

Youth Group



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

NEW YOUTH EVENT

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney invites high schoolers and young adults to the inaugural archdiocesan youth conference – "Purpose Conference". Our parish would like to encourage all High schoolers from Year 9 to Year 12 to attend this event on 7th and 8th December 2023, from 10:00-3:00pm at Rosebank College, Five Dock. Travel arrangements and Child supervision will be arranged by the parish. For additional details or to confirm attendance, please contact Neesha D'souza at neesha.dsouza@gmail.com or 04 66031758.

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 December 2023

Date	Welcomers	Mass Coordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 2 nd 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family		M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn	M Sultana	M Galati	Paul Sultana	C Messa S Corben
Sun 3 rd 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power point	M Virgee JB
Sun 3 rd 9am	Sullivan Family	Cyril		J Sullivan P Sullivan	V Sultana L Fernandez	None for this Mass only	J Sullivan S Brown	San Pedro Calungsod	Annie MO
Sun 3 rd 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy		H Greedy	F Dcruz A Dcruz	C Mascarenhas	S Corben	Jenchriss & Co	
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	S Robleza	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.

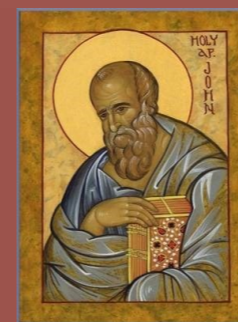
Friday Prayer Group

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

Counters- J Shipley & A Hoare



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

3 December 2023

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help.

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



First 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. Thank you

Christmas Mass & Reconciliation schedule can be viewed on the noticeboard.

Please note that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will have our normal 3 Sunday masses in the morning. In the evening we will celebrate Children's Mass and Vigil Mass.



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 extended to all of our 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 servers, 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.

Masses & Feasts

Thurs 7 Dec St Ambrose

Fri 8 Dec The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 be respectful to our God and be on time and present in the moment, when attending a Mass. Please remain in the church until the Mass is completed. This is a sign of respect.

Did you know..... If you read one chapter of Luke each day from the beginning of Advent, 1st December until the 25th December, then you will know the history of Jesus Christ, from birth to his ascension.

Altar Server Training - for all primary or high-school-aged children interested in becoming altar servers at our Masses. Fr Zakaria will run the training session. Date: Tuesday 5/12/2023 from 4pm - 5pm. Please meet outside the church. Please RSVP to the parish office by Monday 4/12/2023.

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.

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

(Be quick! We only have 1 copy 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)

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/Appeal

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

This appeal was held last weekend, the 25th and 26th November 2023

This Christmas appeal will support our Catholic Care chaplaincy services, offering hope and comfort to those in hospitals, prisons, and difficult circumstances.

Thank you to those who have already given their donation. For those who were unable to give last weekend, please fill out an appeal envelope and place in the 1st or 2nd collection this weekend.

Donations from this Appeal will go towards the St John's Parish Quota for the Diocese of Parramatta. Current Donation total is over \$1000. The quota for our Parish is approx. \$3000. Please give generously to this appeal.

Prayers for our Community



November 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.

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

Held - **Friday 1st December at 6pm**

What a wonderful night!

The Carols were enjoyed by both the St John's Parish and St John's Primary School.

We would like to thank all of the students who performed spectacularly. They did a wonderful performance. We would like to thank the Parish Choirs who entertained the community with their beautiful musical skills. Thank you to the principal Mrs Jane Misek and the Staff of St John's Primary school for all of their hard work.

We would also like to thank Fr Zakaria and the Parish Volunteers who helped on the night.

We would like to thank the St John's Community Carols Committee for all of their hard work organising this event.

We would like to bless the St John's Community and look forward to celebrating with this event in 2024!



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!

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.

Sacraments



Sacrament of Baptism

The next Baptism Class:

Tuesday 5th December at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

There will be no class in January 2024.