

## Youth Group



### St John's Parish Riverstone Youth Group

All school –aged children are welcome to attend.  
**Friday 11th April 2025 - 6pm in the Parish Hall**  
 Please bring your friends along for a fun night!

## 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 March 2025

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> 6pm Week 4	M Satorre	Sultana family	J Missio		S Nieves	M Sultana	R Edwards	Jenchriss & Co	Team Wed
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	M Camilleri	A Bramphen	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	D Catig		N D'Souza M Macatangay	D Gorkic	J Bugeja V Sultana	Raymond & Co	
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family	J Missio		I Sprem		R Edwards	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman	P Perera	None	Powerpoint	
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		S Corben B Simon	K Amanda	L Fox	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	D Catig		D Gorkic 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 & 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.

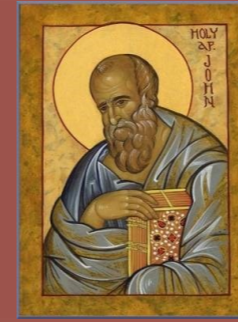
## Friday Prayer Group

**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

Monday *Communion Service* 8:30am

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

### 23rd March 2025 Third Sunday of Lent Year C

*First Reading Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15*

A reading from the book of Exodus

*This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*



**Responsorial Psalm** *Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8*

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings.

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

3. The Lord does deeds of justice,  
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses  
and his deeds to Israel's sons.

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

**Second Reading** *1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit*

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

**The word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation** *Matthew 4:17*

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Repent, says the Lord;  
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel** *Luke 13:1-9*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

*Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

**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.

**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, RIVERSTONE PARISH LENTEN GROUP**

Mondays 7.30pm in Parish Hall.  
Next group meeting 24th March.

The Diocese of Wollongong's **The METANOIA Lenten Program 2025 Book** is now available to purchase online in digital form. Please visit [orders@dow.org.au](mailto:orders@dow.org.au)

## Masses & Feasts

Tuesday 25 March 8:30am  
The Annunciation of the Lord

**Stations of the Cross**

Wednesdays after 8.30am Mass and  
Fridays 7pm followed by Mass during Lent.

## 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

**Youth Group**— Thank you to the YFC, Riverstone Parish coordinators and parent helpers who attended Youth Group on Friday night. The children had a great night! The next Youth Group gathering on Friday 11 April at 6pm . We encourage you to bring your school-aged child and their friends for a fun night!

Our Parish would like to form a **Fundraising Committee** for the Riverstone Parish. If you are interested and would like to volunteer, please place your name on the form in the church foyer.

**Gluten free hosts** are available for those who wish to receive Holy Communion. To arrange, please contact the parish office the week before.

**Pentecost Sunday— 8th June 2025**

[The next meeting is Saturday 12 April at 10am](#)

**Pentecost Procession Of Flags**

Our Parish owns a small number of flags, including: [India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Netherlands, England, Malaysia](#)

Are you willing to donate a flag of your country that you own or will purchase, for the parish's perpetual use?

If so, it must be this size (Length 150cm x Width 90cm) and in new condition and of polyester fabric. Please bag it with your name and phone number. Should we receive more than what we need, these can be returned. Please bring to the Parish office before the end of March.

**Teenagers Flag Bearers** Are you a student in High school or university? Would you like to be a flag bearer?

You are required to attend one session where you will be given all the instructions. You will need to be available the weekend of Pentecost .....Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 10am. Please note that this is a long weekend.

We would love for you to participate! Please fill out the form on the clipboard in the church foyer.

## 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 are available in the Church Foyer. Please return anytime during Lent or before the 30 April.*

**The Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal - 29 & 30 March**

Let us be *Pilgrims of Hope* to those who may break in the face of suffering. Envelopes will be provided. A third collection will take place during all Masses on this weekend.

## 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, Joseph Sant, Jasmin Fernando, Michael & Joseph, Michael, Carmen & Carmelo Vella, Abandoned Souls in Purgatory, Angelo Attard & Victor Gatt, Nunziato Orlando & Family, Domenico Procopio & Family, Mary Calleja, Joseph, Maria & Sam Mercieca & Sultana Family, Branko Mlinac, Benjamin Comilang, Vince Simmonetta & Family, Joseph & Rose Grima, James D'souza, Fortunata Baiada, Bernarda Sammut and Harriot Perera.

**For those who are sick:**

Especially Pope Francis, 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, Daisy Pangilinan, Maximina Raymundo, Paul Gulla and those in our parish community.

**Divine Mercy** - Our Parish will be celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday on 27th April 2025. Flyers with the program of activities for this celebration will be distributed after Mass this weekend.

**Reminder - Daylight Saving** - *please turn your clocks backward 1 hour on Sunday 6 April 2024 at 2am AEST.*

## Sacraments

The 2025 Sacramental Program Dates and Information Sheets are in the church foyer.  
The first sacrament in our program is Penance.

**2025 Sacramental Program - Penance**

Please register your child by 2nd May 2025. Please complete form and return, with donation, to the Parish Office.

**Baptism Classes**

The next Baptism Class:  
Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7pm in the Church Hall.

## Easter Raffle

**St John's Parish Easter raffle are on sale.**

**The tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.**

There are five prizes to be won.  
All proceeds will go to the Riverstone Parish.  
Prizes will be drawn on Palm Sunday 13th April after 10:30am Mass.