

## 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 January 2025

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> 6pm Week 2	Volunteer	Sultana Family			S Nierves	M Sultana	None	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman A Perera	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		K Amanda N Tsui	D Thomas	None	Jenchriss & Co	
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy N Dsouza	D Catig		J Sultana M Syme	S Nobleza	None	Jenchriss & Co	
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> 6pm Week 3	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Missio		Volunteer	M Sultana	None	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		S Corben B Simon	S Yappa	None	Raymond & Co	
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	D Catig		I Sprem W Suri	L Bird	None	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.

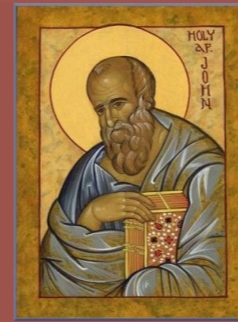
## Friday Prayer Group

**Christ Catholic Community (CCC) Prayer Group**

Fridays 10am

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** Mon - Fri  
**Hours:** 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

**12 January 2025**

*The Baptism of the Lord Year C*

**First Reading** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.*

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God

across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**The word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. R v.1

*Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!*

Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe!  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

*Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!*

Above the rains you build your dwelling.  
You make the clouds your chariot,  
you walk on the wings of the wind,  
you make the winds your messengers  
and flashing fire your servants.

*Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!*

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.  
There is the sea, vast and wide,  
with its moving swarms past counting,  
living things great and small.

*Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!*

All of these look to you  
to give them their food in due season.  
You give it, they gather it up:  
you open your hand, they have their fill.

*Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!*

You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth.

**Second Reading** *Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

*He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

**The word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation** *Luke 3:16*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;  
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.  
Alleluia!

**The Lord be with you.**

*And with your Spirit.*

**Gospel** *Luke 3:15-16, 21-22*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.*

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

**Christmas Raffle 2024** *Congratulations to the Winners!*

Prize 1 Green D57	Prize 8 Red D67
Prize 2 Blue D088	Prize 9 Orange D42
Prize 3 Blue D36	Prize 10 Orange E068
Prize 4 Red D91	Prize 11 Orange D38
Prize 5 Red D34	Prize 12 Green D89
Prize 6 Blue D77	Prize 13 Blue D086
Prize 7 Ang	

*\*All winners have been contacted and prizes claimed*

**Pentecost Sunday - Sunday 8th June 2025**

We would like to form a committee for this event. Please place your name on the list in the porch. We would like to have the first meeting on Saturday 8th February 2025 at 10am in the church hall. All those interested, please attend this meeting.

## Masses & Feasts

Fri 17 Jan St Anthony

## 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** - Please be respectful to our God and be on time and present in the moment, when attending a Mass.

**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 for Mass and Gardeners for the Parish Centre. Please contact the Parish Office to place your name on the Roster.

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.

Our Parish Mass and celebrations of our Church 120 year anniversary story and photos was published in the Catholic Outlook online edition on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024. This is the link: <https://catholicoutlook.org/faith-welcome-and-connection-riverstone-parish-celebrates-120-years/>



*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

**Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2025**

Project Compassion will take donations during Lent 2025. Caritas Australia invites you to Unite Against Poverty and take action to make a lasting difference. *Money boxes and envelopes will be provided closer to Lent.*

## 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, Emanuel Bugeja, John, Censina, Christopher, Nena & Spedito Baldacchino, Censina & Saviour Muscat, Rena Farrugia and Carmen & Paul Tedesco., Mario Iven Sardon, Lachlan Hayes, Carmelo & Dolores Farrugia, Aveline Ala, Guillermo & Fraternidad Ramirez, Teresita Rehacc, Mario Iven Sardon, Amelia Medina, Ruben Dario Villena and Frank Agresta.

**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.

**Divine Mercy** Our Parish would like to plan for the Divine Mercy which begins on Sunday 27th April 2025. We would like to form a Divine Mercy Committee. Please phone the Parish Office on (02) 96271176 or place your name on the list on the clipboard in the porch. Our Parish would like to have this meeting on a suitable date in early February 2025.

**Diocesan Healthcare Ministries Formation Community 2025** - All parishioners are invited.

11/2/2025 Anointing Mass for *World Day of the Sick*  
11:00 a.m. Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown  
Principal celebrant – Fr. Fernando

15/2/2025 *Pope Francis message for 2025 World Day of the Sick*  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown  
For more information contact Dr Michael Tan  
Email Michael.Tan@parracatholic.org

## Sacraments

**Baptism Classes**

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