

## Youth Group



### St John's Parish Riverstone Youth Group

Dates for 2025 will be advertised early next year

## 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. Thank you.

## Jubilee 2025

**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>

## Church Roster Nov/Dec 2024

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

## 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.

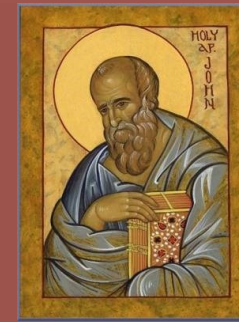
## Friday Prayer Group

**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: A Hoare, J Shipley & 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  
 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 December 2024**

*First Sunday of Advent*

*Year C*



**First Reading** *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,

I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

**Responsorial Psalm** *Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1*

*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*



His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant.

*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

**Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.*

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation** Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia!

*The Lord be with you.*

*And with your Spirit.*

**Gospel** Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

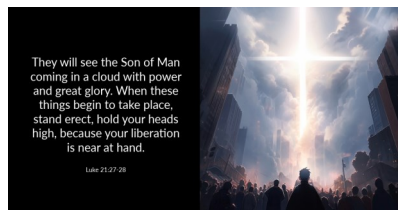
*Your redemption is near at hand.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*



They will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.  
Luke 21:27-28



**St John's Community Christmas Carols**

**Friday 6th December at 6pm**

**for a 6:30pm Start**

**The carols will be held in the school grounds.**

**Donations** towards the costs involved of performing the **St John's Community Christmas Carols** would be very much appreciated. All donations will be acknowledged on the night. Please place your donation in an envelope stating Carols and your name on the front. Plain envelopes can be found in the porch. Please give the envelope to Fr Zakaria or the Parish Office. This is a special event as the parishioners and the school come together, as one, to celebrate Christmas. All parishioners are invited.

### IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS INFORMATION

*For your information, The Christmas Mass & Reconciliation Times are on the noticeboard.*

**IMPORTANT MEETING— It is important that all volunteers who will be involved in the Christmas Masses attend this meeting.** This includes Special Ministers, Mass Coordinators, Choirs, Laptop Operators, Readers, Acolytes, Children's Liturgy and any other parishioners who will be involved in our Parish masses.

**Christmas Liturgy and Eucharistic Ministers Meeting Date: Saturday 7/12/24 Time: 10am Location: Church Hall**

We request all those involved in the Christmas Mass Liturgy to please attend.

**Christmas Roster in porch** - if you would like to volunteer for any of our Christmas Masses, please place your name on the roster which is in the porch. Please note that the names in blue have been confirmed.

**Children's Christmas Mass Rehearsal** - All parents/carers in our Parish Community, please bring your child 'to the rehearsal if they would like to be involved in the Children's Christmas Mass Nativity Scene. All children are invited

**Children's Mass Rehearsal : Friday 20 December 5:30pm– 6:30pm.**

*Please note The Children's Christmas Mass is on Sunday 24th December at 6pm.*

### Masses & Feasts

Tues 3 Dec St Francis Xavier

No Fris Friday Mass December (due to Carols)

Sat 7 Dec St Ambrose

### 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

**St John's Parish Christmas Party:** All parishioners and volunteers at our Riverstone Parish are invited on:

**Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 6pm**

Location: Parish Centre.

Please bring a plate of food/drinks to share with all on the night. We will need main dishes and dessert dishes please. You may contact the Parish office if you would like to place the type of food/drinks that you will bring on the night. The Parish office will keep a list of the items.

Could we also have some volunteers to help organise, set up and pack up on this night.

Please RSVP your attendance to the parish office by Tues 3 December

**St John Christmas Raffle Tickets** - are now on sale. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Great Prizes.

All proceeds will go directly to the Riverstone Parish.

**Volunteer Help Needed:**

\* Acolytes

\* Gardeners for the Parish Centre

**The Light Advent & Christmas Daily Booklet 2024** - 1x copy is available to purchase from the office for \$8 per copy.

**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 Mass.

Don't forget to visit our new fountain garden on the Verandah of the Parish Centre.

**Please respect our sacred space.** Please remove all rubbish and wipe any spills of food/drinks in our Church. Please have a look at the pews before you leave. It is respectful that we leave our church clean and tidy. Thank you.



**Please respect that there are NO PHOTOS OR VIDEOS TO BE TAKEN DURING MASS**  
(permission must be granted by the priest)



## Parish Centre

**Parish Centre Name and Gate** - All parishioners are invited to submit their suggestions, with a diagram, of what would be a fitting welcome to the Centre and the gate. **This is your last chance to give your responses to both of these.** The **Suggestion Box** in the foyer of the church or left in the Parish Office. We would love to hear your thoughts with respect to both of these proposals.

We encourage parishioners to visit the gardens in the Parish Centre after Mass. They look beautiful.

## Appeals

**Bishop's Christmas Appeal will be held over this weekend 30 Nov and 1 Dec 2024.**

Envelopes are available in the porch.

*Your kind Christmas gift will help Catholic Care continue to provide services and opportunities to support mothers and children to be safe, comforted, and protected.*

Please give generously to this appeal. Our Parish will need to meet a quota for the Diocese of Parramatta.

## 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, John Jim Galea, Maria Stella Buttigieg, Joseph Buttigieg,

**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.

**Piety Store- For Purchase** - Various Christmas Items  
2025 God's Word \$22 2025 Columban Calendars \$11

100 Year Celebration Books \$2

100 Year Celebration Mugs \$3

100 Year Celebration Postcards \$0.50

These items will be on sale from 9am until end of 10:30am Mass on Sundays.

**Calendar – Parramatta Diocesan Healthcare Ministries Formation Community**

Deacon Dr. Michael Tan, who is co-ordinating this initiative has a background in General Practice and Community Palliative Care.

**Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup> 2024** Topic – The Good News in End-of-Life Care St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta  
Time – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> 2024** Topic – The Good News in End -of-Life Care St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta  
Time – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> 2024** Topic – The Good News in End-of-Life Care St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta  
Time – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact:

[Michael.tan@parracatholic.com](mailto:Michael.tan@parracatholic.com)

## Sacraments

**Baptism Classes**

The next Baptism Class:

Tuesday 3rd December at 7pm in the Church Hall.

No Baptism Class in January 2025