

Youth Group

Youth St John's Parish Riverstone Youth Group 

Thank you to the YFC, Eroles family and parents helpers for Youth Group on Friday night. All children had a great night. Bring a friend and an open heart—to the next Youth Group gathering. 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. coins either. Thank you.

RCIA - RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Our Parish is currently preparing candidates for the RCIA program. 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

If you are interested, please contact the Parish office.

Volunteer Ministry Roster Sept/Oct 2026

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
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	
Sat 3 rd 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 4 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	A Perera	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 4 th 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	J Teuma	P Tsui N Tsui	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	S Yapa S Brown	San Pedro Calungsod	
Sun 4 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	R Cannalire	S Nobleza	I Sprem D Gorkic	S Suri	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.

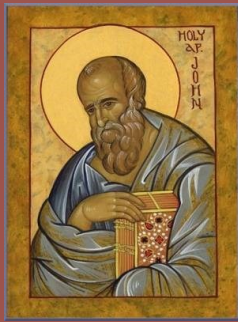
Friday Prayer Group

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

27 September 2026
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
First Reading *Ezekiel 18:25-28*
A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.
The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: ‘You object, “What the Lord does is unjust.” Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.’
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6
(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.
Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.
Remember your mercies, O Lord.
Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.
Remember your mercies, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people’s interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, “My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not go,” but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, “Certainly, sir,” but did not go. Which of the two did the father’s will?’ ‘The first’ they said. Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.’

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

Receiving Holy Communion:

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.

Reminder: Daylight Savings Date: Next Sunday 4 October 2026

Time: 2am Eastern Standard Time (AEST)

What happens: Clocks are moved forward by 1 hour to 3am, giving you more daylight in the evening.



Pancake Fundraiser for St John’s, Riverstone - Today is our Pancake Fundraiser after the 9am and 10:30am Masses. Pancakes with ice cream and maple syrup will be \$5.

The EFTPOS machine will be available.

Masses & Feasts

Tues	29 Sept	Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael
Wed	30 Sept	St Jerome
Thurs	1 Oct	St Therese of the Child Jesus
Fri	2 Oct	The Holy Guardian Angels
		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 Parish Office will be closed from Monday 28th September and will re-open on Tuesday 6th October/ For urgent enquiries, please phone Fr Zakaria on Ph 0415200601.

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.

St John the Evangelist Feast Day—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***

Parish Centre

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

Did you know.....

WHO IS A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER?

A Eucharistic Minister assists the priest in distributing Holy Communion at Mass, helping to reverently share the Body and Blood of Christ with the faithful.

FUN FACT: The Church calls them **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** because their ministry is to assist when there are not enough ordinary ministers, such as priests and deacons.

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, 17th October at 10am** in the church hall. The topic for this session is ***Evangelisation.*** 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.
September Earn was \$55.70. Thank you!

Appeals

Thank you to all of our generous parishioners who have contributed towards the **Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal** for the Clergy Support Foundation, which supports all of our clergy in the Diocese of Parramatta. We appreciate your donations and our parish has now donated \$3975.50 towards this appeal. Thank you!

The **Catholic Mission Appeal** will take place in our Parish on Saturday 10th October and Sunday 11th October. Envelopes will be provided.

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, Harriot & Michael Perera, Charles Vella, Victor Gatt, Angelo Attard, Anton Grgic, Anton Prsa, Anton Bicanic, Fraternidad Ramirez, Flora Ferino, Tess F.Rehac, Dr Mario Romero, Catherine & Rex Kodippily, Recaredo Ojera, Antonino Emmi.

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.

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.

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.

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.