

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 May 2026

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 2nd 6pm Week 1	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana	L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	A Delara	Jenchris & Co	Team Wed
Sun 3rd 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 3rd 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	J Teuma	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	Raymond & Co	
Sat 9th 6pm Week 2	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana Family			S Nierves P Canlas	M Sultana	L Canlas	P Sultana	
Sun 10th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		A Perera	P Perera	None	Power Point	Team Wed
Sun 10th 9am	S Brown	R Brown	J Teuma		R Cannilere P Tsui	D Thomas	V Sultana S Suri	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 10th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy (Neesha)	D Catig		S Turaka Volunteer	S Nobleza	L Fox 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

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.

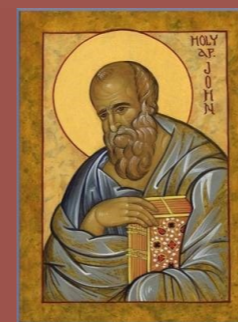
Friday Prayer Group

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

3 May 2026

5th Sunday of Easter Year A

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.'

The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious corner-stone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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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.



Fr Zakaria celebrated his 38th Year of Ordination last Wednesday, 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. All parishioners are invited to celebrate with a cake in the hall after the 10:30am Mass on 3rd May.

Masses and Feasts

24 May Pentecost Sunday Mass 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

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

School Aged children who have received their Sacraments 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- Great Prizes! \$2 each or 3 for \$5. On sale now. All proceeds will go directly to our Riverstone Parish.

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 .

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.

The St John's Primary School, Riverstone will host their Mother's Day Liturgy on Friday, 8th May. Please be aware that the car park will be busy upon arrival for the 8:30am Mass. The school have asked their families to park elsewhere on this morning, however there will be elderly people/others who may need to share our carpark. Please be patient on this day.

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, 16th May, at 10am** in the church hall. The topic for this session is The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Explained Part II. 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

Caritas AUSTRALIA | PROJECT COMPASSION 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, Harriot Perera, Dulce Masangray, Mario Ferino, Benjamin Comilang, Catherine & Rex Kodippily, Mary Muikali, Muinde Tithe, Leonardus Tommy Hendra.

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 and those in our parish community.

Safeguarding

Documents	What is next?
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, 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 (for non-child related ministries) <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>

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

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 5 May 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall.