

Youth Group



St John's Parish, Riverstone Youth Group

All school-aged children and their parents are invited to attend a get-together for the Youth Group. Fun activities for both children and their parents.

You are most welcome to bring a friend.

6pm in the Church Hall on these Friday nights:

17 Mar	18 Aug
21 Apr	22 Sept
19 May	20 Oct
23 Jun	17 Nov Christmas Party
21 July	

Appeals

Project Compassion begins on the 1st weekend of Lent. Money boxes will be available for you to take home and fill during Lent.

Good Friday Appeal - Good Friday. Please give generously for the people and places of the Holy Land.

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 administrative expenses, repairs & maintenance, insurance, church supplies, wages, sacrament supplies, SRE resources, telephone and electricity.

Thank you for supporting our parish & the Catholic Church

Church Roster

February 2023 Counters - A Hoare/J Shipley Cleaners - M Camilleri Thank you to all of our volunteers.

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ord.	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayers of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point
Sat 1st Mar 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	C Catapang	M Sultana	A Jaszczyszyn Volunteer	M Sultana	M Galati	Katie Cameron & Paul Sultana
Sun 2nd Mar 7am	A Lomano	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	C Wickman E Sultana	P Perera	None	Power point
Sun 2nd Mar 9am	Sullivan family	R Brown	J Padernia	J Sullivan R Brown	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	J Sullivan	San Pedro Calungsod
Sun 2nd Mar 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy	J Padernia	H Greedy	F Dcruz A Dcruz	C Mascarenhas	S Corben	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 & payment description.



Piety Store

For Sale - God's Word Book \$20 each.

Please visit the Piety store to purchase any of these items.

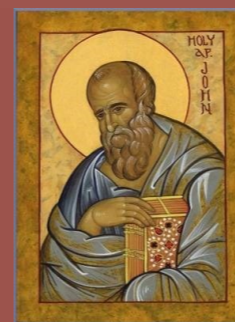
Piety Store - Opening Hours

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

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

Advertising

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



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 February 2023
 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month at 11am
Baptism Information Night
 First Tuesday of each month at 7pm
Marriage & Baptism
 By arrangement during office hours

26 February 2023
First Sunday of Lent - Year A
First Reading Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7
 A reading from the book of Genesis
Creation of our first parents, and sin.
 The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.
 The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.
 The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading Rom 5:12, 17-19

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel Mt 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Baptisms



BAPTISM: Our Parish would like to welcome

Harry Mason , Alvin Igboanugo,

Olivia Grosso Wheeler., Layla DeGuzman &

Xander Mason into our community and

congratulate their family and friends on this special day.

The next Baptism Class will take place on

Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 7pm in the Church Hall.

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

Welcome - Deacon Michael - our Parish is blessed to welcome a new Deacon, Deacon Michael, to our church community. Deacon Michael will join Fr Zakaria from the 2nd Week of Lent.

New Brochure Display - our Parish has installed a new brochure display in the porch. The brochures are displayed by the Parish Team. If you would like to add any brochures, please bring them to the office for approval first. We have limited space and we have many parish items that need to be displayed in the holder.

Triumph Lent Program — \$10 per copy. This booklet is A5 size and is available to purchase from the Parish office. Do not miss out ! There are only 6 copies available.

Easter Raffle - our parish will be holding an Easter raffle with beautiful dome statue as 1st & 2nd Prize. Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Please purchase tickets after weekend masses. Thanks for supporting our Parish.

Project Compassion - Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from our parish.

Holy Week Roster - the roster for Holy Week is in the porch. Please add your name to this roster if you would like to volunteer.

HELP NEEDED: helpers for the Sacrament Program. If you are able to help in any way, please contact the parish office.

Calling for the Lord's Housekeepers We need more volunteers to help clean the church please. If you can spare a few hours once a month to help keep our church beautiful, please contact the Parish office.

NEW Riverstone Parish Website. Our parishioners are invited to view our new website:

<https://www.stjohnsriverstone.org.au/>

The website will now be managed by the parish office.

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

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.

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 & Sultana family, John, Michael, Angelo & Clementina Sultana and Sultana family, George Micallef, Xerri family, Azzopardi family, Cresencia Fernando, Carmela Bajada, Frank Stacey.

For those who are sick:

Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos T Quinteros Charlie Spiteri, Michael Aguis and those in our parish community.

Children's Liturgy

Preparing for Easter.....



Stations of the Cross



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held during Lent . All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Wednesday after the 8.30am Mass and

Friday evenings at 7pm before Mass at 7:30pm

Please be advised that the 7:30pm Mass will be held every Friday night during Lent.

Sacraments

Sacraments 2023

The parent information and dates letter is now available in the porch. If you have a child who will be making their sacrament this year, please take a copy home. The letter will explain the process to enrol your child in our sacramental program.

The Sacrament of Penance - The enrolment form completed and returned with donation, is required by 24th April. The Parent Information Meeting is on Tuesday 16th May at 7pm in the Galilee Room.