

Youth

Youth St John’s Parish Riverstone Youth Group  The last Youth Group was a success. We would like to thank our Youth Group Coordinators—The Eroles family, the YFC and the parent helpers. All school aged children are invited to attend the next gathering on:

Friday - 21 August 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.

Safeguarding

CONGRATULATIONS! The Safeguarding Audit is now complete. A huge thank you to the our parishioners and our Safeguarding Champions for an excellent outcome for our Riverstone Parish. The Auditors were fascinated by the diversity and passion of clergy, staff and parishioners across the Diocese. The Diocese of Parramatta understood how big of a time commitment this has been. The Parramatta Safeguarding Team and Auditors would like to thank everyone involved.

We would like to also like to give thanks to our three parishioners who were wonderful representatives for the Riverstone Parish on the Audit day. Well done!

Volunteer Ministry Roster July /Aug 2026

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children’s Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 25 th Vigil 6pm Week 4	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio		S Nieves L Canlas	M Sultana	R Edwards	P Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 26 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 26 th 9am	S Brown	R Brown	R Cannalire		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	
Sat 1st Vigil 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 2 nd 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	A Perera	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 2 nd 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	R Cannalire	P Tsui N Tsui	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	S Yapa S Brown	San Pedro Calungsod	
Sun 2 nd 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig	S Nobleza	I Sprem D Gorkic	S Suri	S Corben J Bugeja	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.



Save the Date.....

St John the Evangelist Feast Day Celebration
Sunday 29th November 2026
10:30am Mass followed by the feast day celebration at the Parish Centre.

The Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD from the Diocese of Parramatta will be the main celebrant at this Mass.

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

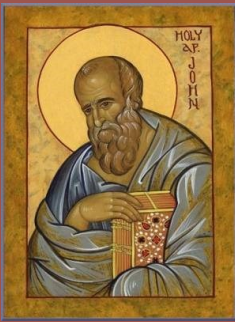
Unfortunately, piety items are not available for purchase from the parish office.

Friday Prayer Group

Christ Catholic Community (CCC) Prayer Group

Fridays 10am

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



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 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 July 2026
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
First Reading 1 Kings 3:5.7-12
A reading from the first book of the Kings
You have asked for wisdom.
The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, ‘Ask what you would like me to give you.’ Solomon replied, ‘Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?’ It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. ‘Since you have asked for this’ the Lord said ‘and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97 (Response) Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold.
Lord, I love your commands.

Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight.

Lord, I love your commands.

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways.

Lord, I love your commands.

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple.

Lord, I love your commands.

Second Reading Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They said, ‘Yes.’

And he said to them, ‘Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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Sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. In a press release on the 10 February 2026, Pope Leo announced that, I will never forget you (Is 49:15) would be the theme for the today, the Sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. This year it aligns with the feast of St Anne and Joachim, the Grandparents of Jesus. Pope Leo says that the theme seeks to emphasise how God’s love for every person is never lacking, even in the fragility of old age.

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.

Masses & Feasts

Wed	29 July	Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Fri	31 July	St Ignatius of Loyola
Sat	01 Aug	8:30am Anointing Mass St Alphonsus Liguori
Thurs	06 Aug	8:30am The Transfiguration of the Lord
Fri	07 Aug	7:30pm First Friday Mass
Sat	08 Aug	8:30am St Mary of the Cross

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

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

Today -Sunday morning Masses - **Pancake Fundraiser Pancakes with ice cream and maple syrup will be \$5.** The EFTPOS machine is available for your purchases. This is a fundraiser for the Riverstone Parish.

SRE Meeting—Tuesday 28th July at 9:30am in the church hall. Could all SRE's please attend this meeting.

The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be on Wednesday 5th August at 7pm in the church hall. We welcome all parishioners to attend.

This National Vocations Awareness Week, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv and our Holy Spirit Seminarians will get #Active4Vocations in City2Surf on Sunday 9 August. Please pray for vocations and support our seminarians as they take on the 14km journey from Sydney to Bondi to promote priestly vocations. Spur them on with a donation at tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations. If you feel called to the priesthood, visit parracatholic.org/contribute/discern-my-vocation/priesthood

The **Catholic Medical Association** is hosting a mini-expo on 12th September on what it is to be a Catholic GP in today's world, that will also respond to the question, 'how can I find a Catholic GP?' Time and Location to be confirmed soon by Deacon Michael.

120 Year Celebration - The front of the cross has enough space for 25 more plaques. We encourage parishioners to fill out a form as our Parish will place another order later in the year.

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, 8 August at 10am** in the church hall. The topic for this session is Mary and the Saints. 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 9th August 2026
If you bring any glass bottles, please pack separately in a cardboard box - 6 per box.

July Earn was \$32.70. Thank you to all parishioners who contributed.

Parish Centre

Final works are being completed to the Bellevue fence. The gate is open to allow parishioners pedestrian access when parking on Bellevue Street. Work for the interior furnishings for the Parish Centre has also begun.

Appeals

Vinnies Winter Appeal - Thank you to our generous parishioners who made a donation towards this appeal.

Prayers for our Community

✝ **Deceased Mass Offerings** -
All Souls, All Souls in Purgatory (2), 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, Mary Muinde Tithe, Harriot Perera, Zane Belista, Charles Vella & family, Natale Zappia, Giovanna, Gregorio & Katerina Zappia, John Joseph, Charlie & Grace Vella, Nazzareno Abela, Catherine & Rex Kodippily, Joseph (Peppi) Sultana, Nelly Koh, Andrew Tee Swe Tay & Ferino family, Charles Spiteri, Mary Jane & Charles Sultana, Emmanuel Bill Baker, Raymond Baker, Joan Patricia Glover, Charles Spiteri, Stephen Donovan, Terry Ethington.

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, Natalie Love, Maureena Drury, Elisabeth Juliawah Santoso, Matthew Hope, Clare, Margaret Attard, Carol Petro and those in our parish community.

St John’s Parish, Riverstone Picnic Day - Let’s Meet the Families
Sunday, 9th August 11am—2pm
Request for young families with children from our Parish to meet for a picnic at Rouse Hill Regional Park, Worcester Road, Rouse Hill. Lower carpark over the hill. Let’s enjoy each other’s company and discuss ideas for what our parish community could provide for your family in the future.

Please bring your own picnic lunch and lots of water.

Share a space on the grass with friends, find new friends and let the children play.
Please RSVP by 8th August - Lucia Ph: 0400347653.

Sacraments

Sacramental Program -
Sacrament of First Holy Communion: Lesson 2 Parent & Child Tues 28 July at 7pm.
The Celebration Mass will be on Saturday 22 August 6pm and Sunday 23 August at 9am and **11am**.
Sacramental Coordinator Rosanna Ph: 0428766727 or email: sacraments10@outlook.com.au

Baptism Classes -
The next Baptism Class:
Tuesday 4th August 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall.