

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 7 th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	M Galati	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 8 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 8 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		K Amanda N Tsui	D Thomas	S Yappa S Brown	Jenchriss & Co	
Sun 8 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	D Catig		J Sultana M Syme	S Nobleza	P Mansweto V Sultana		
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	

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.

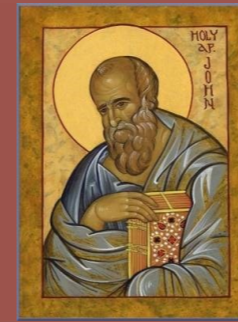
Friday Prayer Group

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

8 December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent Year C



First Reading Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we were glad.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading *Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Luke 3:4. 6*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel *Luke 3:1-6*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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 Sunday 24th December at 6pm.

Christmas Carols - thank you to all the Parishioners and the school community, who attended the Carols on Friday night. It was a wonderful night. Thank you to our volunteers who sold raffle tickets and items on the night. Thank you to the carol organisers and the St John's Primary School principal, Mrs Jane Misk along with the school staff for all of your work to help put this night together.

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

Masses & Feasts

Mon	09 Dec	Mass 8:30am
The	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Fri	13 Dec	St Lucy
Sat	14 Dec	St John of the 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

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 contact the parish office if you can volunteer on the night to organise, setup or pack up.

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.

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.



*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 was held last weekend 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 were unable to donate last weekend, 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.

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.

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.

All Parishioners are invite to attend *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass* on this Monday the 9th December at 8:30am

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 10:30am Mass on Sundays.

Calendar – Parramatta Diocesan Healthcare Ministries Formation Community

Wednesday December 11th 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 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

Sacraments



BAPTISM: Our Parish would like to welcome Elio Andriano and Isabel Scali into our community and congratulate their family and friends on this special day.

Baptism Classes

The next Baptism Class:

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

No Baptism Class in January 2025