

Youth



St John’s Parish Riverstone Youth Group

All school-aged children are invited to join us for an exciting and faith-filled time with friends, for fun activities that bring us closer to Jesus! Bring a friend and an open heart—we can’t wait to see you there! The first Youth Group gathering for 2026 will be on:

Friday 20th February at 6:30pm

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.

Special Religious Educators (SREs)

If you feel called to share your faith and would like to volunteer as an SRE in our local schools, please contact the parish office. We are in need of more SREs and would be grateful for your support.

Ministry Roster February 2025

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children’s Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 31 Jan 6pm Week 1	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana	L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	A Delara	Paul Sultana	Team Sat
Sun 1 st Feb 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	Team Wed
Sun 1 st 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	D Catig	J Sullivan P Sullivan	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	S Yappa S Brown	San Pedro Calunsod	
Sun 1 st 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig	J Sultana S Nobleza	I Sprem L Macatangay	S Suri	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	
Sat 7 th 6pm Week 2	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana Family	J Missio		S Nierves P Canlas	M Sultana	L Canlas	Jenchris & Co	Team Sat
Sun 8 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		A Perera	P Perera	None	Power Point	Team Wed
Sun 8 th 9am	S Brown	R Brown	J Teuma		K Amanda N Tsui	D Thomas	V Sultana S Suri	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 8 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy (Neesha)	D Catig		J Sultana M Syme	S Nobleza	S Corben J Bugeja	Jenchris & 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	Tuesdays
10am - 12pm	10am - 11am

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

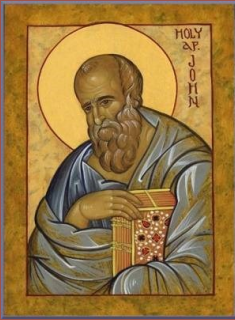
Friday Prayer Group

Christ Catholic Community (CCC) Prayer Group

Fridays 10am

Please contact Mary Camilleri Ph 0403116987 if you would like any further information.

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

1 February 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A
First Reading Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.
Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands.
Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3
Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.
Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.
Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion’s God, from age to age.

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

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

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.
Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God’s doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 5:12*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad:
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 5:1-12*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Happy are the poor in spirit.
Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



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Please respect the Blessed Eucharist
It is the true Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ present in the Sacred Host. So please receive the Eucharist on the tongue. If you still wish to take the Eucharist 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.

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

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. We will place another order soon!

RCIA

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

Masses & Feasts

Mon 02 Feb The Presentation of the Lord Mass 8:30am
Tues 03 Feb Communion Service
Fri 06 Feb First Friday Mass 7:30pm
Sat 07 Feb Anointing Mass 8:30am

Wed 18 Feb Ash Wednesday Masses
7am, 8:30am & 7:30pm

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

Everyone in the parish is invited to our first **Parish Council Meeting this Wednesday, 4th February, at our new time of 7:00pm** in the church hall. New parishioners are very welcome—come along and find out what’s happening in your parish!

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

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

New Parishioners— welcome to our New Parishioners. Please fill out a New Parishioner Form, which can be found in the church foyer. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Parish Office to register.



Together we can keep the faith alive - Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Aid to the Church in Need is a spiritual and pastoral charity which seeks to keep the flame of faith alive in those places where it is at risk of extinction. This weekend we welcome to our parish an ACN speaker who will share with us about the work of Aid to the Church in Need and how we can help our suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters.

Single adults, ages 18-35, are invited to join **the Dominican Friars and Sisters** for a weekend retreat at St Mary’s Towers, Douglas Park, NSW from 13-15 February 2026. Registration closes 6 February. Fee: \$300 per person. <https://www.trybooking.com/DHJBL>

My Life in Christ -Adult Faith Formation Program

Come and join our parish’s adult faith formation programme! It’s free and will be held fortnightly commencing Saturday, 7th February, at 10am in the Galilee Room.

At these sessions, we will:

- explore our Catholic faith;
- learn and discover practical ways to live our faith; and
- grow in our relationship with Christ.

Topics will include Knowing God Better, Scripture, Prayer, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and many others. Please register your interest by putting your name down on the sign-up sheet at the back of the church or ring the parish office.
Come and see... everyone welcome.’

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 Day - Sunday 8 February 2026
If you bring any glass bottles, please pack separately in a cardboard box - 6 per box. Thank you.

Appeals



This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion. Envelopes and money boxes will be available from Ash Wednesday.

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, Joseph Sant, Zeno Sartori, 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, Stephen & Julia S Thomas, Catherine & Rex Kodippily, Harriot Perera, Joseph Buttigieg, Francis Stivala, George Pulickal, Censina, John & Chris, Carmena & Spedito Baldacchino, Saviour & Censina Muscat, Menina & Paul Tedesco, Zane Belista, Grace Vella, Teresa Haber, Chardia, Benjamin Comilang, Joe & Rose Grima.

For those who are sick:
Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos & Frances Saliba, Maria Pisto, Tony & Freda Attard, Margaret Galea, Belinda Grgic, Dominic & Angela Schembri, Maureen Meryment, John & Janice Padernia, Helen Bathi, Kerry Duffy, Theresa Bye, Antonietta Arbolino, Michael Burke, Vanessa Thomas, Rita & Domink & family and those in our parish community.

The Diocese’s Catholic Healthcare ministry, in collaboration with the Hawkesbury Deanery, is organising a monthly formation and support Mass for those in the healthcare ministry of the Church on Sunday 22 February at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill, at 5:30pm. There will be an afternoon tea before the Mass from 4pm for those who wish to attend for networking and support purposes. For further information, please contact Deacon Michael Tan on Michael.Tan@parracatholic.org.

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

Safeguarding

Training opportunities will be available throughout 2026 in our Parish (dates will be advertised) or surrounding Parishes. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org
Volunteers - Please remember to check your own Working with Children Check - WWCC expiry date. This will need to be renewed before the expiry date and the process can take 2 –3 weeks. Please allow extra time.

Sacraments

Sacramental Program - Dates for the 2026 Sacramental Program will be available soon.
Sacramental Coordinator Rosanna Ph: 0428766727 or email: sacraments10@outlook.com.au

Baptism Classes -
The next Baptism Class:
Tuesday 3 Feb 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall.