

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 2025 Jubilee will officially open on December 24, 2024 at 7pm, with the rite of Opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St. Peter by the Holy Father, who will then preside over the celebration of the Night Mass of the Lord's Birth inside the Basilica. It will be possible to follow the event only through the giant screens installed in St. Peter's Square. Tickets are not required to follow the Mass from St. Peter's Square. All that is required is to register for the event through the Portal of the official Jubilee website: <https://register.iubilaeum2025.va/events/8>

Church Volunteer Roster Dec 2024

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 14 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Missio		A Jaszczyszyn Volunteer	M Sultana	S Suri	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 15 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		E Sultana C Wickman	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 15 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		S Corben B Simon	S Yappa	L Fox A Bramphen		
Sun 15 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	D Catig		I Spram W Suri	L Bird	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	
Sat 21 st 6pm	M Satorre	Sultana family	J Missio		A Jaszczyszyn S Nieves	M Sultana	J Eroles	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 22 nd 7am	Volunteer	E Sultana	R Bigeni		C Wickman M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 22 nd 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	M Camilleri	A Delara L Fox	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 22 nd 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	D Catig		N D'Souza R D'Souza	D Gorkic	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

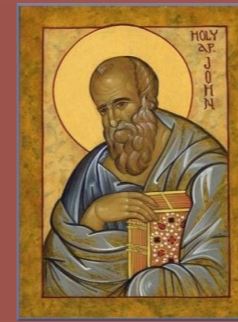
10am - 11am

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: 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

15 December 2024

Third Sunday of Advent Year C



First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
(R.)

Second Reading *Philippians 4:4-7*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel *Luke 3:10-18*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, ‘What must we do?’ he answered, ‘If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.’ There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, ‘Master, what must we do?’ He said to them, ‘Exact no more than your rate.’ Some soldiers asked him in their turn, ‘What about us? What must we do?’ He said to them, ‘No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!’

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.’

As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS INFORMATION

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

Christmas Mass Offering Envelopes are available in the foyer. Please place your offering, which goes directly to our Parish, inside the pink and purple envelopes. Please place in any of the collection plates during the Mass.

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 Tuesday 24th December at 6pm.

Masses & Feasts



St John’s Parish, Riverstone
Christmas Mass Times 2024

Tues 24 Dec Christmas Eve

6pm Children’s Christmas Mass

9pm Christmas Eve Mass

Wed 25 Dec Christmas Day

7am Christmas Day Mass

9am Christmas Day Mass

11am Christmas Day Mass

Thurs 26 Dec Boxing Day 8:30am Mass

(Masses will run at normal times from Friday 27 Dec)

Reconciliation (First Rite/Individual)

Sat 21 Dec 10am -11am and 4:30 – 5:30pm

Mon 23 Dec 10am - 11am and 7pm - 8pm

Tues 24 Dec 4:30pm – 5:30pm

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 was held last Wednesday. It was a lovely Christmas Celebration. Thank you for bringing all of the wonderful food to share. Thank you to the lovely helpers who helped with the preparations and those who helped on the night.

St John Christmas Raffle Tickets - are still on sale. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Great Prizes. All proceeds will go directly to the Riverstone Parish.

Volunteers Needed: * Acolytes * Gardeners for Parish Centre

We invite you to join our Grants Committee. This involves applying for grants on behalf of our Parish. This work can usually be completed in your spare time at home. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

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

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.

Calendar – Parramatta Diocesan Healthcare Ministries Formation Community

Wednesday December 18th 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

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

Parish Centre

A Way to get involved in St John’s - We will soon be moving into the next phase of the Parish Centre Restoration. In order to prepare for this, the ground floor needs to be cleared of various items & furniture etc. We are in need of volunteers who would be prepared to assist in doing this. If you would give a few hours of your time, we invite you to add your name and contact number to the list in the foyer of the church.

Appeals

The Bishop’s Christmas Appeal

Envelopes are still 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.* Thank you for your kind donations towards this appeal. If you would like to make a donation, please place your envelope in any of the collection plates. Our Parish will need to meet a quota of approx. \$3,500 for the Diocese of Parramatta. To date we have received approx. \$2,500.

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, Dr Mario Romero, Harriot Perera, Charlie Barbara, Mrs McGrath, Emanuel Bugeja, Gerado Lause

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 and 2025 Columban Calendars \$11 and various 100 Year Celebration Items

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

Note: A Mass count will takes place at all weekend Masses for the next 3 weeks.

Our Parish Mass and celebrations of our Church 120 year anniversary story and photos was published in the Catholic Outlook online edition last Saturday 7th Dec. This is the link: <https://catholicoutlook.org/faith-welcome-and-connection-riverstone-parish-celebrates-120-years/>

Vinnies Christmas Appeal - this year to help those in need, please take a tag from the Christmas tree in the foyer and place your gift under the tree. Monetary Donations can also be made by placing money in the Poor Box. The Poor Box is a small gold box located on the wall on the left hand side of the entrance of our church, near the Holy Water font. Vinnies aims to support families and individuals who are struggling by helping to pay bills, provide food, clothing, hampers and presents during the festive season. Thank you for helping others during this special celebration of Christmas.

Sacraments

Baptism Classes

The next Baptism Class:
Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7pm in the Church Hall.

No Baptism Class in January 2025