

Youth Group

YOUTH



Dates for 2026 will be available early next year!

OUR LADY of the ROSARY—Kellyville

Open Day: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Kellyville. Tues Dec 9th, from 11am-Midday. Parents are invited to come and view the exceptional program for children aged 3-12 years. Location OLOR Parish Kellyville, (in the old hall). Call Natasha to RSVP 0409621817"

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 Nov/Dec 2025

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
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	
Sat 6 th 6pm Week 1	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana	L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	M Galati	Jenchris & Co	Team Wed
Sun 7 th June 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 7 th 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	D Catig	J Sullivan P Sullivan	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	S Yapa S Brown	San Pedro Calungsod	
Sun 7 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig	J Sultana S Nobleza	I Sprem L Macatangay	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

10am - 12pm

Tuesdays

10am - 11am

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

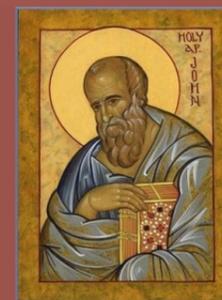
Friday Prayer Group

Christ Catholic Community (CCC) Prayer Group

Fridays 10am

Please contact Mary Camilleri Ph 0403116987 if you would like any further information. 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 - 12pm and 12:30pm - 2:30pm
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 5pm - 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

30 November 2025

First Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading *Isaiah 2:1-5*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. see v.1.*

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.

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes 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.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!'

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading *Romans 13:11-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark: let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Psalms 84:8*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 24:37-44*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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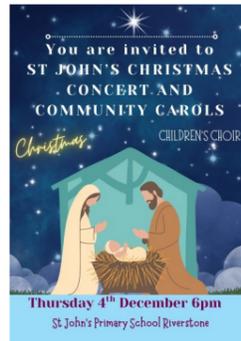
Fr Zakaria continues his holiday and will return on the Friday, 5th December.

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 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the Prophet's Candle reminding us that Jesus is coming. (Purple Candle)



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.**

You are invited to the:

St John the Evangelist Parish Christmas Party for all Volunteers and all parishioners!

When: Wednesday the 10th December at 6pm

Where: Parish Centre.

To Do: Please bring a plate containing food or drinks such as water or softdrinks, which will be shared with others. We would love to see you there!

Masses & Feasts

Wed 03 Dec St Francis Xavier
Fri 05 Dec First Friday Mass 7:30pm
Sat 06 Dec Anointing Mass 8:30am
Mon 08 Dec 8:30am The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass

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.



Join us! **Parish Advent Reflection sessions** at 10am in the Galilee Room. The sessions will be on the following Saturdays 06/12, 13/12 and 20/12. Please ring Shelly on 0421610826 or the Parish Office to register your interest.

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 profits 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.

The Christmas Volunteer Ministry Roster is on a clipboard in the church foyer. Please place your name on the list if you would like to be on the Roster.

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.

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.

Appeals

The Bishop's Christmas Appeal was held last weekend—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. **Thank you** to those parishioners who donated. If you would still like to donate, please place your envelope on any of the collection plates during Mass. Envelopes are available in the church foyer. Please note that our Parish will need to meet our quota 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, Alex Calleja, Nunziato Orlando & Domenico Procopio, Stefano Musico, John (Jim) Galea, Emanuel Bugeja, Anton Grgic, David Bannerman, Celestina Chidiebere Amaugo, Joe Camilleri and Lucas.

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, Antonietta Arbolino, Michael Burke and those in our parish community.-



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

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

If you would like to complete or attend a training session please contact Safeguarding – Diocese of Parramatta by email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Sacraments

Sacramental Program -

Dates for the next year's Sacramental Program will be available in early 2026.

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.

Please Note:

There will be NO Baptism class in January 2026