

Youth Group

St John’s Parish Riverstone Youth Group

All school-aged children are invited! Bring a friend and an open heart—to the next Youth Group gathering and Christmas Party. We can’t wait to see you there! *Friday - 27th November at 6:30pm*

Thank you to the Eroles family, YFC and parents who helped at Friday’s gathering. The children had a great night and are looking forward to their Christmas Party next month.

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 October 2026

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children’s Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 17 th 6pm Week 3	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio		L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	J Eroles	P Sultana	
Sun 18 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	Team Wed
Sun 18 th 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	J Teuma		S Corben B Simon	S Yapa	A Delara L Fox	Gel, Dennis & Co	
Sun 18 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	R Cannalire		I Sprem W Suri	Volunteer	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	
Sat 24 th 6pm Week 4	L Canlas A Canlas		J Missio		S Bonnici C Dony	M Sultana	R Edwards	Blessed Music Ministry	Team Wed
Sun 25 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 25 th 9am	S Brown	R Brown	R Cannalire		E Abendan J Boemi	A Samuel	J Sullivan S Brown	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 25 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		S Nobleza N D’Souza	D Gorkic	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 - October: For mental health ministry

Let us pray that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

Piety Store

*For Sale at the Piety Store: God’s Word 2027 \$24 each.
Piety Store - Opening Hours

Sundays 10am - 12pm Tuesdays 10am - 11am

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

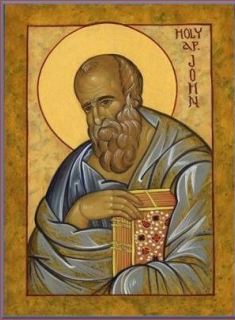
Friday Prayer Group

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

18 October 2026
Twenty-Nineth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
First Reading Isaiah 45:1.4-6
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.
Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:
It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v. 7
(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.
Give the Lord glory and honour.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens.

Give the Lord glory and honour.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.

Give the Lord glory and honour.

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: ‘God is king.’
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

Give the Lord glory and honour.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Philippians 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God’s.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, ‘Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man’s rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?’ But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, ‘You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.’ They handed him a denarius, and he said, ‘Whose head is this? Whose name?’ ‘Caesar’s’ they replied. He then said to them, ‘Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.’

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

Our Parish Priest, Fr Zakaria will be taking a holiday from Monday 19th October and will return to celebrate the **8:30am Mass on Wednesday 28 October**. We assure Fr Zakaria of our prayers and wish him a safe, peaceful and restful break.

May the Lord bless him, renew his strength, and keep him safely in His care throughout his time away.

Eucharistic 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.

November Intentions

All masses during the month of November will be offered for those listed on the November envelopes. No deceased names will be placed in the bulletin or on the power point. Also, names are unable to be announced. The List can be found during the month of November on the lectern near the Altar. **Envelopes are now available in the porch.**

Please, CLEARLY write each name that you would like to be included in the book, on the envelope, enclose your donation and then place the envelope in either of the collection plates during any Mass.

Please complete your Envelopes and return to the office by Wed 28th October.

Masses & Feasts

Sun 1 November All Saints Mass 7am, 9am & 10:30am
Mon 2 November All Souls Masses 8:30am & 7:30pm

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

SRE Meeting—Could all SRE’S please attend a meeting on Tuesday 20th October at 9:30am in the Parish Hall.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST FEAST DAY
Sunday 29th November – 10:30am Mass with the main celebrant Bishop Vincent Long. This will be followed by celebrations at the **Parish Centre** including a lunch.
Sausage Sizzle/Green Salad Combo \$5 and Pancakes/Maple Syrup/Icecream \$5.
Bring your family and friends to our Feast Day!
NEXT MEETING: Saturday 31st October, 9:30am in the Hall. All welcome.

Volunteer Needed: Power Point Mass Coordinator.
We are seeking a volunteer to coordinate a small group of volunteers who upload the powerpoint to our lap top on a weekly basis. If you can assist, please contact Melissa at the Parish Office.

120 Year Celebration Cross - cross We encourage parishioners to fill out a form. Our Parish will place another order later in the year.

Did you know.....

WHAT IS CHILDREN’S LITURGY?
Children’s Liturgy is a special time during Mass when children gather to hear and understand the Sunday Gospel in a way that is meaningful and appropriate for them.
FUN FACT:
Children’s Liturgy helps young children grow in faith and discover that they too have an important place in our parish family.

My Life in Christ -Adult Faith Formation Program

Come and join our parish’s **adult faith formation** program! It’s free. The program concludes with the final session for 2026 on **Saturday, 31st October at 10am** in the church hall. The topic for this session is *Heaven, Purgatory and Hell*. 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. **September Earn was \$51**
Next Collection Day - Sunday 8th November 2026
If you bring any glass bottles, please pack separately in a cardboard box - 6 per box. Thankyou everyone!

Appeals

The **Catholic Mission Appeal** took place in our Parish last weekend. Thank you to generous parishioners who supported the Mission. If you still would like to donate, please place your envelope in any of the collection plates during Mass.

7–8 November to 12–13 December 2026 -The Bishop’s Good Works Appeal for 2026 will support Catholic Care’s Houses to Homes program. Helping young mothers and their children who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or escaping violence find safe accommodation and the support they need to begin again. As a reminder, funds raised through this appeal contribute towards our parish quota. 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, Harriot & Michael Perera, Anton Grgic, Anton Prsa, Anton Bicanic, Dr Mario Romero, Catherine & Rex Kodippily, Recaredo Ojera, Carmen, Zane Belista, Leli Sammut, Antonio Mattioli, Joseph Job Vanchikal, Nunziato Orlando, Dominka Vella.

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.

Parish Centre

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

HSC Students

For all HSC Students in our Parish community -

Loving God,
We pray for all those students across our diocese who are shortly to commence their HSC exams. May their hard work and endeavours bear fruit for them as they, and those they love, look towards the future. Help them to be calm at this challenging time and bless their families and supporters who have helped bring them to this point and will assist them over the next few weeks. Help these students to appreciate these exams in a balanced way, to see them and the results they achieve as just one part of the total picture of who they are as dignified young men and women, made in God’s image and likeness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. 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 - Sacrament of Confirmation
Lesson 1 Parent & Child Tues 20th October 7pm Galilee Room.

Enrolment Mass Sunday 25 October 9am and 10:30am
Sacramental Coordinator Rosanna Ph: 0428766727
or email: sacraments10@outlook.com.au

Baptism Classes -
The next Baptism Class for 2026:
Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall.