

Youth Group

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 - 16th October at 6:30pm***

Please note change of date:
November Gathering & Christmas Party has been changed to Friday 27th November 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.

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)

Volunteer Ministry Roster September 2026

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
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	
Sat 27 th 6pm Week 4	L Canlas A Canlas		J Missio		S Bonnici C Dony	M Sultana	R Edwards	Blessed Music Ministry	Team Wed
Sun 28 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 28 th 9am	S Brown	R Brown	R Cannalire		E Abendan J Boemi	A Samuel	J Sullivan S Brown	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 28 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		S Nobleza N D'Souza	D Gorkic	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	

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.

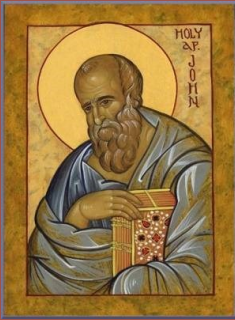
Piety Store

***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



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

20 September 2026
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
First Reading *Isaiah 55:6-9*
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
My thoughts are not your thoughts.
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18 (R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.*

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured.
The Lord is near to all who call him.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.
The Lord is near to all who call him.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second Reading *Philippians 1:20-24. 27*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Apostles 16:14*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 20:1-16*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

As we prepare to receive Jesus in **Holy Communion**, let us remember these important steps:

1. WE FAST

We do not eat or drink, except water, for one hour before receiving Holy Communion.

2. WE PROCESS

We reverently join the procession toward Holy Communion with prayer and respect.

3. WE BOW

Before receiving Holy Communion, we make a bow of reverence to Jesus.

4. WE RECEIVE

Please remove chewing gum or any food from your mouth before you receive the Holy Communion.

When the priest says, “**The Body of Christ,**” we respond, “**AMEN,**” and reverently receive the Holy Communion.

5. WE PRAY

After receiving Holy Communion, we return to our seats and spend time in **prayer and thanksgiving**.

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

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

Mon	21 Sept	St Matthew
Wed	23 Sept	St Pius of Pietrelcina
Fri	2 Oct	First Friday Mass 7:30pm
Sat	3 Oct	Anointing Mass 8:30am

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 next **St John the Evangelist Parish Council Meeting** will be on Wednesday 7th October at 7pm in the church hall. All parishioners are welcome.

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/

Catholic Outlook Magazine out now | Season of Creation & Spring Edition 2026- keeping you connected with news and events across the Diocese of Parramatta. Pick up a copy in the church foyer or read online at catholicoutlook.org/e-edition

Did you know.....

WHAT IS THE OFFERTORY?

The Offertory is the part of Mass when the gifts of bread and wine, along with the parish offerings, are brought forward and presented to God.

FUN FACT: The word “**Offertory**” comes from a Latin word meaning “**to offer,**” reminding us that we are called to offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

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, 3rd October at 10am** in the church hall. The topic for this session is ***Discipleship.*** 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 11th October 2026
If you bring any glass bottles, please pack separately in a cardboard box - 6 per box.

Appeals

Thank you to all parishioners who have contributed towards the **Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal** for the Clergy Support Foundation. This is the final weekend to place **your envelope in any of the collections during Mass this weekend.** 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.

The **Catholic Mission Appeal** will take place in our Parish on Saturday 10th October and Sunday 11th October. Envelopes will e provided. Please support the mission.

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, Charles Vella, Victor Gatt, Angelo Attard, Anton Grgic, Anton Prsa, Anton Bicanic, Fraternidad Ramirez, Flora Ferino, Tess F.Rehac, Joseph Mercieca, Emmanuel Sultana, Dr Mario Romero, Catherine & Rex Kodippily and Roseann Tiqui.

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, Dianne Lazatin and those in our parish community.

St John the Evangelist Feast Day.—please place this date in your diary - 29th November -10:30am Mass followed by the Celebration at the Parish Centre.

****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****

Safeguarding

Safeguarding training is available online through the Diocesan Safeguarding Learning: <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.