

## Youth

### Youth St John's Parish Riverstone Youth Group

The Youth Group was held on Friday night and the children had a great night. Thank you to the YFC, Eroles Family and the Parent helpers!! All school-aged children and their friends are invited to the next gathering on **\*Friday - 19 June 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.

## Parish Centre and Church Renovation/Maintenance

**Boundary Fence**  
Work has begun on the Bellevue Street boundary fence. Fence Land Preparation \$1,600 *Paid*  
Fence approx. \$29,700 to be paid on completion

**Church Costs Jan—May 2026**  
Church Foundations \$53,000 *Paid*  
There will be extra foundation work to be completed in the near future approx. \$20,000.

Church and Buildings Insurance \$19,400 *Paid*

Church Maintenance \$1,300 *Paid*

**Parish Centre**  
Flooring \$13,000 *Paid*  
Blinds \$ 3,500 *Paid*  
Painting \$16,000 *Paid*  
Air Conditioners \$ 9,801 *Paid*

## Ministry Roster May 2026

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> 6pm Week 3	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio		L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	J Eroles	P Sultana	
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	Team Wed
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	D Catig		S Corben B Simon	S Yapa	L Fox A Delara	Gel, Dennis & Co	
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		I Sprem W Suri	S Turaka	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6pm Week 4	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio		S Nieves L Canlas	M Sultana	R Edwards	P Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> 9am	S Brown	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	A Samuel	P Mansweto S Brown	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> 11am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		S Nebleza N D'Souza	D Gorkic	None	Raymond & 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.

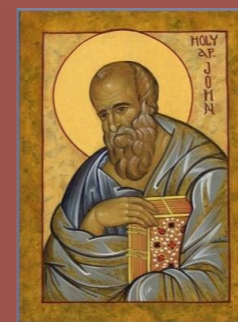
## Friday Prayer Group

**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

**17 May 2026**

**The Ascension of the Lord Year A**

*First Reading Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God*

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6**

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

**Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

**The word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation Matthew 28:19. 20**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel Matthew 28:16-20**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you.

And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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### 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.

### Events at our Parish.....

**Pentecost Celebration - 24th May 11am Mass and Celebration.** All involved, please attend the final **Pentecost Committee Meeting** Sat 10am 23/5

All Parishioners are invited to our **Pentecost Celebration after Mass in the Parish Centre.**

**Lunch can be purchased for \$5** which includes 1x Sausage on a roll with 1 x bottle of water.

Please pre-purchase your ticket at any of the weekend

Masses on 16/17 May and 23/24 May or at the Parish Centre on the day. Cash only please.

### Masses and Feasts

24 May Pentecost Sunday Mass and Celebration. 11am Mass followed by the celebration and lunch in our Parish Centre.

Our main celebrant for this Mass will be the Very Rev Peter G. Williams AM. Special Guest: Mr Warren Kirby MP, Member for Riverstone

### 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

**Altar Server Training - Wednesday 27th May 2026 at 3:30pm**

School Aged children are invited to another training session which will be run by Fr Zakaria to become an Altar Server in our Parish. Please meet under the pergola.

**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.

**Mother's Day Raffle Winners**— Thank you to all of our parishioners who donated prizes and purchased tickets.

1st Prize Vin & Fred #F03 Yellow  
2nd Prize Milicia #F47 Yellow  
3rd Prize Lydie #F89 Yellow  
4th Prize L Fox #F11 Yellow  
5th Prize Mary #F68 Yellow

**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 .

### Thank you.....

Thank you to all our Volunteers who organised and helped for our stall displaying an Information Table at the Riverstone Festival, which was held last weekend. Members of our community visited our stall and it was well received.

We would like to thank our tireless teams of gardeners and church/parish centre/classroom cleaners! As always, you all do a remarkable job!

### 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, 30h May, at 10am** in the church hall. The topic for this session is The Sacraments—in General. 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 14 June 2026**

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

### Appeals

**Diocese of Parramatta**— 16-17 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 which will allow parishioners to bring in their donations. We will still have to meet our quota of approx. \$10,000.00 over the three appeals.

**Caritas Australia's Project Compassion and Good Friday Holy Land Collection** thank you for your generous donations for these appeals.

### 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, Harriot Perera, Dulce Masangray, Mario Ferino, Benjamin Comilang, Catherine & Rex Kodippily, Mary Muikali, Mary Muinde Tithe, Leonardus Tommy Hendra, Joseph Tabone, Mary Bigeni, Crescencia Cardoza, Bellarmine Derose, Michelle Muscat, Anthony Dsouza, Flora Dsouza

**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, Maureena Drury, Elisabeth Juliawah Santoso, Matthew Hope and those in our parish community.

*Pope Leo XIV has chosen "Preserving human voices and faces" as the theme for the 60th World Day of Social Communications, takes place today, the 17th May 2026.*

### Safeguarding

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>

Reminder: All volunteers at our Parish will need to complete only one of the above forms. Please return the form as soon as possible. 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 -**

**Registrations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are now closed.**

Lesson 1 - Parent & Child - Tuesday 19th May at 7pm in the Galilee Room.

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

**Baptism Classes -**

The next Baptism Class: Tuesday 2 June 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall.