

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. We also need one person to cook the bbq on the day. This can be done at your home and brought to the centre in time for lunch. 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 16 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Missio		A Jaszczynsyzyn 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	D Catig		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	Jenchris & Co	
Sat 23 rd 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Padernia		A Jaszczynsyzyn S Nieves	M Sultana	S Suri	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 24 th 7am	Volunteer	E Sultana	R Bigeni		C Wickman M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 24 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	M Camilleri	J Bugeja S Yapa	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 24 th 11am	M Satorre	H Greedy	J Padernia		N D'Souza R D'Souza	D Gorkic	A Delara V Sultana	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.

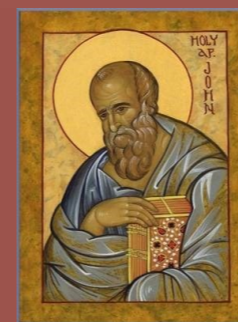
Friday Prayer Group

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 & 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

17 March 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B

First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt. and cleanse me from my sin.

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading *Hebrews 5:7-9*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *John 12:26*

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel *John 12:20-33*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.
Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.
Now my soul is troubled.
What shall I say:
Father, save me from this hour?'

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.
And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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 Mar St Patrick's Day 8:30am Mass

Tues 19 Mar St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Pentecost 2024 **The Next meeting: Saturday 6th April at 10:30am.** 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. Parishioners, please place your name on the Volunteer List in the porch, to be involved.

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 fifth session will be held on Monday 18th 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.

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.

Please Remember - The Importance of Getting to Mass On Time - *Please show your respect to the Lord and arrive at Mass on time.* Although the Catholic Church has no real dress code for proper attire when attending Mass, there is an unwritten dress code that demands we are properly dressed out of Respect, Honor, and Reverence for the Real Presence of Our Lord. Our Parish would like to keep the **values and respect** of the Catholic Church. Please wear smart/casual clothes to Mass, especially if you are a Reader, Children's Liturgy or part of the Offertory. Our suggestion would be the following: Shoulders to be covered, Shorts and skirts must be knee length and no thongs as footwear please.

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 Dúrso, 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, Reginald Wilfred Santos and Fortunata Baida.

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, Enrique Torroba, Joyce Bugeja 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

Fifth Sunday of Lent - This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world *for all future generations*. 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 Sacramental Program 2024 Parent Letter and Sacramental Dates can be found in the porch.