

Youth Group



St John’s Parish, Riverstone
Youth Group

2023 dates will be available early next year.

Appeals

Bishop’s Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care’s Assistance with Care and Housing Service was held last weekend. Thank you to our generous parishioners who have already donated to this appeal. For those who were unable to donate last weekend, you may place your envelope on any of the collection plates during Mass. Please remember that our Parish will need to meet a quota for this appeal.

Riverstone Christmas Masses

Masses

Sat 24 Dec 6pm Children’s Christmas
9pm Christmas Eve
Sun 25 Dec 7am, 9am, 10:30am Christmas Day

(No 8:30am Mass on Sat 24 Dec
No Masses on Boxing Day Mon 26 Dec)

Reconciliation (First Rite/Individual)

Wed 21 Dec 10am – 11am and 7pm – 8pm
Thurs 22 Dec 10am – 11am and 7pm – 8pm
Fri 23 Dec 10am – 11am

(No Reconciliation on Sat 24 Dec)

Advertising

If you would like to promote your services , contact the parish office to discuss this opportunity.

Church Roster

Counters - A Hoare/J Shipley Cleaners - volunteer Thank you to all of our volunteers.

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ord.	Acolytes	Ministers	Readers	Prayers of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point
Saturday 10th 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	C Catapang		A Jaszczyszyn -	M Sultana	J Eroles	Katie Cameron & Paul Sultana
Sunday 11th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power point
Sunday 11th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Padernia		K Amanda R Xuereb	S Yapa	R Brown	Nonoy & Tina
Sunday 11th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia		J Sultana M Syme	D Gorkic	L Fox	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: (Name of parishioner)
OR
Weekly Envelopes OR
Tap & Go OR
Credit Card Donations OR
Collection Plates at Mass

Please note - collection plates:
1st Collection - Diocese of Parramatta
2nd Collection - Riverstone Parish

Piety Store

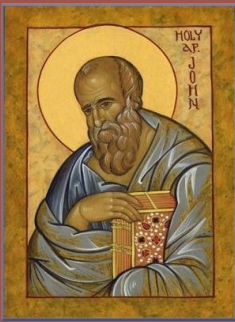
For Sale - God’s Word Book \$20 each.
Columban Calendars \$10 each

Piety Store - Opening Hours

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>
10am - 12pm	10am - 11am

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

Second Sunday of Advent



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
Parish Secretary: Melissa Spence
Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-2pm
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
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 From November 2022 -
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month
Baptism Information Night
First Tuesday of each month at 7pm
Marriage & Baptism
By arrangement during office hours

4 December 2022
Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading **Is 11:1-10**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name.

Second Reading Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures
was meant to teach us something about hope from the
examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up
were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we
refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each
other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united
in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each
other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The
reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was
not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises
made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give
glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place:
For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your
name.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel Mt 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in
the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message:
'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This
was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A
voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a
leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and
wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole
Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were
baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their
sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and
Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of
vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is
coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate
fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have
Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise
children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the
axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which
fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on
the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one
who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not
fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the
Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he
will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into
the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will
never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Liturgical Feasts this Week

Wednesday 7 Dec St Ambrose

Thursday 8 Dec The Immaculate Conception
Of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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, for
ever and ever. Amen.



Parish Notices

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass will be held at 8:30am on Thursday 8th December.

Parish Christmas Party - Wednesday 7th December 6pm
All parishioners are invited to attend. Please bring a
plate of food or drinks to place on the table for all to
share. Rosanna Brown will keep a list of the food/drink
items. If you would like to place your name & item on
this list, please speak to Rosanna before or after Mass on
Sundays.

Children's Christmas Mass Rehearsal - please bring
your child to the rehearsal if they would like to be
involved in the Children's Christmas Mass.
Rehearsal is Wednesday 21 December 2pm—3pm.
The Children's Christmas Mass is Saturday 24th Dec at
6pm. We have had 2 volunteers who have generously
donated their time to organise the play.

Volunteers Needed to sell raffle tickets for our Parish
before/after Masses Sat 6pm and Sun 7am in the lead up
to Christmas. Please phone the parish office if you are
able to help.

Children's Liturgy is now running during mass
(excluding Sunday 7am). Thank you to all of our volun-
teers, we really appreciate your commitment.

Gluten free hosts are available for those who wish to
receive Holy Communion. To arrange, please contact the
parish office the week before.

Tea & Coffee After Mass - Everyone is welcome, after
Mass on Sunday mornings, in the church hall.

For Sale - The Craft Ladies are selling plants. These
plants are displayed under the pergola. Prices are dis-
played on a sign in the area. If you would like to pur-
chase a plant, please see Fr Zak or Jenny, from the piety
store.

Volunteers Needed— Church cleaners needed for the 2nd
4th & 5th weeks of the month.

Sacraments

Our Sacrament program has been completed for
2022. Thank you to our sacrament team Rosanna,
Thank You Helena & Maria for all of their hard work to
prepare the sacraments.

Thank you to Jenny & Anna for opening the piety
store for the parents during the year,

Thank you to the church organisers, acolytes, lap top
operators, soloist/choirs and all volunteers for
contributing towards our lovely sacrament
celebrations during 2022.

Prayers for our Community



For those who have died:

All Souls, John & Rosy Attard, Philip
Azzopardi, Br Joe Byrne, Anthony Buttigieg,
Sam Bugeja, Alex Calleja, John Cannata,
John Grima, Alan Hoare, Maureen Muccillo,
Peter Shipley, Chris, John & Maryann
Sultana and Sultana family,

For those who are sick:

Especially Adrian Bugeja and those in our
parish community.

Collection Plates

The First Church Collections plus donations from
Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals and 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 administra-
tive expenses, repairs & maintenance, insurance,
church supplies, wages, sacrament supplies, SRE
resources, telephone and electricity.

Thank you for supporting our parish & the Catholic Church

Diocese of Parramatta

Catholic Outlook Magazine is now available in the
porch.

The Diocese of Parramatta is participating in a
program called **First CPR**. The program will provide
you with CPR accredited training to parish staff and
volunteers and is free of charge. Sessions will be
organised across the Diocese and require a minimum
of 10 people per session. For more information, and to
express your interest, please visit [https://
parracatholic.org/cpr-training-eoi/](https://parracatholic.org/cpr-training-eoi/)

Riverstone Community

Riverstone Carols— Saturday 10th December 6pm
Combined Churches of Riverstone – all invited!
6pm - 7:30pm Food Trucks, Rides &
Pre- Entertainment
7:30pm - 9pm Christmas Carols
Cnr Park & Pitt Streets, Riverstone.