

Youth Group

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 - 18th September 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, nor can we take them to a currency converter as they do not accept

RCIA - RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Thinking of becoming a Catholic? Are you or someone you know interested in exploring the Catholic faith? This RCIA is a warm, welcoming journey for:

*Unbaptised individuals wanting to join the Catholic Church

*Baptised Christians from other traditions wishing to enter into full communion

*Baptised Catholics needing to complete their Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist

At this session, there is no pressure or obligation—just a safe space to ask questions and grow in faith.

When: Sunday 20th September immediately following the conclusion of the 9am Mass. The session runs for 1 hour.

Meet: at St John the Evangelist Church, Riverstone and proceed to the Galilee Room (in the old classrooms)

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 12 th 6pm Week 2	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana Family	J Missio		S Bonnici C Dony	M Sultana	L Canlas	P Sultana	
Sun 13 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		A Perera	P Perera	None	Power Point	Team Wed
Sun 13 th 9am	S Brown	R Brown	J Teuma		K Amanda N Tsui	D Thomas	V Sultana S Suri	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 13 th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy or N D'Souza	D Catig		S Turaka A D'Souza	S Nobleza	S Corben J Bugeja	Jenchris & Co	
Sat 19 th 6pm Week 3	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio		L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	J Eroles	P Sultana	
Sun 20 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	Team Wed
Sun 20 th 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	J Teuma		S Corben B Simon	S Yapa	A Delara	Gel, Dennis & Co	
Sun 20 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	R Cannali-re		I Sprem W Suri	S Turaka	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.

Pray with the Pope.....

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network - Pray with the Pope - September 2026 : *For the care of water.* Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Piety Store

*For Sale at the Piety Store: God's Word 2026 \$24 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

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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: stjohns10@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

13 September 2026

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

*The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

*The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.

*The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

Second Reading *Romans 14:7-9*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.
The life and death of each of us has its influence on others:
if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the
Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This ex-
plains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so
that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *John 13:34*

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 18:21-35*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy
times seven.*
Peter went up to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, how often must I
forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven
times?’ Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-
seven times.

‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king
who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When
the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed
ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so
his master gave orders that he should be sold, together
with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet
the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his
master’s feet. “Give me time,” he said “and I will pay the
whole sum.” And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him
that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this
servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant
who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by
the throat and began to throttle him. “Pay what you owe
me”, he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and im-
plored him, saying, “Give me time and I will pay you.” But
the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him
thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow
servants were deeply distressed when they saw

what had happened, and they went to their master and
reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for
him. “You wicked servant,” he said. “I cancelled all that
debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not
bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I
had pity on you?” And in his anger the master handed him
over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that
is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you
each forgive your brother from your heart.’

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

Safeguarding Sunday 13th September 2026

On **Safeguarding Sunday**, we pray for those who have been
abused, their families and supporters. This year the theme
is Love Protects and the readings show us that real love is
not passive goodwill. Rather it actively shields the
vulnerable, tells the truth, and never lets silence stand in
for safety.

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

Tues	15 Sept	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wed	16 Sept	Sts Cornelius and Cyprian

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.

**Liturgy and Volunteer Meeting for Feast Day
Saturday 19th September at 10am in the Parish Centre.**
Could all liturgical, including choirs attend this meeting
to discuss the 10:30am Mass for our St John the
Evangelist Feast Day on the 29th November. We would
also like to invite any parishioners, who are willing to
help on the day.
***Helpers are required for food, setting/packing up
chairs and tables, BBQ, decorations etc. Please place
your name on the clipboard in the church foyer***

The **Catholic Outlook Magazine** is out now | Season of
Creation & Spring Edition. Limited copies can be found
in the church foyer.

120 Year Celebration - The cross has enough space for 21
more plaques. We encourage parishioners to fill out a
form as our Parish will place another order later in the
year.

**Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying Formation
course** - Saturday 17 Oct from 9:30am – 2pm at the Bishop
Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Morning tea and Lunch
provided. For more information and to register before 14 Oct
at parracatholic.org/events/ministry-of-communion-formation/

Did you know.....

WHAT IS A LITURGY? Liturgy is the Church’s way of
coming together to worship God. It includes prayers,
readings, songs and symbolic actions, all celebrated by
the community.
FUN FACT: The word Liturgy comes from an ancient
Greek word meaning “work of the people” — reminding
us that worship is something we celebrate together!

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, 19th September at
10am** in the church hall. The topic for this session is
Scripture/The Bible. 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.
Collection Day - **today, Sunday 13th September 2026**
If you bring any glass bottles, please pack separately in
a cardboard box - 6 per box.

Appeals

The **Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal** for the Clergy Support
Foundation continues until the 19–20 September 2026.
Please support our Clergy.
**Please place your envelope in any of the collections
during Mass.** Envelopes can be found in the church foyer.
This Appeal is part of the Diocese of Parramatta Catholic
Foundation Appeal and our Parish will need to reach our
quota of approx. \$3,500.

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, Fr Eugene Stockton, Mary Muinde Tithe,
Nunziato Orlando & family, Silvana & Domenico Procopio,
Maria Procopio & Circosta family, Ralf Sullivan, Harriot
Perera, Charles Vella, Victor Gatt, Angelo Attard, Anton
Grgic, Anton Prsa, Anton Bicanic, Michael Bajada(2),
Peter Bonnici, Fraternidad Ramirez, Flora Ferino,
Tess F.Rehac.

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, Kerry Duffy, Theresa Bye, Antonietta Arbolino,
Rita & Domink & family, Natalie Love, Maureena Drury,
Elisabeth Juliawah Santoso, Matthew Hope, Clare,
Margaret Attard, Carol Petro, Kate Lapsuks and those in
our parish community.

St John’s Father’s Day Raffle - Congratulations to our Winners!!

1st Prize	Red C26	Lydia
2nd Prize	Orange C88	Tony
3rd Prize	Red C62	Ryck
4th Prize	Red C24	Miranda
5th Prize	Red B30	Jax

*A heart-felt thank you to all who purchased tickets and
made donations. We appreciate your support towards our
Parish. God Bless you all.*

Safeguarding

Safeguarding training is available online through the
Diocesan Safeguarding Learning: [https://
learning.safeguarding.org.au/](https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/)
Dates for training face-to-face at our Riverstone Parish to
be advised.

Parish Centre

Work for the interior furnishings and communication
systems for the Parish Centre continues.

Sacraments

Sacramental Program - The next sacrament to be
celebrated in our Parish will be the Sacrament of
Confirmation. Please register your child by the 10th
October. Registration forms can be obtained by
attending a Mass with your child and approaching the
Priest and asking for a form.

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

Baptism Classes -
The next Baptism Class:
Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall.