dec	4:30pm – 5:30pm		

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sat 23 Dec 8:30am Mass
6pm Vigil Mass Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sun 24 Dec Christmas Eve
Fourth Sunday of Advent 7am, 9am & 10:30am Mass
6pm Children’s Christmas Mass
9pm Christmas Eve Mass
Mon 25 Dec Christmas Day
Christmas Day Mass 7am, 9am & 10:30am

Masses & Feasts

Wed 13 Dec St Lucy

Thur 14 Dec St John of the Cross


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 and Respect.
Please arrive and be seated before the procession takes place to begin the Mass. Please be respectful and remain in your seats until the procession exits the church after the Mass has finished. Thank you.



Children’s Christmas Mass Rehearsal -
please bring your child to the rehearsal if they would like to be involved in the Children’s Christmas Mass.
Childrens Mass Rehearsal :
Wed 20 December 5pm– 6pm.
The Children’s Christmas Mass is Sunday 24th December at 6pm.

Christmas Mass Offering Envelopes are in the porch.
These donations go directly to the Riverstone Parish. Please place your envelope on the 2nd collection plate.

St John’s Parish Christmas Raffle
From the 2nd December our Parish Raffle Tickets will be on sale before and after Mass.
Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Prizes are on display.
Please support our Parish! **Cash accepted.**

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.

Vinnies—Christmas This year we ask that you select a tag from the Christmas Tree to donate a gift. Please leave under the tree in the porch.

Piety Store - For Sale
God Word 2024 Book \$22 each
Columban Calendar 2024 \$10 each
(Calendar includes list of Saints & Feast Days)

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.

Diocese of Parramatta/Appeal

Bishop’s Christmas Appeal
Thank you for giving comfort, faith, and hope to distraught people this Christmas.
Fr Fernando Montano Rodriguez, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support for people in hospital and prison who might otherwise feel abandoned. Because of your compassion, our Bishop’s Christmas Appeal raised **\$3343.25 from the Riverstone Parish**, which will provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to people in times of darkness. If you haven’t had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal Thank you.

Prayers for our Community

Deceased Mass Offerings -
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, Michael Agius, Theresa & Victor Sultana, Cresencia Fernando, Lise Sardes, Harriot Perera.

For those who are sick:
Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos T Quinteros, Francis Saliba, John Padernia, Joe Sultana, Maria Pisto, Tony & Freda Attard, Margaret Galea, Belinda Grgic, Jeff Meilak and those in our parish community.


St John’s Community Christmas Carols
Was Held - Friday 1st December at 6pm
Once again we would like to thank all of the Students and volunteers who helped to make this night a success.
We would like to especially give thanks to the following people:
Fr Zakaria
Fr Andrew
Deacon Dr Michael Tan
Mr Warren Kirby
Mrs Jane Misek
Staff - St John’s Primary
St John’s Parish Choirs
Cyril—MC
special guest Santa
Parishioner Volunteers who helped in the canteen, selling the raffle tickets and packing up.

Special Thanks for Donations.....
French Pani Bugeja Family
Shipley Family Ray & Josephine Bigeni
Joyce & Maryann Brown Family
Cyril & Ancy V & C Sultana
Chikara Ike Joe
Patrick Perera Peter & Jacinta Sullivan
Maryanne Anna
Galati Family Greedy Family
Canlas family
We would like to bless the St John’s Community and look forward to celebrating this event again in 2024!

Congratulations:
Raffle 1st Prize - Black Ticket A12 Marianne B

Carols Date 2024: Friday 6th December 6:30pm

Sacraments


Sacrament of Baptism
There will be **NO** class in January 2024.
The next Baptism Class: Tues 6 Feb 2024 7pm in the Church Hall.

Thank you to the Baptism Sacramental Team for all of their contributions towards he classes and Baptisms 2023!