

Youth



St John's Parish Riverstone Youth Group

The youth group gathering took place on Friday and the children had a great night. **Thank you to the Eroles family, the YFC and parent helpers.** The next Youth Group gathering will be on:

Friday - 17th April at 6:30pm

—we can't wait to see you there!

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.

Eucharist 2028—Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost.

Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ.

Amen.

Ministry Roster March 2026

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
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		S Nebleza N D'Souza	D Gorkic	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	
Sat 28 th 6pm Week 5	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana Family	J Misso		I Sprem		A Delara	Jenchriss & Co	Team Sat
Sun 29 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		Volunteer Volunteer	P Perera	None	Power point	Team Wed
Sun 29 th 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	D Catig		C Wickman Paul	C Sherry	J Sullivan S Brown	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 29 th 11am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		D Gorkic S Suri	Volunteer	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.



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

Piety Store

For Sale at the Piety Store: God's Word 2026 \$24 each.

Columban Calendar 2026 \$10 each

Piety Store - Opening Hours

Sundays

10am - 12pm

Tuesdays

10am - 11am

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

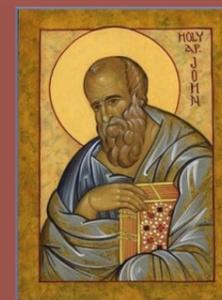
Friday Prayer Group

Christ Catholic Community (CCC) Prayer Group

Fridays 10am

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

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 March 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A

First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 129. R. v.7

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
 Lord, hear my voice!
 O let your ears be attentive
 to the voice of my pleading.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
 Lord, who would survive?
 But with you is found forgiveness:
 for this we revere you.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
 I count on his word.
 My soul is longing for the Lord
 more than watchman for daybreak.
 (Let the watchman count on daybreak
 and Israel on the Lord.)

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading *Romans 8:8-11*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *John 11:25. 26*

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel *John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing,

Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968. All rights reserved.

Thank you to the generous parishioners who have supported our Parish for the past year, using the **Weekly Giving Envelopes**. The new boxes of Envelopes for 2026/2027 will be in the foyer of the Church, awaiting your collection, from Saturday 28th March. If you are interested in giving to our Parish, using envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

Easter Offering Envelopes - If you would like to make an Easter Offering directly to our Riverstone Parish - pink and blue coloured envelopes are available in the church foyer. Please place your envelope in any of the collection plates during Mass.

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

Wed 25 Mar 8:30am The Annunciation of the Lord

Sun 29 Mar **Palm 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 Primary School, Riverstone is enrolling now for 2027. Applications close soon, on 27 March 2026 and places are filling fast! Visit their website to request an application form. <https://www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au/>

For Sale - St John's Easter Raffle

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

All proceeds will go directly to our Riverstone Parish.

The **Lenten Program** continues this Monday 23rd March at 7pm in the church hall. Books for the Lenten Program are \$10 and can be purchased on the night.

120 Year Celebration - Thank you to all the parishioners who place an order for a **plaque for our cross**. The order is now being processed. The front of the cross is nearly full of plaques. We encourage any parishioners to fill out a form as soon as possible. Our Parish will place another order later in the year.

Laminated copies of the **Eucharist Prayer 2028** have been placed on the pews. Please use these during Mass to say the prayer and then please place them back on the pews so that they can be used each week. Thank you.

Easter Mass and Reconciliation Times

Wednesday April 1 <i>Mass of the Holy Chrism (St Patrick's, Parramatta)</i> 7:30pm	First Rite (Individual Confession)
Holy Thursday April 2 <i>Mass of the Lord's Supper</i> 7:00pm	Tuesday March 31 9:30am – 10:30am and 5pm – 6pm
Good Friday April 3 <i>The Stations of the Cross</i> 10:00am <i>Celebration of the Lord's Passion</i> 3:00pm	Wednesday April 1 9:30am – 10:30am
Holy Saturday April 4 <i>Celebration of the Paschal Vigil</i> 7:00pm	Thursday April 2 9:30am – 10:30am
Easter Sunday April 5 <i>Easter Sunday Celebration</i> 7:00am 9:00am 10:30am	
Easter Monday April 6 <i>Communion Service</i> 8:30am	

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, 18th April, at 10am** in the church hall. The topic for this session is *Conscience, Virtues and Sin*. 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 12 April 2026

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

March Earn \$65 - Thank you!

Appeals

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

Please return the boxes and envelopes anytime during Lent.

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

Diocese of Parramatta— Their First Appeal for 2026 will take place on 9th May. 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, George Pulickal, Zane Belista, Grace Vella, Teresa Haber, Stella George, Angelo Attard, Victor Gatt, , Attard family, Spiteri family, Loreto Azzopardi, Raymond Baker, Francisco, Alvarez Eugenio, K.S Thomas, Fortunata Baiada

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.

Events at our Parish.....

Divine Mercy - Sunday 12th April.

2.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Reflection time

3.00pm 3 o'clock prayer followed immediately by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Riverstone Festival on Saturday 9th May. Our Parish will have an information table on this day. Parishioners will need to stand at the table. Can you volunteer some time on this day? Please contact the Parish Office.

Pentecost Sunday - 24th May

Parish Centre & Church Restoration

More works, for the restoration of our Church took place during the week.

Once again, we would like to thank our generous parishioners who donated towards our Church Restoration. A big thanks to the team who helped us to get the restoration done. May God Bless them all.

RCIA

There are three Elect for Easter Saturday Vigil Celebration at 7pm at St John's Parish in 2026. Please keep them in your prayers.

Sacraments

Sacramental Program -

The first Sacrament for 2026 is Reconciliation.

Please register by the 5th May 2026.

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

Baptism Classes -

The next Baptism Class:

Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall.