

Youth Group



The St John’s Parish, Riverstone Youth Group Christmas Party was held on Friday night. All children had a wonderful night! We would like to thank the Eroles family and the Youth For Christ for running the Youth Group for 2025. We would also like to thank the parent helpers for their time. Dates for 2026 will be available 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 A Jubilee Year is a sacred time of grace, prayer, pilgrimage, and reconciliation held every 25 years. It is a time for sacramental repentance and spiritual renewal for the faithful.

Visit: parracatholic.org/jubileepilgrimage2025

Ministry Roster November 2025

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children’s Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 22 nd 6pm Week 4	M Satorre	Sultana family	J Missio		S Nieves L Canlas	M Sultana	V Sultana	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 23 rd 7am	Volunteer	R Bigini	R Bigeni		M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 23 rd 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	M Camilleri	J Sullivan S Brown	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 23 rd 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		N D’Souza M Macatangay	D Gorkic	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	
Sat 29 th 6pm Week 5	Volunteer	Sultana Family	J Missio		I Sprem		R Edwards	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 30 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni			P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 30 th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		S Corben B Simon	K Amanda	J Sullivan S Brown	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 30 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	D Catig		D Gorkic S Suri		S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	

Thank you to all of our parishioners who have committed to their Ministry. If not available, please contact another parishioner or contact the Parish office.

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.

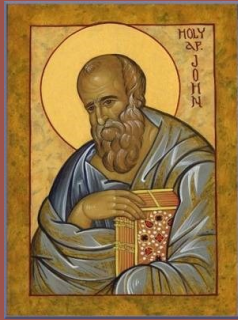
Piety Store

Piety Store - Opening Hours Sundays Tuesdays 10am - 12pm 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. Prayer Group will conclude on Friday 19/12/2025 and return on Friday 09/01/2025.

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: stjohns10@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

23 November 2025 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Year C

First Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-3 A reading from the second book of Samuel They anointed David king of Israel. All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. ‘Look’ they said ‘we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, “You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel.”’ So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 121:1-5. R. see v.2 Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’ And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

For Israel’s law it is, there to praise the Lord’s name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading Colossians 1:12-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

He has taken us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.

Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers – all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head.

As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Mark 11:9. 10

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 23:35-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according Luke

Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. ‘He saved others,’ they said, ‘let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.’ The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’ Above him there was an inscription: ‘This is the King of the Jews.’

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. ‘Are you not the Christ?’ he said. ‘Save yourself and us as well.’ But the other spoke up and rebuked him. ‘Have you no fear of God at all?’ he said. ‘You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,’ he said, ‘remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ ‘Indeed, I promise you,’ he replied, ‘today you will be with me in paradise.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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Fr Zakaria will be on holidays and will return on the Friday, 5th December.

We take this opportunity to wish him a safe, restful, and blessed time away.

We also warmly welcome **Fr Andrew, Fr Rizzo, Fr Kevin, Fr Lauro, Fr Zonomic and Fr Raymond** who will be celebrating Mass with us during Fr Zak’s absence.



The season of Advent is upon us.

In anticipation for the coming of Jesus, let us prepare our hearts through reflection and prayer. Join us!

We will be holding **Parish Advent Reflection sessions** weekly commencing Saturday, November 29th 2025, at 10am in the Galilee Room. The sessions will be at 10am on the following Saturdays 29/11, 06/12, 13/12 and 20/12. Please ring Shelly on 0421610826 or the Parish Office to register your interest.



All parishioners of St John’s Parish, Riverstone are encouraged to attend the combined Christmas Carols in the grounds of the St John’s Primary School, Riverstone on: **Thursday 4th December at 6pm.**

Save the Date: **St John the Evangelist Parish Christmas Party** for all Volunteers and all parishioners!

Wednesday the 10th December at 6pm in the Parish Centre. Please bring a plate containing food or drinks such as water or softdrink, which will be shared with others.

