

## 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 September 2024

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	J Eroles	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer				C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer		J Teuma		K Amanda N Tsui	S Yapa	L Fox	Nonoy & Tina Co	
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	D Catig		J Sultana M Syme		S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Missio		A Jaszczyszyn Volunteer	M Sultana	J Eroles	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer				E Sultana C Wickman	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer				S Corben B Simon	C Samuel	L Fox	Jenchriss & Co	
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy			W Suri I Spram	L Bird	S Corben J Bugeja	Nonoy & Tna 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.

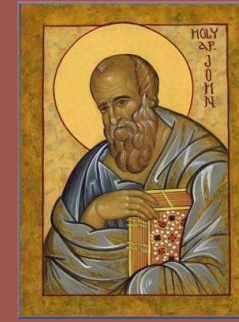
## Friday Prayer Group

**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:** Fri 9am-1pm  
**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

### 8 September 2024

*Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B*

**First Reading** *Isaiah 35:4-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.*

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

**Responsorial Psalm** *Pss 145:7-10. R. v.1*

*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bound down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger.

*Praise the Lord, my soul!*



The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

### **Second Reading** *James 2:1-5*

A reading from the letter of St James

*Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

### **Gospel Acclamation** *Matthew 4:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!

*The Lord be with you.*

*And with your Spirit.*

### **Gospel** *Mark 7:31-37*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

**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.*

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Closed Mon 9 September until Thurs 12 September

Opened Fri 13 September

*Normal office hours from 16th September*

### **St John's Eagles Indoor Soccer Gala Day**

Unfortunately, there will be no indoor soccer gala day for the upcoming school holidays for Term 3. We were unable to book the indoor centre due to a camp and tournament being held during the full 2 weeks of the school holidays. We look forward to the January School holidays for the next Indoor soccer gala day. Date will be advertised closer to the time.

### **Jubilee 2025—Pope Francis**

The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of *Jubilee*, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is "*Pilgrims of Hope*".

Please view the following website for more information:

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

It is designed to support pilgrims and tourists, and provide all kinds of useful information about pilgrimages and *Jubilee*

The Jubilee Prayer is now on our Noticeboard.

## Masses & Feasts

Fri	13 Sept	St John Chrysotom
Sat	14 Sept	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

## 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** - Get to Mass early—not late, because it is during the introductory rites that “we begin to adore God in community” and “to prepare the heart for this celebration with the community.” Please be on time.

### **Volunteer Help Needed:**

\* **Children's Liturgy presenters.**

\* **Acolytes**

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

• **RCIA helper**

• **Choir Sat 6pm 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.

**Thank you** - to the lovely ladies who are cleaning the church regularly. Also thank you to Tony & Joes for keeping the lawns and garden beautiful! We appreciate your time and effort.

**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** -

was held last weekend. Thank you For your kind donations. If you were unable to give last weekend, please place your envelope in any of the collection plates during Mass. *More envelopes are now available.* 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](http://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal) or scan this QR code.



Our Parish will need to meet a quota of approx. \$3000.

## 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, Nunziato Orlando & Domenico Procopio, Stefano Musico, Armie Osual, Patrick Vella, Tony Vella, Joseph & Maria Mercieca, Emmanuel & Doris Sultana, Victor Gatt, Angelo Attard, Victor & Theresa Sultana, Sam & Grace Mercieca, Jane Refalo.

### **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, Joe Sant and those in our parish community.

**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.

**Anointing Mass** is a celebration of the church where members of the church offer those who are sick the support of faith and prayer. It is a sacred moment when we pray for God's grace to strengthen someone who is suffering from any form of illness. Our Parish Anointing Mass is held on the First Saturday of each month at 8:30am. All parishioners are welcome.

### **Safeguarding Face to Face Training**

Training will be held at our Parish in October. This training will take place during the day. Dates and times will be advertised soon. More information will be shared over the next few weeks.

If you are unable to attend training during the day, you can complete online, in your own time, from your computer.

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>.

For more information, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

## Sacraments

### **The Sacrament of Confirmation** -

Please register by 27th September 2024. Enrolment form completed and returned with donation by this date

The Parent Information Meeting:  
Tuesday 22nd October at 7pm

### **Baptism Classes**

The next Baptism Class:  
Tuesday 1st October 7pm in the Church Hall.