

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 21 st 6pm Week 3	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	
Sat 28 th 6pm Week 4	Volunteer	Sultana Family	J Missio		I Sprem		R Edwards	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 29 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman	P Perera	None	Powepoint	
Sun 29 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		S Corben B Simon	K Amanda	A Bramphen S Yapp	Nonoy & Tina Co	
Sun 29 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	D Catig		D Gorkic S Suri		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.

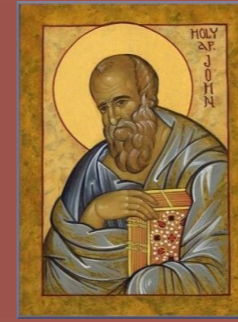
Friday Prayer Group

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

22 December 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C



First Reading Micah 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 the least of the clans of Judah,
 out of you will be born for me
 the one who is to rule over Israel;
 his origin goes back to the distant past,
 to the days of old.
 The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
 till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
 Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
 to the sons of Israel.
 He will stand and feed his flock
 with the power of the Lord,
 with the majesty of the name of his God.
 They will live secure, for from then on he will extend
 his power
 to the ends of the land.
 He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

Lord, make us turn to you;

let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

*Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

*Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.

*Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy.

Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Happy Birthday Fr Zakaria and Fr Andrew!

May God's blessings and kindness surround you both on your Birthday .Happy Birthday! In celebration of your Birthday, and for your devoted and faithful service, may God bless you, with happiness and peace. From the St John's Parish, Riverstone Community. We will celebrate with tea, coffee and cake!

When: After 10:30am Mass on Sunday 22nd December

Where: Parish Centre

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

Parish Office Christmas Hours

Closed Wed 25 Dec 2024 - Wed 1 Jan 2025

Open from 9am Thursday 2 January 2025

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)

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

Tues 24 Dec 4:30pm - 5:30pm

New Years Day 1 Jan 2025 8:30am and 7:30om

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 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. The raffle will be drawn after the 10:30am Mass on Christmas Day.

Children's Liturgy Meeting - Wednesday 22 January 2025 7pm-8:30pm in the church hall. Please bring topics to discuss. All parishioners involved in Children's Liturgy, even those occasionally on the roster, please attend this meeting.

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.

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 10:30am Mass.

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.

Note: A Mass count will takes place at all Masses over this weekend.



Thank you to our local supermarket - **IGA, Riverstone** for their generous donation towards our Raffles. Anna Hoare received the \$500 cheque from the Management of IGA, Riverstone. *Please support our local businesses.*

Thank you to the following local businesses who also made generous contributions towards our Raffles:

Riverstone R.S.L Memorial Club

Pharmacy 4 Less, Hills Grills Café and Manglow Newsagent—Riverstone

Nextra, Choice Pharmacy, The Cheesecake Shop, Product of Italy, Pearl Nails—Carmel Village

Rouse Hill Town Centre Newsagency

Parishioners - Laurie & Carmen, Lucia, Joyce & Flori

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

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.

Our Parish has now donated \$3,600. Our Parish has passed the quota of approx. \$3,500 for the Diocese of Parramatta.

Thank you very much for your generosity.

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, Lissa Louis, Tomas Ferino Sr, Helen Triganzaa, Zane Belista and Rex Kodippily.

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 (Calendars are now sold out) and various 100 Year Celebration Items. These items will be on sale from 9am until end of the 10:30am Mass on Sundays.

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