

## 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:**

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

## Appeals

**Project Compassion - during Lent** - Money boxes available from porch.

**The Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal**—The Catholic Foundation - Supporting our seminarians to humbly serve our faith community - 25/26 March

**Good Friday Appeal** - 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

March 2023 Counters - A Hoare/J Shipley Cleaners - Volunteer 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 25th Mar 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Padernia		A Jaszczyszyn Volunteer	M Sultana	P Mansweto	Katie Cameron & Paul Sultana
Sun 26th Mar 7am	Volunteer	E Sultana	R Bigeni		C Wickman M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point
Sun 26th Mar 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		E Abendan J Boemi	M Camilleri	R Xuereb	Rondalla & Co
Sun 26th Mar 10:30am	M Satorre	H Greedy			N D'Souza R D'Souza	Volunteer	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.

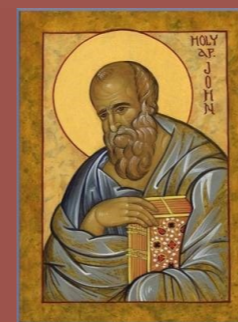
**Piety Store - Opening Hours**

<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 - As From March 2023**

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

**19 March 2023**

### Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year A

*First Reading 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13*

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Responsorial Psalm Ps 22 R. v.1*

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*



The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

You have prepared a banquet for me  
In the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

*Second Reading Eph 5:8-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord;  
be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen  
in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to  
discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do  
with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by  
contrast. The things which are done in secret are things  
that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything  
exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything  
illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Gospel Acclamation Jn 8:12*

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

*The Lord be with you.*

*And with your Spirit.*

*Gospel Jn 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The blind man went off and washed himself and came away  
with his sight restored.*

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind  
from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the  
spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to  
him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that  
means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed  
himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him  
begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?'  
Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he  
only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the  
man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the  
Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made  
the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the  
Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He  
put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.'  
Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be  
from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said,  
'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there  
was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the  
blind man again, 'What have you to say about him  
yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a  
prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner  
through and through, since you were born!' And they  
drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he  
found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of  
Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I  
may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him;  
he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and  
worshipped him.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.*



## Baptisms

The next Baptism Class will take place on  
Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 7pm in the Church Hall.

As from March 2023, Baptisms will now be held every  
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month at 12pm.

## 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 marvel-  
lously 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

### All Welcome - Communion Service

St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Monday 20 March at 8:30am**  
with Deacon Michael.

**Youth Group — Our Youth Group gathering was held  
on Friday night.** It was a successful night and the chil-  
dren had fun. We would like to thank all of the parent  
helpers, the Mansweto family for the food and the YFC  
group for their assistance on this great night. Please  
bring your children to the next Youth Group gathering!

### The Catholic Foundation Appeal—25/26 March 2023 The Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal

Support our seminarians to humbly serve our faith  
community. Envelopes will be provided. Please remember  
that the donations for this appeal count towards our  
parish quota for the Catholic Foundation.

**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 4 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 re-  
minds us that the good that we do today will ex-  
tend 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.

**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.

**Papal Blessings**—A3 size Papal Blessings can be  
ordered for special anniversaries and birthdays,  
Please allow 12 weeks for delivery, after the order  
has been placed. Please contact the Parish Office to  
arrange.

**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, Maria & Nicholas  
Gatt, George Micallef, Carmelo, Carmen,  
Michael Vella, Michael Agius, Angelo Attard,  
Leah Pore, Charlie & Jane Refalo, Edward  
Mangudal Koromal, Fortunata Baiada.

### For those who are sick:

Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos T Quinteros  
Charlie Spiteri, Francis Saliba,  
John Padernia and those in our parish  
community.

## Liturgical Feasts /Masses this Week

**Mon 20 Mar** St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary Communion Service 8:30am—Deacon Michael

**Sat 25 Mar** 8:30am The Annunciation of the Lord

## 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.