

Youth



YOUTH GROUP - Dates for 2026 will be available early next year!

St John's Eagles Indoor Soccer - unfortunately, there will be no gala day in January 2026. Dates for 2026 will be advertised 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 Dec/Jan 2025

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 27 th 6pm Week 4	M Satorre	Sultana family	J Missio		S Nieves L Canlas	M Sultana	None	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 28 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 28 th 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	M Camilleri	None	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 28 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		N D'Souza M Macatangay	D Gorkic	None		
Sat 3 rd 6pm Week 1	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana	L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	None	Jenchriss & Co	Team Wed
Sun 4 th June 7m	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	A Perera	P Perera		Power point	
Sun 4 th 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	D Catig	J Sullivan P Sullivan	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	None		
Sun 4 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig	J Sultana S Nobleza	I Sprem L Macatangay	S Suri	None	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.

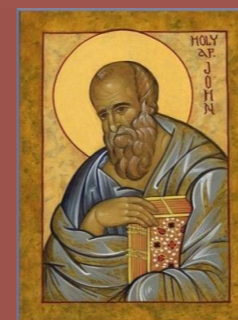
Friday Prayer Group

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: 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

28 December 2025 Year A

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

First Reading Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second Reading Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Colossians 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child

and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



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MASSES FOR NEW YEARS and JANUARY 2026

New Years Mass

New Years Eve Wed 31 Dec 2025 Mass 8:30am

New Years Day Thurs 1 Jan 2026 Mass 8:30am

Fri 2 Jan 8:30am Mass
7:30pm First Friday Mass

Sat 3 Jan Anointing Mass 8:30am
Mass Vigil 6pm

Sun 4 Jan Masses 7am, 9am, 10:30am

Mon 5 Jan Communion Service 8:30am

Tues 6 Jan Mass 8:30am

Wed 7 Jan Mass 8:30am

Fri 7 Jan Mass 8:30am

Masses from Saturday 8th January - as per normal times

Parish Office Christmas & New Years Hours

Closed Friday 26.12.2025 to Thursday 01.01.2026

Re-Opens Friday 03.01.2026

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

Christmas Raffle Tickets - Congratulations to our Winners!

1st Prize Green F 34 I Samuel

2nd Prize Pink H 51 M Gauci

3rd Prize Yellow R 88 M Vassacto

4th Prize Green F 23 M Rickotti

5th Prize Blue D 83 Nat

Thank you to all parishioners who purchased a ticket in our raffle to support our Parish!

For Sale at the Piety Store: Gods Word 2026 \$24 each.
Columban Calendar 2026 \$10 each on Sundays.

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.

Grab your FREE copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!
- keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

Parish Centre & Church Restoration

Thank you to all that have made donations to projects for our Parish Centre. Your ongoing generosity and support is greatly appreciated and will greatly assist in our efforts to complete these important projects. Our Parish will keep you informed as work progresses.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy will not be available during Mass for the month of January. Children's Liturgy will resume on Saturday, 31st January. Activity sheets for the children will still be available in the church foyer.

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.

Return & Earn



St John's Parish Return & Earn - every 2nd Sunday of the month. 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.
Collection today - Sunday 12 January 2026
If you bring any glass bottles, please pack separately in a cardboard box - 6 per box. Thank you.

Appeals

St John's Parish Christmas Appeal - Please place pink and purple envelopes on any of the collection plates during Advent. All donations will go directly to the Riverstone Parish.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal - Monetary Donations - please place your own envelope in any of the collection plates or place money in the Poor Box. Thank you.

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, John (Jim) Galea, Joseph Jack Sultana, Alex Calleja, Nunziato Orlando & Domenico Procopio, Stefano Musico, Emanuel Bugeja, Anton Grgic, David Bannerman, Celestina Chidiebere Amaugo, Joe Camilleri, Lucas, Nina Manjon, Catherine & Filomena Thomas, Rex Kodippily, Joseph Sant, Dr Mario Remoro, Renapo Cannalire, Edgar & Carmen, Mary & Paul, Harriot Perera, John Robert, Paulina Raguz, Michael Anthony, Censina, John, Chris, Carmena & Spedito Baldacchino, Saviour & Censina Muscat, Menina & Paul Tedesco.

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.



Fr Zakaria, Fr Andrew, and the Parish Team would like to wish all our parishioners a **blessed and safe New Year.**

We offer our sincere thanks for the many expressions of kindness and good wishes we have received. You are all assured of our fond remembrance in our Masses and prayers. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers during the Christmas season. Your dedication and willingness to help with the many tasks within our parish are truly appreciated. A special thank you to the choirs, readers, altar servers, acolytes, laptop preparers and operators, all liturgy helpers and all on the roster who contributed to the celebration of such beautiful and meaningful Masses. We also thank all parishioners who care for and maintain our church grounds—our parish always looks lovely because of you. Thank you to all who serve on a committee for our Parish. Finally, our parish would like to thank **Fr Andrew Robinson** and **Deacon Dr Michael Tan** for assisting with Masses throughout the Christmas season.

Masses & Feasts

New Years Eve Wed 31 Dec 2025 Mass 8:30am

New Years Day Thurs 1 Jan 2026 Mass 8:30am

Friday 2 Jan Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
First Friday Mass 7:30pm
Saturday 3 Jan Anointing Mass 8:30am

Sacraments

Sacramental Program - Dates for next year's Sacramental Program will be available in early 2026. Sacramental Coordinator Rosanna Ph: 0428766727 or email: sacraments10@outlook.com.au

Baptism Classes -

There will be NO Baptism class in January 2026

The next Baptism Class:

Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall.