

## 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:**

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

## Appeals

**Project Compassion** - Please return your Money boxes.

**The Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal**—The Catholic Foundation - The total will be advised soon. Thank you to those who donated.

**Good Friday Appeal** - Thank you to those who made generous donations.

## 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

April 2023 Counters - A Hoare/J Shipley Cleaners - Volunteers

Thank you to all of our volunteers. J Padernia is not available until further notice.

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ord.	Acolytes	Readers	Prayers of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point
Sat 29th Apr 6pm	Volunteer	Sultana Family	J Padernia	Volunteer Volunteer	Volunteer	To be rotated amongst 4	Katie Cameron & Paul Sultana
Sun 30th Apr 7am	Volunteer	E Sultana	R Bigeni	E Sultana Volunteer	Volunteer	None	Power point
Sun 30th Apr 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma	S Corben B Simon	L Fox	To be rotated Amongst 4	Nonoy & Tina
Sun 30th Apr 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy		David Julien	P Mansweto	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: 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

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

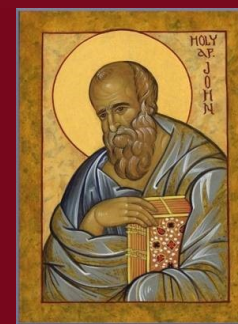
**Piety Store** - Opening Hours

<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

## 23 April 2023

### Third Sunday of Easter

*First Reading Acts 2:14, 22-33*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.* On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades: for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence. 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*



*Responsorial Psalm Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11*

*Lord, you will show us the path of life.*

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.  
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.'

*Lord, you will show us the path of life.*

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

*Lord, you will show us the path of life.*

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay.

*Lord, you will show us the path of life.*

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever.

*Lord, you will show us the path of life.*

*Second Reading 1 Pt 1:17-21*

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.*

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ: who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*Gospel Acclamation See Lk 24:32*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:  
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.  
Alleluia!

*The Lord be with you.*

*And with your Spirit.*

*Gospel Lk 24:13-35*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.*  
Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem and they were talking together about all that had happened.

Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ*

## 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

Some people are not respecting the **Eucharist** and Fr Zak has recently found Eucharist left in the pews and carpark. Please consume the Eucharist as soon as you receive it, whilst standing in front of the Priest, acolyte or communion minister. If you are not a practicing Catholic, you may still come forward, cross your arms and receive a blessing. Thank you.

**Project Compassion** - *Please, this is the last week to return your money boxes.*

**Youth Group was held last Friday night.** It was a great success! The children had a great night together. We would like to thank the YFC and the parent helpers who kindly donated their time on this night.

Please place the next date for Youth Group in your diary:  
Friday 19th May at 6pm.

**The Parish Council Meeting** will be held on Wednesday 3rd May at 7:30pm in the church hall. All parishioners are welcome. We welcome any new parishioners who would like to join this meeting to listen to discussions on topics relevant to our Parish needs.

**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.

**Help Needed** - Our Parish would like some more helpers for our Indoor Soccer Gala Day. The next day will be held in the July School Holidays (date to be confirmed).

We ask for more helpers in the following areas:

Cook sausages for lunch at venue or at your home

Sell food and drinks on the day

Assistance to the coordinator on the day

If you are willing to help in any of these areas, please contact the Parish Office for more information. It is only for 1 day in each of the school holidays and we would love more helpers so that the day runs smoothly. Thank you.



## 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, Harriot Perera, Joseph Sammit, Carmello, Victoria & Alfred Bugeja, Dorothy Hart, Xerri family & Azzopardi family, Michael Agius, Mary Calleja, Cresencia Fernando, Michael Jenaras and George Theuma.

### For those who are sick:

Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos T Quinteros, Francis Saliba, John Padernia, Joe Sultana, Marianne Sultana and those in our parish community.

## Mass

Friday 5 May 7:30pm First Friday Mass

Saturday 6 May 8:30am Anointing Mass

## Sacraments

Baptism Class: Tues 2nd May at 7pm in the Church Hall.



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

## Diocese of Parramatta

Musicians, Clergy & Liturgy Planners are invited to attend a Music Workshop Presented by Eric Grella on Singing the Psalms & Chant on Thursday 4 May from 7pm to 8:30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. RSVP by 1 May to [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org)

CCD is hosting Dr Laurie Woods presenting A Study of St Matthew's Gospel - April 28; May 5, 12, 19 & 26. 10 am to 2pm at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. To book please email Maree Collis [ccd.training@parracatholic.org](mailto:ccd.training@parracatholic.org)

The annual Diocesan Faith in Marriage Seminar returns in 2023 with Chris Padgett, American Speaker, Musician, Author and Professor of Theology. This free event will be held on Friday 19 May at 7:30pm at St Paul the Apostle Church, 40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills. Please register your attendance at [marriage@parracatholic.org](mailto:marriage@parracatholic.org)