

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 January/February 2025

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children’s Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> 6pm Week 3	M Satorre	Sultana Family	J Missio		S Nieves L Canlas	M Sultana	None	Paul Sultana	Team Sat
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		M Evans	P Perera	None	Power Point	Team Wed
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	M Camilleri	None	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		N D’Souza M Macatangay	D Gorkic	None	Raymond & Co	
Sat 31 Jan 6pm	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana	L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	A Delara	Jenchris & Co	Team Sat
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	Team Wed
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	D Catig	J Sullivan P Sullivan	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	S Yapp S Brown		
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> 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

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>
10am - 12pm	10am - 11am

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

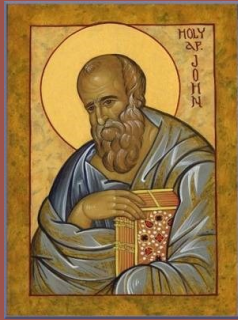
Friday Prayer Group

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

25 January 2026  
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A  
First Reading Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.  
In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1  
The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; Before whom shall I shrink?  
The Lord is my light and my salvation.



There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple.

*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

I am sure I shall see the Lord’s goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord!

*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

**Second Reading** *1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17*

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

*I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.*

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe’s people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: ‘I am for Paul’, ‘I am for Apollos’, ‘I am for Cephas’, ‘I am for Christ’. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

**The word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation** *Matthew 4:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel** *Matthew 4:12-23*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.*  
Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!  
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,  
Galilee of the nations!  
The people that lived in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death  
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’ As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew;

they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.’ And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

**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.

## Masses & Feasts

Mon 26 Jan Australia Day Mass 8:30am

Wed 28 Jan St Thomas Aquinas

Sat 31 Jan St John Bosco

Sat 01 Feb Anointing Mass 8:30am

Mon 02 Feb The Presentation of the Lord Mass 8:30am

Fri 06 Feb First Friday Mass 7:30pm

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

All parishioners are invited to the first **Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 4th February** at the new time of 7pm. Please meet in the church hall.

**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.

**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.

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

## 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.’

## 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 continue 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.  
**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, 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 and Teresa Haber.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 February 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall.