

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:

15 March 19 April

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.

We need Parent Helpers on the day. PLEASE consider giving up a little of your time to help.

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 March 2024

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 9 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	J Enroles	Paul Sultana	
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	S Yapa	Nonoy & Tina Co	
Sun 10 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		J Sultana M Syme		L Fox N D'Souza	Raymond & Co	
Sat 16 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Missio		A Jaszczyszyn Volunteer	M Sultana	L Canlas	Paul Sultana	C Sultana
Sun 17 th 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		E Sultana C Wickman	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 17 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown			S Corben B Simon	C Samuel	R Brown N D'Souza	Jepoy & Co	
Sun 17 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		W Suri I Spram	L Bird	S Nobleza V Sultana	Jenchriss & 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.

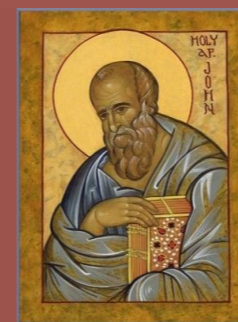
Friday Prayer Group

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 & V Sultana



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

10 March 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year B

First Reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 136. R. v.6

Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps.

Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.'

Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys!

Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

Second Reading Ephesians 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel John 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.'

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.
And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held during Lent

All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Wednesday after the 8.30am Mass and

**Friday evenings at 7pm
before Mass at 7:30pm**

Please be advised that the 7:30pm Mass will be held every Friday night during Lent.

Daylight Saving - please turn your clocks backward 1 hour on Sunday 7 April 2024 at 2am AEST

Masses & Feasts

Mon 18 March 8:30am St Patrick's Day Mass

**24 March ONLY ON Palm Sunday
Mass 7am 9am 11am**

- due to traffic congestion & extra parishioners the 10:30am mass will be moved to 11am

Mon 8 April 8:30am The Annunciation of the Lord Mass

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 show your respect to the Lord and arrive to Mass on time.

Pentecost 2024 The Next meeting: Saturday 23rd March at 10am

We are planning to celebrate **Pentecost 2024 on the 19th May** with a display of national flags in front of the altar, together with an international food festival. All parishioners who would like to be involved on this day are invited to this meeting.

MASS TIME CHANGE Sunday 24th March ONLY ON Palm Sunday Mass 7am 9am and 11am

(due to traffic congestion & extra parishioners the 10:30am mass will be moved to 11am)

St John's Parish Easter Raffle - tickets are on sale from this weekend, before and after Mass. \$2 each or 3 for \$5. FABULOUS prizes! Please support our Parish by buying some tickets!

Lenten Program - REPENT AND BELIEVE

The fourth session will be held on Monday 11th March at 7pm in the church hall. All parishioners are welcome to join this program. This is a free program, booklets will be provided. Please RSVP to Cathy Mob: 0413207951.

Easter Offering Envelopes - are now available in the porch. These are the pink and blue envelopes and these donations go directly to the Riverstone Parish. Please place them in any of the collection plates. Thank you for supporting our Riverstone Parish!

The **Easter Volunteer Roster** is available in the porch. Please consider adding your name to the list to help with the masses during Easter.

HELP URGENTLY NEEDED: Our Parish has begun a **Saturday morning group of Volunteer Cleaners** for the Church. This would be after the 8:30am Mass, **once a month. We require at least 1 more person.** Please contact the Parish Office with your name and contact number.

Indoor Soccer Gala Day - 17/4 and we really need Parent helpers for the day. *Parents/Carers—PLEASE consider giving up a little of your time to help.*

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.

Appeals

- *Project Compassion- money boxes - during Lent
- *Holy Land Collection - Good Friday - 29th March
- *Catholic Foundation - The Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal 20th & 21st April

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, Michael Agius, Joseph Sultana, Harriot Perera, Carmela Dürso, Joesph, Maria & Sam Mercieca and Sultana Family, Terry Bell, Phillip Camilleri, Rosario David, Angelo Attard, Victor Gatt, Edward Mongudal Koromol, Lachlan Joseph Hayes. George Micallef, Doris Cloughessy, Jola Bezzina, Brian Smith, Emanuel Busuttill, Cresencia Cardoza.

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, Lily Said, Candice Basopoulous, John Kelly, Joe Borg, Sean Dixon, Guido Gallo and those in our parish community.

HOLY WEEK 2024

Wednesday 27 March

Mass of the Holy Christm (St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta) 7:30pm

Holy Thursday 28 March

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm

Good Friday 29 March

The Stations of the Cross 10am

Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm

Holy Saturday 30 March

Celebration of the Paschal Vigil 7pm

Easter Sunday 31 March

Easter Sunday Celebration 7am 9am 10:30am

NO morning mass at 8:30am on THUR 28/3, FRI 29/3 and SAT 30/3 **NO** Mass Easter Monday

St John's Church First Rite (Individual Confession)

Tues 26 March 9:30am – 10:30am and 6pm – 7pm

Wed 27 March 9:30am – 10:30am

Thurs 28 March 9:30am – 10:30am

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner CADECOM, Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Sacraments



Sacrament of Baptism

The next Baptism Class: Tuesday 2 April 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.