

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 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.

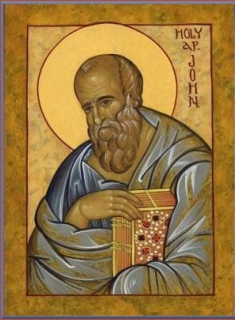
Friday Prayer Group

**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.

Counters- J Shipley & A Hoare

Church Roster January 2024

Date	Welcomers	Mass Coordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children’s Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	None	Jenchris & Co	Volunteer
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown			K Amanda N Tsui	S Yapa	None	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		J Sultana M Syme	S Robleza	None	Raymond & Co	
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Missio		A Jaszczyszyn Volunteer	M Sultana	None	Paul Sultana	C Sultana
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		E Sultana C Wickman	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Asimus		S Corben B Simon	C Samuel	None	Jepoy	
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		W Suri I Spram	L Bird	None	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

**14 January 2024**  
**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

*First Reading 1 Samuel 3:3-10.19*  
A reading from the first book of Samuel  
*Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.*  
Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ He answered, ‘Here I am’. Then he ran to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, since you called me.’ Eli said, ‘I did not call. Go back and lie down.’ So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, since you called me.’ He replied, ‘I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.’ Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, since you called me.’ Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, ‘Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ Samuel answered, ‘Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.’

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

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

*Responsorial Psalm Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv. 8.9*

*Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.*



I waited, I waited for the Lord.  
and he stooped down to me;  
he heard my cry.  
He put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God.

*Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.*

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,  
but an open ear.  
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.  
Instead, here am I.

*Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.*

In the scroll of the book it stands written  
that I should do your will.  
My God, I delight in your law  
in the depth of my heart.

*Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.*

Your justice I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.  
My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord.

*Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.*

*Second Reading 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20*

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

*Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.*

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Gospel Acclamation John 1:41. 17*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
We have found the Messiah:  
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.  
Alleluia!

*The Lord be with you.*

*And with your Spirit.*

*Gospel John 1:35-42*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.*

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, ‘Look, there is the lamb of God.’

Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, ‘What do you want?’ They answered, ‘Rabbi,’ – which means Teacher – ‘where do you live?’ ‘Come and see’ he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas’ – meaning Rock.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*



*All Parishioners are invited to our following Mass:*

Friday 26th Jan 8:30am Australia Day

Masses & Feasts

Wed 17 Jan St Anthony  
Fri 26 Jan Australia Day Mass 8:30am

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 -** ‘Christ is always present in the Church, especially in its Liturgical Celebrations.’ During the Mass, Jesus is present in the form of the Word, the bread and wine when it is changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, by the action of the Holy Spirit; through the Priest and through us, the community, which has gathered together. Please arrive on time to be with Christ.

The **Parish Office will be closed** from Monday 15 January and will re-open on Monday 29 January.  
For emergencies, please contact Fr Zakaria.

**WWCC**—volunteers, please check your date of expiry for your WWCC clearance. There are quite a few parishioners who will need to reapply for their WWCC, as they may expire in early 2024.  
Please contact the Parish office if you require any assistance. Thank you.

**Piety Store - For Sale**

God Word 2024 Book \$22 each  
*(Calendar includes list of Saints & Feast Days)*

Unfortunately, the **St John’s Eagles Round Robin Soccer Gala Day** has been cancelled for January 2024. The next Soccer Gala Day will be on Wed 17th April 2024 9:30am—2:30pm.  
All school-aged children are invited to attend.  
We are in need of parent helpers for the gala days for 2024. If you are able to help on these days, please contact the parish office and place your name on the list. More helpers will make the day run smoothly. Thank you.

**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.

Volunteer parishioners in the Riverstone Parish will need to complete **Mandatory Safeguarding Training in 2024**. This can be done online or in groups. Please see the noticeboard for more information. Our Parish will advertise dates for group training in the near future.

Diocese of Parramatta

**Free English and Citizenship Classes**  
Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills, on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm during school terms. Free childcare is available. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Crèche on (02) 8843 2506 or Nepean Community College (02) 4724 9000.

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 & Sultana family, Maria & Nicholas Gatt, Joseph Jack Sultana, Harriot Perera, Mary Calleja, Mary Polgar, Francis Stivala, Lachlan Hayes, Rita & Carmen Xerri, Paul & Maria Bigeni.

**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.

**Be Part of Our Synod Journey:**  
**Diocesan Synod Report Now Available**  
The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download. The newly released Diocesan Synod Report offers a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from 13-15 October 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>



**Volunteers Needed!**

- Acolytes
- Sacramental Program
- Baptism Classes
- Church Cleaners
- Special Ministers
- Indoor Soccer Parent Helpers

Our Parish is in need of more volunteers in various areas within our Parish. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office for more information and to place your name on the Volunteer List.

Please note that you will need to provide your Volunteer WWCC if you volunteer in an area that you may interact with children. Instructions on how to obtain this WWCC clearance can be obtained from the parish office.

Sacraments



**Sacrament of Baptism**

The next Baptism Class:  
Tuesday 6 February 2024  
7pm in the Church Hall