

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.
Prayer Group will resume on Friday 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 23 rd 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Padernia		A Jaszczyszyn S Nieves	M Sultana	P Mansweto	Paul Sultana	C Messa S Corben
Sun 24 th 7am	Volunteer	E Sultana	R Bigeni		C Wickman M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	M Virgee JB
Sun 24 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	M Camilleri	J Bugeja S Yapa	Rondalla & Co	Annie MO
Sun 24 th 10:30am	M Satorre	H Greedy	J Padernia		N D’Souza R D’Souza	D Gorkic	A Delara V Sultana	Raymond & Co	
Sat 30 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Padernia		Volunteer Volunteer	Volunteer	None	Paul Sultana	Volunteer
Sun 31st 7am	Volunteer	E Sultana	R Bigeni		E Sultana Volunteer	Volunteer	None	Power point	
Sun 31st 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		S Corben B Simon	L Fox	None	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 31st 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		D Gorkic S Suri	P Mansweto	None	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

24 December 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16
A reading from the second book of Samuel
The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.
Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent’. Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’
But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:
‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”’
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.’

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

He will say to me: ‘You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.’
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He went in and said to her, ‘Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour.

Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’ ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered ‘and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’ ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord,’ said Mary ‘let what you have said be done to me.’ And the angel left her.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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

Normal Mass Times from Tuesday 26/12

New Years Day Mass Monday 1/1/2024 8:30am & 7:30pm

Masses & Feasts

Tues 26 Dec St Stephen

Wed 27 Dec St John

Thurs 28 Dec The Holy Innocents

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 - please be respectful and present to Mass on time.



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

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.

The Parish and St John’s Primary are looking forward to our 2024 St John’s Community Christmas Carols – 6th December at 6:30pm.

Diocese of Parramatta

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website (www.parracatholic.org) and on Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org). The Diocese of Parramatta wishes you, your families and faith communities a Merry Christmas.

The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download - a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from October 13-15, 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now www.parracatholic.org/synod/resources

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, Fred Baskerville and Mary Calleja.

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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr Zakaria and the Parish Team would like to wish all our parishioners a very Merry Christmas.

*May you have the gift of faith
The blessing of hope
And the peace of His love*



The Catholic Outlook December 2023 is now available.

Please pick up a copy or view online.

St John’s Parish, Riverstone has a feature story in this copy.

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.**