

Youth



St John's Parish Riverstone Youth Group

School-aged children enjoyed Youth Group on Friday. Thank you to the our Youth Group coordinators—the Eroles family, YFC and parent helpers. Please bring your friends to the next Youth Group gathering on:

Friday - 15 May 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.

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 April 2026

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 18 th 6pm Week 3	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio		L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana		Paul Sultana	
Sun 19 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	Team Wed
Sun 19 th 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	D Catig		S Corben B Simon	S Yapa	A Delara	Gel, Dennis & Co	
Sun 19 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		I Sprem W Suri	S Turaka	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	
Sat 25 th 6pm Week 4	M Satorre	Sultana family	J Missio		S Nieves L Canlas	M Sultana	R Edwards	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 26 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 26 th 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	A Samuel	J Sullivan S Brown	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 26 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		S Nebleza N D'Souza	D Gorkic	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	

Thank you to all of our parishioners who have committed to their Ministry. If you are unavailable, please arrange a replacement and 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.



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.

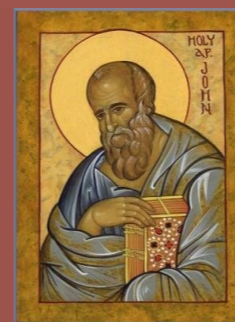
Friday Prayer Group

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

19 April 2026

3rd Sunday of Easter Year A

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and fore-knowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence. 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.'

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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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 **Parish Council Meeting** on Wednesday 22nd April at 7pm!

Altar Server Training - school-aged children are invited to attend training to become an Altar Server at our Masses. The next training session will be on Wednesday 29th April at 3:30pm. Please meet under the pergola.

Mother's Day Raffle- Great Prizes! \$2 each or 3 for \$5. On sale now. All proceeds will go directly to our Riverstone Parish.

Thank you to the generous parishioners who have supported our Parish for the past year, using the There are still a few new **Weekly Giving Envelopes 2026/2027** in the church foyer, awaiting your collection, If you are interested in giving to our Parish, using envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

Easter Offering Envelopes - thank you to our generous parishioners who donated towards our Parish during Easter.

SRE Meeting: Could all SRE's attend an SRE Meeting on Monday 20th April at 10am in the hall.

120 Year Celebration - The front of the cross has enough space for 28 more plaques. We encourage parishioners to fill out a form as our Parish will place another order later in the year.

Gluten free hosts are available for those who wish to receive Holy Communion. Please arrange with the Priest before Mass .

Please join Deacon Dr Michael Tan for the **Healthcare Ministries Formation and Support Mass** at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill on the 4th Sunday, 26th April, commencing at 5:30 p.m. Afternoon tea before the Mass from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Various **Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses** will take place in Sept, Oct and Nov 2026. Forms are available in the church foyer. Please complete and return by 4th August.


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, 2nd May, at 10am** in the church hall. The topic for this session is The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Explained Part 1. 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 10 May 2026** If you bring any glass bottles, please pack separately in a cardboard box - 6 per box.

Appeals


 Please return all boxes and donations for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion by the end of April.

Good Friday Holy Land Collection thank you for your generous donations for this appeal.

Diocese of Parramatta— The 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, Zane Belista, Stella George, Attard family, Spiteri family, Loreto Azzopardi, Francisco Alvarez Eugenio, James D'Souza, Nunziato Orlando & Orlando family, Domenico & Maria Procopio & Procopio family, Silvana Maiolo, Tomas Ferino Sr, Guillerno Ramirez, Romeo Masangkay, Mariano Ferino, Lynette Barnes, Lorraine Sultana and Harriot Perera.

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.

Safeguarding

Documents	What next? (Action)
WWCC notification form (including) code of conduct (for child-related ministries) <i>Including SRE, Children's Liturgy, Youth Group, Acolytes, Indoor Soccer, Sacrament Teams, RCLA Team, Parish Manager, & Staff</i>	Volunteers (working in child-related ministries) please review and complete the 'wwcc notification form'. Email or deliver completed form to your coordinator or the Parish Office
Acknowledgement of Code of Conduct (for non-child related ministries) <i>Including Readers, Prayer of Faithful, Choirs, Cleaners, Gardeners,</i>	Volunteers (working in non-child related ministries) to complete the 'acknowledgment code of conduct' form . Email or deliver completed form to your coordinator or the Parish Office

Please - all volunteers to fill out only one of the above forms. Please return the form by 10th May

Masses & Feasts

Sat 25 April 8:30am Anzac Day Mass

Events at our Parish.....

Riverstone Festival on Saturday 9th May. NO march this year. Helpers needed for our information stand. Please place your name on the clipboard in the church foyer. Thankyou to those who have already offered to help.

Pentecost Sunday - 24th May— more details to come.

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 5 May 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall.