

## Youth

### 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!  
\*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.

## Events at our Parish.....

**Riverstone Festival on Saturday 9th May.** NO march this year. Everyone in the community is invited! Stalls and Entertainment 9am—3pm The Sam Lane Complex, Cnr Pitt & Park Streets, Riverstone. Come and say hello to the Volunteers at our Parish Stall!

**Pentecost Sunday - 24th May—  
11AM Mass & Celebration**

**Pentecost Liturgy Meeting.** All volunteers involved in the 11am Mass please attend the meeting Saturday 16th May at 10am in the Hall.

**Pentecost Committee Meetings** Sat 10am 16/5 and 23/5  
**Flag Procession Practice** Saturday 16th May at 11:45am

## Ministry Roster April/May 2026

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> 6pm Week 4	M Satorre	Sultana family	J Missio		S Nieves L Canlas	M Sultana	R Edwards	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	A Samuel	J Sullivan S Brown	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		S Nebleza N D'Souza	D Gorkic	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	
Sat 2nd 6pm Week 5	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana	L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	A Delara	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 3rd 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 3rd 9am	S Brown	R Brown	D Catig	N Tsui P Tsui	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	S Yapa S Brown	San Pedro Calunsod	
Sun 3rd 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig	Volunteer S Nobleza	I Sprem D Gorkic	S Suri	S Corben J Bugeja	Gel, Dennis & Co	

Thank you to all of our parishioners who have committed to their Ministry.

## 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](mailto: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.

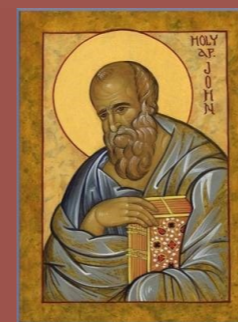
## Friday Prayer Group

**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

**26 April 2026**

**4th Sunday of Easter Year A**

*First Reading Acts of the Apostles 2:14. 36-41*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

**The word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God*

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1**

*The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

*The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.*

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

**Second Reading 1 Peter 2:20-25**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**The word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation John 10:14**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel John 10:1-10**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gate-keeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

**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.

## 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.

 **May God Bless Fr Zakaria on his 38th Year of Ordination - 29th April 2026**  
Fr Zakaria, we are grateful for 38 years of faithful service, we thank you for shepherding our parish with wisdom, compassion, and unwavering devotion. May God continue to bless you abundantly.

## Masses and Feasts

Tues 28 April St Peter Chanel  
Wed 29 April St Catherine of Siena  
Fri 1 May 7:30pm First Friday Mass  
Sat 2 May St Athanasius & 8:30am Anointing Mass

## 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

**The National Count of Attendance for 2026** will take place during each weekend Mass during the month of May 2026. Mass Coordinators—please organise your Mass Counters for each Mass. Counter's Record forms can be found in the sacristy. Please make sure that all celebrants, adults, children & babies are included in the count.

**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. 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.

**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, 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

Please—**no parking** under the pergola between the church and the hall.


## 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. Earn for April was \$72.60.

## 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**— 9-10 May until 13-14 June: Bishop's Good Works Appeal for Parramatta Catholic Foundation Envelopes will be provided. There will only be three appeals in 2026. Therefore, each Appeal will run for a longer period of time.

## 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, Stella George, Attard family, Spiteri family, Loreto Azzopardi, 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, Harriot Perera, Sundari Pokish, Benjamin Comilang  
**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, Rita & Domink & family, Jenny Gannon, Natalie Love and those in our parish community.

## Safeguarding

All volunteers at our Parish will need to complete only one of the above forms. Please return the form by 10th May.

Documents	What is next?
WWCC notification form (including code of conduct <b>(for child-related ministries)</b> <i>Including SRE, Children's Liturgy, Youth Group, Acolytes, Indoor Soccer, Sacrament Teams, RCLA Team, Parish Manager, Parish Staff, Eucharistic Ministers,</i>	Volunteers (working in child-related ministries) please read and complete the 'WWCC notification form'.  Email or deliver completed form to your coordinator or the Parish Office  <i>Please see forms in the folder with the Pink Heading</i>
Acknowledgement of Code of Conduct <b>(for non-child related ministries)</b> <i>Including Readers, Prayer of Faithful, Choirs, Cleaners, Gardeners, Laptop Preparation, Laptop Operators, Parish Council Members, Parish Finance Council Members</i>	Volunteers (working in non-child related ministries) to read and complete the 'acknowledgment code of conduct' form. Email or deliver completed form to your coordinator or the Parish Office.  <i>Please see forms in the folder with the Green Heading.</i>

**St John the Evangelist Parish, Riverstone would like to introduce our Safeguarding Team:**

Parish Priest - Fr Zakaria Gayed  
Parish Secretary - Melissa Spence

If you have any questions in regards to Safeguarding, please ask your Safeguarding Team. Please note that there are various posters and information on the Noticeboard and in the Church foyer.

Face to Face Training in our Parish will take place later in the year.

## Sacraments

**Sacramental Program** -

**The first Sacrament for 2026 is Reconciliation.**  
Registrations close on the 5th May 2026. Please return your forms by this date!

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.