

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.

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 Feb/Mar 2024

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 2 nd 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn	M Sultana	M Galati	Jen Chris & Co	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	R Brown		J Sullivan P Sullivan	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	J Sullivan S Brown	San Pedro Calungsod	Annie MO
Sun 3 rd 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy		H Greedy	F Deruz A Deruz	C Mascarenhas	S Corben	Musician Needed	
Sat 9 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	J Enroles	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	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	

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.

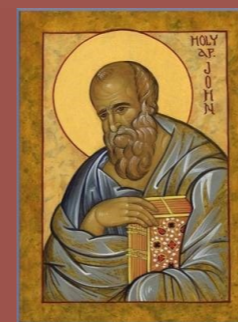
Friday Prayer Group

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

3 March 2024

Third Sunday of Lent Year B

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 'You shall have no gods except me. 'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it. 'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred. 'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. 'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery. 'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

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

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 3:16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel John 2:13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?'

Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

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.

 **Pentecost 2024** 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.

Pentecost Meeting: Sunday 3rd March at 11:30am in Hall.

We would like to have many parishioners attend so that we can organise this event. Some of the flags have been obtained for the event, but we will need some more countries represented. If you have a flag of your country of origin at home, please bring the flag to this meeting. We will also be discussing the international food festival at the meeting. Please attend this meeting so that we can make plans and have a wonderful event.

Masses & Feasts

24 March

ONLY ON Palm Sunday Masses 7am 9am 11am

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

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 - Arriving on time is not just a question of obligation but of love and respect for Our Lord who has gathered us together to share his gifts.

Alter Service Training - Fr Zakaria will be running a training course for all of the children who would like to be an alter server. Please meet under the pergola at 4pm this Wednesday 6th March. Please RSVP to the parish office Ph 96271176.

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)

Lenten Program - REPENT AND BELIEVE

The third session will be held on Monday 4th 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.

St John's Primary School

St John's Primary School Enrolling Now for 2024

Visit our school website to learn more:
www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Register to attend our upcoming Open Day!

Monday 4th March 2pm - 2.30pm

Download the application form and submit with photocopies of all supporting documents to the school office. Original copies of supporting documents will need to be verified at the same time. Office hours 8.30am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday.

Applications close Friday 29th March 2024

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, Doris Cloughessy, Jola Bezzina, Joesph, Maria & Sam Mercieca and Sultana Family, Doris Cloughessy, Jola Bezzina, Terry Bell, Phillip Camilleri, Rosario David, Angelo Attard, Victor Gatt, Edward Mongudal Koromol and Lachlan Joseph Hayes.

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 Chrism (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

Third Sunday of Lent With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions. 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 5 March 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.