

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

"Teach Us to Pray"

Resource Now Available

The "Teach Us to Pray" pastoral resource is now available online, and can be downloaded on the website in digital format in several languages, free of charge. Please visit the official website to view all of the resources.

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/verso-il-giubileo/2024-anno-della-preghiera.htm>

Volunteer Roster Dec 2024/Jan 2025

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
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 E Sultana	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		
Sat 4 th 6pm Week 1	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn	M Sultana	S Suri	Jenchriss & Co	Team Wed
Sun 5 th Jan	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	C Wickman E Sultana A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 5 th Jan	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma	J Sullivan R Brown	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	S Yapp S Brown		
Sun 5 th Jan	Volunteer	H Greedy/ S Nobleza		J Sultana S Nobleza	I Sprem J Savio	S Suri	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

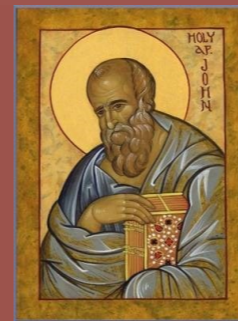
Unfortunately, piety items are not available for purchase from the parish office.

Friday Prayer Group

Christ Catholic Community (CCC) Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will take a break over Christmas and will return on Friday 10th January 2025. Please contact Mary Camilleri Ph 0403116987 if you would like any further information.

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

29 December 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C

First Reading Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,

do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,

do not despise him in your health and strength;

for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten

but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord

and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second Reading Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Col 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel Lk 2:41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Fr Zakaria and Fr Andrew and the Parish Team would like to wish all our parishioners a blessed and Safe New Year!

We offer sincere thanks for the many expressions of kindness and the many good wishes received. You are all assured of fond remembrance in our masses and prayers. We would like to thank all of our volunteers during the Christmas Season. We appreciate all of your help through out the many jobs within our Parish.

We would like to thank the choirs, readers, altar servers, acolytes, lap top preparers and operators and the liturgy helpers who helped to create wonderful Masses. We would like to thank all of the parishioners who maintain our church grounds. Our Parish always looks lovely.

Our Parish would like to thank Fr Andrew Robinson , Fr John Rizzo and Deacon Dr Michael Tan for assisting with Masses during the Christmas Season.

Masses & Feasts

New Years Day Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Wednesday 1 Jan 2025 Mass 8:30am and 7:30am

Thurs 2 Jan Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

Fri 3 Jan 7:30pm First Friday Mass

Sat 4 Jan 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 - If we are late because of a lack of caring about getting to Mass, then we certainly have not fulfilled our Mass obligation in any real spirit of the law. Please arrive on time.

St John Christmas Raffle Tickets - The raffle was drawn after the 10:30am Mass on Christmas Day. Congratulations to the winners! Thank you to all those who bought tickets which supports the Riverstone Parish!

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.

Piety Store- For Purchase -

2025 God's Word \$22 and various 100 Year Celebration Items. These items will be on sale from 9am until end of the 10:30am Mass on Sundays.(2025 Calendars are now sold out)

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.

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

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.

Parish Office Christmas Hours

Closed Wed 25 Dec 2024 - Wed 1 Jan 2025

Open from 9am Thursday 2 January 2025

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 -

Thank you for your generous donations towards the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

Please remember that throughout the year you are encouraged to support Vinnies by placing your monetary donations 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. This work continues throughout the year.

Sacraments

Baptism Classes

The next Baptism Class:

Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7pm in the Church Hall.

No Baptism Class in January 2025