Masses & Feasts

Mon	24 Nov	Sts Andrew Dúng-Lac and companions
Fri	05 Dec	First Friday Mass 7:30pm
Sat	06 Dec	Anointing Mass 8:30am

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 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.

Christmas Raffle Tickets - tickets are on sale, outside our church, from this weekend. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Great Prizes! Please support our Parish as all profit will go directly to our Parish.

For Sale at the Piety Store:

Gods Word 2026 \$24 per copy.

Columban Calendar 2026 \$10 per copy. Please pick up your copy at the Piety Store after the 9am and 10:30am Sunday Masses.

Help Needed –anyone who would like to share their free time to make our beautiful church clean and bright every fortnight on a Saturday at 10am? Please contact: Annie Ph 0449862318 Nneka Ph 0410670601

120 Year Celebration - We are now accepting new orders for plaques for our cross. Forms can be found in the foyer of the church. Please complete the form and return to the parish office. Thank you.

Parish Office Hours - As from the 1st December 2025 please note the new Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am—12pm and 12:30pm—2:30pm

Return & Earn

St John’s Parish Return & Earn - every 2nd Sunday of the month. Our St John’s Parish Council requests that you bring your bottles and cans in a garbage bag. Please drop off your bag under the carport in the Parish Centre. Our Parish Council members will then Return and Earn with all monies going directly to the Riverstone Parish.



Next Collection - Sunday 14 December
If you bring any glass bottles, please pack separately in a cardboard box—6 per box, to avoid glass breaking. Please see picture. Thank you. **November -Total Collected: \$112.10**

Appeals

Bishop’s Christmas Appeal this weekend - 22nd and 23rd November – supporting Catholic Care Grief and Loss Counselling Christmas is drawing near, and with it the promise that God is with us. For many in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, that promise is needed right now. Many individuals and families are carrying grief, stress and uncertainty – wrestling with the rising cost-of-living, unstable work and the heartbreak of losing a loved one. Your generosity is the way to open the doors of hope for the broken-hearted ensuring that no one in our community grieves alone. Envelopes are provided. ***There will be a third collection during the Masses.***

Prayers for our Community



November Mass Offerings
All masses during the month of November will be offered for those listed on the November envelopes. The List can be found during the month of November in the book on the lectern near the Altar.

Envelopes are still available in the porch.
Please note that the list will be updated once a week, during the month of November.

For those parishioners who are new to our Parish, please note that No Memorials or Anniversaries will be mentioned during any Masses during the month of November. Instead parishioners will keep all of the deceased names that are listed in the book in their prayers.

For those who are sick:

Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos & Frances Saliba, Maria Pisto, Tony & Freda Attard, Margaret Galea, Belinda Grgic, Lucia Musico, Dominic & Angela Schembri, Maureen Meryment, John & Janice Padernia, Helen Batih, Kerry Duffy, Theresa Bye, and those in our parish community.

RCIA

Our Parish has 1 catechumen and 2 candidates for our RCIA program this year. We would like you to keep our catechumen and candidates in your prayers as they begin their journey to become Catholic.

Parish Council/Pastoral Council

Do you have a gift? Our Parish gives us the gift of community, a sense of belonging, to not only God, but our Parish. If you think about it, you may have a gift that you can share within our Parish Community. *Do you have a gift you can share with our Parish?*

Safeguarding

Please register directly for 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

Sacraments

Sacramental Program - *The Sacrament of Confirmation Celebration* was held on Friday. Congratulations to the children and their families! Thank you to the **Very Rev Luis Fernando Montano-Rodriguez VG EV PP** who celebrated the Confirmation. We would like also to thank the parents and the Sacramental Team for preparing the children and for their help on the night of the celebration. Sacramental Coordinator Rosanna Ph: 0428766727 or email: sacraments10@outlook.com.au for enquiries.

Baptism Classes - The next Baptism Class: Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at 7pm in the Church Hall. ****There will be no Baptism class in January 2026****