

## 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 4th 6pm Week 1	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn	M Sultana	None	Jenchriss & Co	Team Wed
Sun 5th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	C Wickman E Sultana A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 5th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma	J Sullivan R Brown	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	None	Raymond & Co	
Sun 5th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy/ S Nobleza		J Sultana S Nobleza	I Sprem J Savio	S Suri	None	Raymond & Co	
Sat 11th 6pm Week 2	Volunteer	Sultana Family			A Jaszczyszyn S Nierves	M Sultana	None	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 12th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman E Sultana A Perera	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 12th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		K Amanda N Tsui	D Thomas	None	Jenchriss & Co	
Sun 12th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy/ N Dsouza	D Catig		J Sultana M Syme	S Nobleza	None	Jenchriss & 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

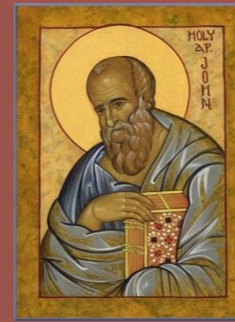
Unfortunately, piety items are not available for purchase from the parish office.

## 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 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

**5 January 2025**

**The Epiphany of the Lord Year C**

**First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The glory of the Lord shines upon you.*

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.

The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

**The word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see v.11**

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*



O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement.

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts  
shall pay him tribute.  
The kings of Sheba and Seba  
shall bring him gifts.  
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him.

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor.

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

### **Second Reading** *Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

**The word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

### **Gospel Acclamation** *Matthew 2:2*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.  
Alleluia!

**The Lord be with you.**

*And with your Spirit.*

### **Gospel** *Matthew 2:1-12*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*We have come from the East to worship the King.*

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem.

He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
you are by no means least among the leaders of  
Judah,  
for out of you will come a leader  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

### **The Gospel of the Lord.**

*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*



## Masses & Feasts

This week all Masses are the Weekday of Christmas Time

## 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** - The *Mass* offers Catholics a unique opportunity to encounter God that is not available in any other place. Please arrive on time.

### **St John Christmas Raffle Tickets** -

Congratulations to the winners! Thank you to all those who bought tickets which supports the Riverstone Parish!

Winners names will be listed in the upcoming bulletin.

**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.

*Thank you* to our wonderful group of cleaners and gardeners who continue to make our church and grounds shine!

## 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.

### **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.

Our Parish Mass and celebrations of our Church 120 year anniversary story and photos was published in the Catholic Outlook online edition on Saturday 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)*



### **Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities**

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on **Saturday 29 January at St Andrew the Apostle Parish Marayong for Cycle 1 (Module 1)**. More training opportunities will be available throughout January and February. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

## Sacraments

Reminder - **No** Baptism Class in January 2025

### **Baptism Classes**

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