

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 - 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)

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 5 th Vigil 6pm Week 1	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana Family	J Missio	M Sultana	L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	A Delara	P Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 6 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	A Perera	P Perera	None	Power Point	
Sun 6 th 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	R Cannalire	C Sherry Volunteer	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	S Yapa S Brown	San Pedro Calungsod	
Sun 6 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig	S Nobleza	I Sprem D Gorkic	S Suri	J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	
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	

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.

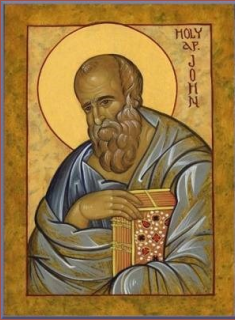
Friday Prayer Group

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



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

6 September 2026
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
First Reading *Ezekiel 33:7-9*
A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, ‘Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.’
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 94:1-2.6-9.*
(R) O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.
O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

*O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.*

O that today you would listen to his voice!
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’

*O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.*

Second Reading *Romans 13:8-10*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *2 Corinthians 5:19*

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 18:15-20*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

‘I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

‘I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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Today, we celebrate **Care for Creation** which is a time of grace that the Church offers to humanity to renew its relationship with the Creator and with creation, through celebration, conversion and commitment together.

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.

As this is the first Sunday of the month, you may receive the **Blood of Christ** after receiving the host, by **drinking a small sip from the Chalice** as you walk past, to return to your seat. Under no circumstances are parishioners allowed to dip the Sacred Host into the Chalice containing the blood of Christ.

5. WE PRAY

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

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	08 Sept	8:30am	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
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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

St John’s Father’s Day Raffle - Last chance to buy tickets! Great Prizes! Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Prizes drawn after the 10:30am Mass today. All proceeds will go directly to our Riverstone Parish.

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*****

120 Year Celebration - The front of 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.

The little cottage in the yard of the Parish Centre has been refurbished. It has been named the *Craft Cottage*. It will now be used as a sewing/craft area. Our Parish will be able to run craft sessions in the near future. We would like to thank our small group of parishioners who have organised the use of the cottage.

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

The **Catholic Medical Association** is hosting a GP Mini-Expo on **12th September** at the Bede Heather Centre at Blacktown. Deacon Michael will be on the panel. Saturday 12th September 2pm—4:30pm.

Be a witness to the **Holy Shroud Exhibition** at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta, from **6–13 September 2026**.
Sunday 6 – Sunday 13 September ⌚ **9:00am – 6:00pm**

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. **Next Collection Day - Sunday 13th September 2026** If you bring any glass bottles, please pack separately in a

Appeals

cardboard box - 6 per box.
The **Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal** for the Clergy Support Foundation will run across four weekends, from 29–30 August to 19–20 September 2026. **Our Parish will have a Third Collection on the 5th and 6th of September.** Please support our Clergy. Envelopes will be available over all weekends. This Appeal is part of the Catholic Foundation Appeals and our Parish will need to reach our quota of approx.

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) and Peter Bonnici.

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 and those in our parish community.

Happy Father’s Day to all Fathers.

We give thanks for the gift of fatherhood and remember with love and gratitude the fathers who have gone before us. May God’s peace and eternal light shine upon them. We also pray for all the fathers present with us at Mass today. May God bless you with strength, wisdom, and love as you care for and guide your families. We extend our special Father’s Day wishes to our priests who is a loving spiritual father to our parish family. Thank you for your guidance, prayers, and faithful service.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding training is available online through the Diocesan Safeguarding Learning web-site: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>
Our Riverstone Parish hopes to hold face-to-face training in our hall in the upcoming months. Dates will be advised soon.

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.