

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 next Youth Group gathering will be on:

Friday - 20th March at 6:30pm

Flyers for the dates for 2026 are now available

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.

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

Ministry Roster February 2026

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 14 th 6pm Week 3	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio		L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	J Eroles	Paul Sultana	Team Sat
Sun 15 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	Team Wed
Sun 15 th 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	D Catig		S Corben B Simon	S Yapa	A Delara L Fox	Gel, Dennis & Co	
Sun 15 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		I Sprem W Suri	L Bird	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	
Sat 21 st 6pm Week 4	M Satorre	Sultana family	J Missio		S Nieves L Canlas	M Sultana	R Edwards	Paul Sultana	Team Sat
Sun 22 nd 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	Team Wed
Sun 22 nd 9am	S Brown	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	A Samuel	J Sullivan S Brown	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 22 nd 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		N D'Souza M Macatangay	D Gorkic	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & 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

10am - 12pm

Tuesdays

10am - 11am

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

Friday Prayer Group

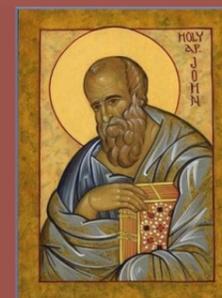
Thank you for the kind monetary donation towards our Parish. May God Bless the prayer group.

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: 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

22 February 2026

First Sunday of Lent Year A

First Reading Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading *Romans 5:12-19*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 4:4*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel *Matthew 4:1-11*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down: for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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Easter Liturgy Meeting -

Saturday 28 February 2026 at 10am in the church hall. All those involved in the Easter Liturgy, please attend. This includes choirs, lap top operators, readers, mass co-ordinators, children's liturgy, and all those involved in the liturgy for the Easter season. Please, could we have one person from each choir attend this meeting.

Masses & Feasts

Fridays during Lent *Stations of the Cross* 7.00pm

followed by *Mass*.

Wednesdays during Lent *Stations of the Cross* after the 8:30am Mass

Eucharist 2028 - The journey begins on 1 March 2026. Join us for an hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, following the conclusion of the 10:30am Mass on 1st March 2026.

Palm Sunday 29 March
Sunday Masses 7am, 9am & 11am

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

St John's Easter Raffle tickets are now on sale after weekend Masses. Tickets are \$2 or 3 for \$5.
Easter Chocolates For Sale \$3 each or
All proceeds will go directly to our Riverstone Parish.

The **Lenten Program** continues this Monday 23rd February - 7pm in the church hall. Books for the Lenten Program can be purchased for \$10 each on the night.

Volunteers needed to set up and pack up the chairs under the pergola during our busy times e.g Holy Thurs until Easter Sunday and other dates during the year. Please place your name on the list in the church foyer.

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

Lost Property - a box containing lost property can be found in the church foyer. The box will be emptied once it reaches capacity. If you have lost an item, please check the box.

Hawkesbury Deanery Meetings - Attendees Required 1-2 parishioners to represent the Riverstone Parish at the bi-monthly meetings held at St Matthew's Windsor. Please speak to Fr Zak or contact the Parish Office for more information.

Parish Office—If you send an email enquiry and have not heard back from the office—please follow up with a phone call, Thank you.

ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL RIVERSTONE
ENROLLING NOW FOR 2027. VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION FORM <https://www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au>
Check our Notice Board for Open Day Dates & Times

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!

Events at our Parish... ..

Divine Mercy - Sunday 12th April

Riverstone Festival on Saturday 9th May. We need your help - please place your name on the list in the church foyer.

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

Appeals

 **PROJECT COMPASSION** This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's **Project Compassion**.

Envelopes and money boxes are now available. Please return the boxes and envelopes anytime during Lent.

The **Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal 2026**

Good Friday Holy Land Collection will take place on 3rd April 2026. Envelopes will be provided.

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, Matthew Faumui, 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, Michael Agius, 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, Emanuel & Marija Hili, Jason Daep, Larsen Gajitos, Frank Stacy, Terry Cole, Gina Borqzio

For those who are sick:

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

Please respect the Blessed Eucharist and 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.

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. The painting and the flooring is now finished.

My Life in Christ - Adult Faith Formation Program

Come and join our parish's adult faith formation program! It's free and will be held fortnightly. The program continues on **Saturday, 7th March, at 10am** in the church hall. The topic for this session is *The Holy Catholic Church*. To register - put your name on the sheet at the back of the church or ring the parish office. everyone welcome.

RCIA

Three Catechumens and one Candidate for Easter Saturday Vigil Celebration at 7pm at St John's Parish in 2026. Please keep them in your prayers.

Sacraments

Sacramental Program -

The 2026 Sacramental Program Date and Parent Information Sheet is now available in the church foyer.

Sacramental Coordinator Rosanna Ph: 0428766727

or email: sacraments10@outlook.com.au

Baptism Classes -

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