

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.

Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

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

The world as we know it is passing away.

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Mark 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is near:
believe the Good News!
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Gospel Mark 1:14-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Repent, and believe the Good News.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come’ he said ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.’

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.’ And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



All Parishioners are invited to our following Mass:

Friday 26th Jan 8:30am Australia Day

Would you like to become an SRE in our Local Public Schools?

WHY IS SRE TAUGHT? The Catholic Church sees the education of Catholic children in the Faith, in schools, as integral and key to its mission. SRE’s are representatives of our faith community.

WHO ARE CATECHISTS? Catechists (Scripture teachers) are volunteers who are approved, authorized and trained by the local parish and Dioceses of Parramatta, who are sharing their faith with the children.

Our Parish is always looking for parishioners who would like to become an SRE in one of our local public schools and share their faith with the children.

Without our SRE volunteers, our faith cannot be shared with the next generation. This ministry is vital part of our church community.

If you are interested, Please speak to Helena Greedy who attends the Sunday, 10:30am Mass or phone the Parish Office for more information.

Masses & Feasts

Wed 24 Jan St Francis de Sales

Thurs 25 Jan The Conversation of St Paul

Fri 26 Jan Australia Day 8:30am Mass

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

Please Remember - The Importance of Getting to Mass On Time - ‘We take part by acclamations, responses, songs, actions and gestures.’ When we celebrate the Mass we participate through the words, actions and gestures. Please make sure you are present for all of the Mass.

The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be on Wednesday 7th February at 7:30pm in the hall.
All parishioners are invited.

The Next **First Friday Mass is The Presentation of the Lord Mass** on 2nd February at 8:30am 7:30pm
The next **Anointing Mass** is Sat 3rd February at 8:30am

WWCC—volunteers, please check your date of expiry for your WWCC clearance. There are quite a few parishioners who will need to reapply for their WWCC, as they may expire in early 2024.
Please contact the Parish office if you require any assistance. Thank you.

Piety Store - For Sale

God Word 2024 Book \$22 each

Unfortunately, the **St John’s Eagles Round Robin Soccer Gala Day** has been cancelled for January 2024.
The next Soccer Gala Day will be on Wed 17th April 2024 9:30am—2:30pm.
All school-aged children are invited to attend.

We are in need of parent helpers for the gala days for 2024. If you are able to help on these days, please contact the parish office and place your name on the list. More helpers will make the day run smoothly. Thank you.

Tea & Coffee After Mass - Everyone is welcome, after 9am and 10:30am Masses on Sunday mornings, at the Parish Centre side of the verandah.

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

Thank you to all the wonderful parishioners who donated to our Parish through the purple/pink **Christmas Giving Envelopes** . These donations have now been put in our bank account for use by the Parish.

We would like to start a **Saturday morning group of Volunteer Cleaners** for the Church. This would be after the 8:30am Mass. This will enable those who cannot spare time during the week to participate in this ministry. Please contact the Parish Office with your name and contact number.

Diocese of Parramatta

Be Part of Our Synod Journey: Diocesan Synod Report Now Available

Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

Prayers for our Community

Deceased Mass Offerings -
All Souls, All Souls in Purgatory, 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 & Sultana family, Maria & Nicholas Gatt, Joseph Jack Sultana, Harriot Perera, Fred Baskerville, Mary Calleja, Mary Polgar, Francis Stivala, Julian Dalley, Silvano Santilli, Antoinia Mercia, Lachlan Hayes, Rita & Carmen Xerri, Paul & Maria Bigeni.

For those who are sick:

Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos T Quinteros, Francis Saliba, John Padernia, Maria Pisto, Tony & Freda Attard, Margaret Galea, Belinda Grgic, Jeff Meilak and those in our parish community.

The **Parish Office will be closed** from Monday 15 January and will re-open on Monday 29 January.
For emergencies, please contact Fr Zakaria.



Volunteers Needed!

- Acolytes
- Sacramental Program
- Baptism Classes
- Church Cleaners
- Special Ministers
- Indoor Soccer Parent Helpers

Our Parish is in need of more volunteers in various areas within our Parish. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office for more information and to place your name on the Volunteer List.
Please note that you will need to provide your Volunteer WWCC if you volunteer in an area that you may interact with children. Instructions on how to obtain this WWCC clearance can be obtained from the parish office.



Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, who always help to make St John the Evangelist, Riverstone a lovely Parish!

Sacraments



Sacrament of Baptism

The next Baptism Class:
Tuesday 6 February 2024
7pm in the Church Hall.