

Youth Group



**St John’s Parish, Riverstone Youth Group**  
We look forward to Youth Group in 2024!  
Dates to be advised early 2024.

Indoor Soccer

St John’s Eagles Round Robin Soccer Gala Day  
Unfortunately, there will be no Gala Day in January.  
The next Soccer Gala Day will be on  
Wed 17th April 2024 9:30am—2:30pm.  
All school-aged children are invited.

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. Our Parish cannot bank these coins. Please check your coins in your pockets and purses before placing them 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**

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>
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.  
Last day 15/12/2023 and will resume 12/1/2024.

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 16 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family			A Jaszczynzyn Volunteer	M Sultana	A Delara	Paul Sultana	C Sultana
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		E Sultana C Wickman	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Asimus		S Corben B Simon	C Samuel	S Yapa V Sultana	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		W Suri I Spram	L Bird	Shelley J Bugeja	Jenchris & Co	
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Padernia		A Jaszczynzyn S Nieves	M Sultana	P Mansweto	Paul Sultana	C Messa S Corben
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	E Sultana	R Bigeni		C Wickman M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	M Virgee JB
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	M Camilleri	J Bugeja S Yapa	Rondalla & Co	Annie MO
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	M Satorre	H Greedy	J Padernia		N D’Souza R D’Souza	D Gorkic	A Delara V Sultana	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:** 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

17 December 2023  
Third Sunday of Advent

*First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11*  
A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*I exult for joy in the Lord.*  
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.  
‘I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.’  
*The word of the Lord.*  
*Thanks be to God.*  
  
*Responsorial Psalm Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10*  
*My soul rejoices in my God.*  
My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.  
*My soul rejoices in my God.*

The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.

*My soul rejoices in my God.*

He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy.

*My soul rejoices in my God.*

*Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

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

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

*The word of the Lord.*  
*Thanks be to God.*

*Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

*The Lord be with you.*  
*And with your Spirit.*

*Gospel John 1:6-8. 19-28*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked, ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not,’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.’

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

*The word of the Lord.*  
*Thanks be to God.*



*Third 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.

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**

Normal Mass Times from Tuesday 26/12  
New Years Day Mass Monday 1/1/2024 8:30am & 7:30pm


**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 is a time when Jesus is present with us.* 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.

 **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**  
Parish Raffle Tickets are now 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 your gift 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**

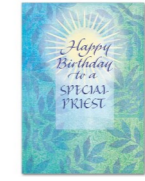
The new [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org) website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive ‘Find a Mass’ function and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

**Advent and Christmas | Summer 2023 Catholic Outlook Magazine out now!**



**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, Rehul & Flavia, Fred Baskerville and Joseph Sultana.

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

 **Happy Birthday Fr Zakaria and Fr Andrew!**  
*For being the wonderful and caring priests that you are, May God's blessings and kindness surround you both on your Birthday and all the days of your life. Happy Birthday! In celebration of your Birthday, and for your devoted and faithful service, may God bless you, with happiness and peace. From the St John’s Parish, Riverstone Community.*


As both Fr Zakaria and Fr Andrew will celebrate their birthdays this week, we would like to invite all parishioners to the celebration:  
When: After 10:30am Mass on Sunday 17th December  
Where: Parish Centre  
We will celebrate with tea, coffee and cake!

 **St John’s Community Christmas Carols**   
Our first Christmas Carols was very successful raising \$2400. Many thanks to parishioners, parents and community members who contributed to this event, purchased raffle tickets during weekend masses and all sales on the evening of the carols.

We would also like to thank St John’s Primary, for the donation of their share of these funds to support parish initiatives. We are very appreciative of their generosity.

**The Parish and St John’s Primary are looking forward to our 2024 Christmas Carols – 6<sup>th</sup> December at 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.**