

## Youth



**YOUTH GROUP** - We would like to thank the Eroles family, YFC and all the parent helpers for their assistance during 2025. 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](http://parracatholic.org/jubileepilgrimage2025)

## Ministry Roster December 2025

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> 6pm Week 2	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana Family			S Nierves P Canlas	M Sultana	M Galati	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		A Perera	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	J Teuma		K Amanda N Tsui	D Thomas	V Sultana S Suri	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy (Neesha)	D Catig		J Sultana M Syme	S Nobleza	S Corben J Bugeja	Jenchris & Co	
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> 6pm Week 3	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio		L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	J Eroles	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	D Catig		S Corben B Simon	S Yapa	A Delara L Fox	Raymond & Co	
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		I Sprem W Suri	L Bird	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.

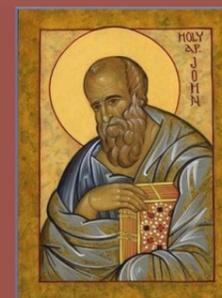
## Friday Prayer Group

**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 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

**7 December 2025**

**Second Sunday of Advent Year A**

*First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*He judges the poor with justice.*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

(The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God*

*Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7*

*Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*

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.

*Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace  
for ever.*

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

*Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace  
for ever.*

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.

*Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace  
for ever.*

May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name.

*Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace  
for ever.*

### **Second Reading** *Romans 15:4-9*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Christ, the hope of all people.*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures  
was meant to teach us something about hope from the  
examples scripture gives of how people who did not give  
up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when  
we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each  
other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that  
united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God  
and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each  
other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The  
reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was  
not only so that God could faithfully carry out the  
promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the  
pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture  
says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the  
pagans and sing your name.

**The word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation** *Luke 3:4, 6*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel** *Matthew 3:1-12*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in  
the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message:  
'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This  
was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with  
a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts  
and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the  
whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as  
they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they con-  
fessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Phari-  
sees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them,  
'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribu-  
tion that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce  
the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell your-  
selves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell  
you, God can raise children for Abraham from these  
stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees,  
so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be  
cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water  
for repentance, but the one who follows me is more pow-  
erful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he  
will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His win-  
nowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-  
floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff  
he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

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published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968. All rights reserved.

**Invitation 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.**

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

## Masses & Feasts

Mon 08 Dec 8:30am The Immaculate Conception of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary Mass

Fri 10 Dec St Lucy

## 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

**IMPORTANT MEETING**— It is very important that all  
volunteers who will be involved in the Christmas Masses  
attend this meeting. This includes Special Ministers, Mass  
Coordinators, Choirs, Laptop Operators, Readers, Acolytes,  
Children's Liturgy and any other parishioners who will be in-  
volved in our Parish masses.

**Christmas Liturgy and Eucharistic Ministers Meeting Date is  
on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 10am in the Hall.**

*The Christmas Volunteer Ministry Roster* is on a  
clipboard in the church foyer, please add your name.

*All children are invited to participate in our Parish  
Children's Christmas Mass* on Christmas Eve at 6pm.  
Please attend the **Rehearsal:** Wednesday 17 December  
Time: 6pm-7pm Meet: under the church pergola.

Join us! **Parish Advent Reflection sessions** at 10am in the  
Galilee Room. The sessions will be on the following Saturdays  
13/12 and 20/12. Please ring Shelly on 0421610826.

**Christmas Raffle Tickets** - 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 each.  
**Columban Calendar 2026** \$10 each. Please pick up your  
copy at the Piety Store after the 9am and 10:30am  
Sunday Masses.

**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.

**Please take note of the New Parish Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday 9am—12pm and 12:30pm —2:30pm

**Riverstone Combined Churches Christmas Carols** Saturday  
13th December. 5:30pm-9pm. Sam Lane Complex, Cnr Pitt &  
Park St, Riverstone. Run by the Combined churches of River-  
stone. Rides, food stalls, glo sticks & lights, pre-entertainment  
& carols. All parishioners are encouraged to attend!

## 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.

**Next Collection - Sunday 14 December**

If you bring any glass bottles, please pack separately in  
a cardboard box - 6 per box. Thank you.

## Appeals

**The Bishop's Christmas Appeal** was held last weekend—  
supporting Catholic Care Grief and Loss Counselling.  
Thank you to all of your generous donations.

**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, 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, Lucas, Nina Manjon, Catherine & Filo-  
mena Thomas & Rex Kodippily.

**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.

**Update — Church & Parish Restoration Projects**

Much has been happening behind the scenes over recent months.  
Cost of church foundation stabilization is \$53,205. We have now  
selected a preferred contractor and work will be scheduled on  
receipt of Diocesan acceptance of costs which is expected in the  
coming days. Similarly, a number of contractors have now been  
engaged to carry out the following in the Parish Centre (approx.  
costings):

\*Painting of whole ground floor (Completion expected late  
January) Cost is \$19,635

\*New Flooring of all ground floor rooms other than kitchen,  
laundry and bathroom (Completion scheduled for beginning of  
February) Cost is \$21,585

\*Blinds on most of the ground floor windows. (Installation begin-  
ning of February). Cost is \$3,522

Preparatory works are now proceeding ahead of the above.

Further works including lighting, communications, new fencing  
and retaining wall for the Parish Centre along Bellevue St are  
currently being worked through. Cost is \$32,000.

**Total Cost \$129,947.**

Our Parish has already spent \$96,000 which includes the  
concreting, electrical, gas, plumbing etc. Once these works  
have been completed, the collective amount spent on both  
the Church and Parish Centre, from the last year and a  
half, will be approximately **\$225,947.**

*Thank you to all that have made earlier donations to these  
projects. Your ongoing generosity and support is greatly  
appreciated and will greatly assist in our efforts to complete these  
important projects.*

## Sacraments

**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.

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

Sacramental Coordinator Rosanna Ph: 0428766727  
or email: sacraments10@outlook.com.au\_for enquiries.

**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.