

## Youth Group



### 2024 St John's Parish Riverstone Youth Group

All school-aged children and their parents are invited to attend a get-together for the Youth Group.

Fun activities for both children and their parents.

You are most welcome to bring a friend.

**6pm** in the Church Hall on these Friday nights:

16 Feb    15 Mar    19 Apr

Further dates for 2024 will be advised soon.

## Indoor Soccer

St John's Eagles Round Robin Soccer Gala Day

The next Soccer Gala Day will be on

Wed 17th April 2024    9:30am - 2:30pm.

## 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.

## Church Roster February 2024

Date	Welcomers	Mass Coordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn	M Sultana	M Galati	Jenchriss & Co	C Messa S Corben
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power point	M Virgee JB
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Sullivan Family	R Brown		J Sullivan P Sullivan	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	J Sullivan S Brown	San Pedro Calunsod	Annie MO
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy		H Greedy	F Dcruz A Dcruz	C Mascarenhas	S Corben	Jenchriss & Co	
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	L Canlas	Paul Sultana	Volunteer
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown			K Amanda N Tsui	S Yapa	L Fox	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> 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.

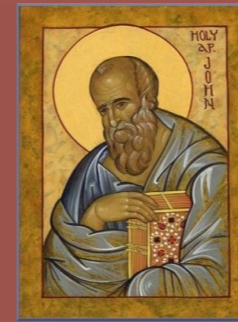
## Friday Prayer Group

**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:** stjohs10@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

**4 February 2024**

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

*First Reading Job 7:1-4, 6-7*

A reading from the book of Job

*I am filled with sorrow all day long.*

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,

his time no better than hired drudgery?

Like the slave, sighing for the shade,  
 or the workman with no thought but his wages,  
 months of delusion I have assigned to me,  
 nothing for my own but nights of grief.

Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'

Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,  
 and vanished, leaving no hope behind.

Remember that my life is but a breath,  
 and that my eyes will never again see joy.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Responsorial Psalm Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3*

*Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.*

Praise the Lord for he is good;  
 sing to our God for he is loving:  
 to him our praise is due.

*Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.*

The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles, he heals the broken-hearted, he binds up all their wounds. He fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name.

*Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.*

Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured. The Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust.

*Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.*

**Second Reading** *1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23*

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

*Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.*

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation** *Matthew 8:17*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
He bore our sickness,  
and endured our suffering.  
Alleluia!

*The Lord be with you.*

*And with your Spirit.*

**Gospel** *Mark 1:29-39*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.*

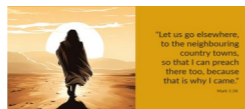
On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*



**Would you like to become an SRE in our Local Public**

**Schools? WHY IS SRE TAUGHT?** The Catholic Church sees the education of Catholic children in the Faith, in schools, as integral and key to its mission. SRE's are representatives of our faith community. **WHO ARE CATECHISTS?** Catechists (Scripture teachers) are volunteers who are approved, authorized and trained by the local parish and Dioceses of Parramatta, who are sharing their faith with the children.

Our Parish is always looking for parishioners who would like to become an SRE in one of our local public schools and share their faith with the children.

Without our SRE volunteers, our faith cannot be shared with the next generation. This ministry is a vital part of our church community.

If you are interested, Please speak to Helena Greedy who attends the Sunday, 10:30am Mass or phone the Parish Office for more information.

## Masses & Feasts

Mon	5 Feb	St Agatha
Tues	6 Feb	St Paul Miki & Companions
Sat	10 Feb	St Scholastica
Wed	14 Feb	Ash Wednesday 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** - 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 and the priest has exited the building. This is a sign of respect.

**Parish Centre**—Please pack away toys on the verandah of the Parish Centre after use. Please keep the grounds neat and tidy. Also, please make sure the lights at the Parish Centre are turned off before the last families leave.

The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm in the hall.

All parishioners are invited.

**SRE' Meeting** - Tuesday 13 Feb 9:30am in the Parish Hall. Could all SRE's please attend this meeting.

**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 note that the WWCC clearance is separate to the face-to-face training that was completed by parishioners in the hall, in 2022.

Please contact the Parish office if you require any assistance. Thank you.

We would like to start a **Saturday morning group of Volunteer Cleaners** for the Church. This would be after the 8:30am Mass. This will enable those who cannot spare time during the week to participate in this ministry. Please contact the Parish Office with your name and contact number.

**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

**Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities** will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown this coming February.

- Monday 5 February (9.30am – 2.30pm) – Modules 1-3: For those new to Parish Ministry or for those who have not yet completed the initial Cycle 1 training, or
- Monday 12 February (10am – 1.30pm) – Modules 4-5: Renewal Safeguarding Training is for those in Parish Ministry who commenced Cycle 1 Training two years ago. **email Maria Kervin at: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)**

## 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 & Leanne Sultana & Sultana family, Maria & Nicholas Gatt, Joseph Jack Sultana, Harriot Perera, Fred Baskerville, Mary Calleja, Mary Polgar, Francis Stivala, Julian Dalley, Silvano Santilli, Antoinia Mercia, Lachlan Hayes, Rita & Carmen Xerri, Paul & Maria Bigeni, Malcolm Broun, Carmelo & Paula Farrugia, Mrs Nurses & Michael Agius

**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.



Ash Wednesday Masses  
Wednesday 14th February  
8:30am & 7:30pm  
All parishioners are invited to attend Mass.

**Volunteers Needed!**

- Acolytes
- Sacramental Program
- Baptism Classes
- Church Cleaners
- Special Ministers
- Indoor Soccer Parent Helpers
- SRE's
- Musician needed for 1st Sunday 9am Mass

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.

**Sacramental Program 2024**

A copy of the Sacrament Program 2024 Parent Letter and Sacramental Dates can be found in the porch.