

Youth Group



2024 St John's Parish Riverstone Youth Group

The Youth Group took place on Friday night. The children had a fun night. Thank you to the St Johns' coordinators, the YFC and all of the parent helpers on the night.

6pm in the Church Hall on the following Friday nights:

20 September

18 October

15 November (Christmas Party)

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 Aug/September 2024

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 31 st Aug 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn	M Sultana	M Galati	Jenchris & Co	Team Wed
Sun 1 st 7am	Volunteer			V Bonnici F Bonnici	C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 1 st 9am	Sullivan Family	R Brown	D Catig	J Sullivan P Sullivan	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	J Sullivan S Brown	San Pedro Calungsod	
Sun 1 st 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy		H Greedy	I Spram J Savio	S Suri	S Corben J Bugeja	Power point	
Sat 7 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	J Eroles	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 8 th 7am	Volunteer				C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 8 th 9am	Volunteer		J Teuma		K Amanda N Tsui	S Yapa	L Fox	Nonoy & Tina Co	
Sun 8 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	D Catig		J Sultana M Syme		S Corben J Bugeja	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.

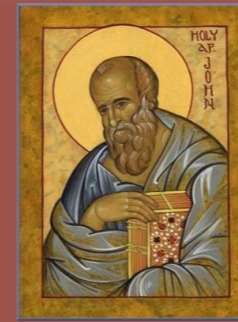
Friday Prayer Group

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

1 September 2024

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

First Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you - keep the commands of the Lord.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
 He who walks without fault;
 he who acts with justice
 and speaks the truth from his heart.

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord.

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever.

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Second Reading James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James

Be doers of the word.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves. Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service,
while their hearts are far from me.
The worship they offer me is worthless,
the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Happy Father's Day

May the divine light always shine upon you, guiding you on this special day. Wishing you an abundance of blessings and love on Father's Day.

Fr Zakaria and Fr Andrew along with the Parish Team

Would like to wish all fathers a very Happy Father's Day.

National Child Protection Week 2024.—1st September

'Every Conversation Matters' This weekend begins National Child Protection Week. In today's Mass we are reminded that all of God's creation is good. We are challenged to do all we can to help and nurture all He has created.

St John's Parish, Riverstone 120 Year Celebration - Sunday 17 November after the 10:30am Mass.

To celebrate this milestone a large Cross will be ordered, covered with gold plaques engraved with your name or family name. The cross will remain on the altar during the year and used on Good Friday. We ask for a donation of between \$300 and \$500 per plaque. Please fill out a form that can be found in the porch and place it in an envelope with your donation. The order of plaques positioned on the cross will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. Please give your envelope to Fr Zak or the Parish office. Closing date for orders is Tuesday 15 October 2024.

Masses & Feasts

Tues	3 Sept	St Gregory the Great
Fri	6 Sept	7:30pm First Friday Mass
Sat	7 Sept	8:30am Anointing 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 - *Getting to church on time is hard*, but a Spirit-led community that gathers around the Word is the central hub of your faith.

Volunteer Help Needed:

* **Children's Liturgy presenters.**

* **Acolytes**

* **1-2 Representatives for Western Deanery Meetings**

• **RCIA helper**

• **Choir Sat night Vigil Mass**
(contact the office for dates needed)

St John's Parish & School Combined Christmas Carols

Fri 6 Dec 6:30pm. Please place a reminder on your calendar. All parishioners are invited. Next meeting: Wed 4th September at 7pm in the church hall.

Gluten free hosts are available for those who wish to receive Holy Communion. To arrange, please contact the parish office the week before.

There will be **Tea and Coffee** after the 9am & 10:30am Sunday Masses in the Church Hall.

Parish Centre

Your continued support of our Parish Centre is appreciated. Parish renovations continue and we thank our wonderful parishioners who have already kindly donated.

We have received over \$28400. We are blessed to have such generous parishioners in our Parish.

We would also like to thank the late John Cannata for his generous contribution towards our parish centre/renovations.

For Your Safety - Please do not enter the Parish Centre due to works. Thank you.

Appeals

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal - Saturday 31 August and Sunday 1 September 2024

This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. They have dedicated their lives to guiding us spiritually and emotionally, often at great personal sacrifice. Your compassionate donation cares for our clergy's health and wellbeing during sickness and retirement. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code. Thank you. Envelopes will be provided. Please give generously, as our Parish will need to meet a quota.



Catholic Mission Appeal - Thank you for your kind donations. Our Parish raised \$2,957 for this appeal.

Prayers for our Community



Deceased Mass Offerings -

All Souls, All Souls in Purgatory, Forgotten 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, Joseph Sultana, Chris, John, Maryann Sultana & Sultana family, John, Michael, Angelo Clementina & Leanne Sultana & Sultana family, Maria & Nicholas Gatt, Joseph Jack Sultana, Michael Agius, Xerri Family and Azzopardi Family, Carmelo, Carmen & Michael Vella, Harriot Perera, Aurea Reyes, Bishop Emeritus Kevin Manning, Louis & Joseph Sant, Andrew Tee Swe Tay, Nelly Koh, Flora and Mario Ferino, Erma Santiago, Joseph Magro, Stefano Musico Leoncia Baeares Llosa, Milo Meliton, Maria Procopio, Vincent Monteiro, Armie Osual, Joe Galea, Mary Calleja, Nunziato Orlando & Domenico Procopio, Jane Farrugia, Patrick Vella, Tony Vella, Joseph & Maria Mercieca, Emmanuel & Doris Sultana, Victor Gatt, Angelo Attard.

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, Anna Hoare, Myrna Manalili, Chadia, Lucia Musico and those in our parish community.

All parishioners are invited to the following meetings:

Combined Christmas Carol Meeting

Wednesday 4th September 2024

7pm in the Church hall.

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 4th September 2024

7:30pm in the Church Hall.

Parish Council Members are encouraged to attend the Combined Carols Meeting prior to the Parish Council Meeting to be informed of the carols.

Please respect the Blessed Eucharist. Please receive the Eucharist on the tongue. If you still wish to take it in your hand, stay and consume it in front of the priest or Eucharistic Minister. If you are a non-Catholic or a young child, you may receive a blessing instead. Please place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing.

Sacraments

The Sacrament of First Eucharist was held last weekend. We would like to thank Fr Zakaria and Fr Andrew for celebrating Mass. Congratulations to the candidates who received the First Eucharist. Thank you to the Sacramental Team for preparing the children for this sacrament. Thank you to the parents of the candidates for attending classes and supporting their children on their journey towards First Eucharist. Thank you to the helpers in church and the choirs for each Mass celebration.

Baptism Classes

The next Baptism Class:

Tuesday 3rd September 7pm in the Church Hall.