

Youth Group



St John’s Parish Riverstone Youth Group

All school –aged children are welcome to attend the first

Friday 21st March 2025 - 6pm in the Parish Hall

Collection Plates

The First Church Collections plus donations from Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals 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

Foreign Coins - Please respect the request of no foreign coins to be placed on the collection plates. Our Parish cannot bank these coins. Thank you.

Jubilee 2025



Jubilee 2025—Pope Francis “Teach Us to Pray” Resource Now Available

The "Teach Us to Pray" pastoral resource is now available online, and can be downloaded on the website in digital format in several languages, free of charge. Please visit the official website to view all of the resources. https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/verso-il-giubileo/2024-anno-della-preghiera.htm

Volunteer Roster Febuary/March 2025

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children’s Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> 6pm Week 1	Volunteer	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana		M Sultana	M Galati	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	C Wickman A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	D Catig	J Sullivan P Sullivan	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	S Yapa	San Pedro Calungsod	
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy/ S Nobleza	D Catig	J Sultana S Nobleza	I Sprem L Macatangay	S Suri	J Bugeja V Sultana	Raymond & Co	
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> 6pm Week 2	Volunteer	Sultana family			S Nierves	M Sultana	R Edwards	Paul Sultana	Team Wed
Sun 9th Jan 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		C Wickman A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 9th 9am	Volunteer	R Brown	J Teuma		K Amanda N Tsui	D Thomas	L Fox A Bramphen	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 9th 10:30am	Volunteer	H Greedy/ N Dsouza	D Catig		J Sultana M Syme	S Nobleza	J Bugeja V Sultana	Jenchris & 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 & description.



Piety Store

Piety Store - Opening Hours

Sundays 10am - 12pm  
Tuesdays 10am - 11am

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

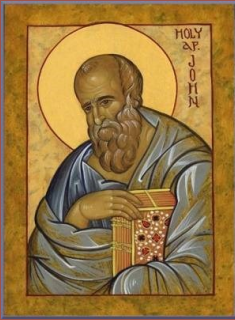
Friday Prayer Group

Christ Catholic Community (CCC) Prayer Group

Fridays 10am

Please contact Mary Camilleri Ph 0403116987 if you would like any further information.

Counters: A Hoare, J Shipley & V Sultana



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  
Deacon: Rev. Dr. Michael Tan  
Parish Secretary: Melissa Spence  
Parish Manager: Tony Brooker  
Parish Office: Mon –Fri  
Hours: 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  
Monday Communion Service 8:30am  
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 -  
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

2nd March 2025  
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading Sirach 27:4-7  
A reading from the first book of Sirach

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man’s words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 91:2-3,13-16. R. cf. v.2  
The Lord is kind and merciful.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name. O Most High, to proclaim you love in the morning and your truth in the watch of the night.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing sap when they are old, still full sap, still green , to proclaim that the Lord is just in him, my rock, there is no wrong.

The Lord is kind and merciful.



**Second Reading**     *Corinthians 15:54-58*

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

*Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ*

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory throughout Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

***The word of the Lord.***

***Thanks be to God.***

**Gospel Acclamation**     *Phil 2:15-15*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars: you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

***The Lord be with you.***

***And with your Spirit.***

**Gospel**     *Luke 6:39-45*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

*A person speaks from what is in his heart*

Jesus told a parable to his disciples. 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciples will always be like his teacher.

Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit; people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ***

**Please respect the Blessed Eucharist.** Please receive the Eucharist on the tongue. If you still wish to take it in your hand, stay and consume it in front of the priest or Eucharistic Minister. If you are a non-Catholic or a young child, you may receive a blessing instead. Please place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN A PARISH LENTEN GROUP ?

Mondays 7.30pm in Parish Hall

Beginning Monday 3 March.

Write name and phone number on the list in the church foyer. You will be contacted once details are finalised.

The Diocese of Wollongong's **The METANOIA Lenten Program 2025 Book** is now available to purchase online in digital form.

If you would like to place a phone or email order, call us on **(02) 4222 2411** or [orders@dow.org.au](mailto:orders@dow.org.au)

Unfortunately, all printed books have sold out.

## Masses & Feasts

*Communion Service* every Monday at 8:30am

Wed    5 Mar **Ash Wednesday** (Fast & abstinence)

Mass    7am, 8:30am & 7:30pm

Fri      7 Mar **Stations of the Cross** 7.00pm followed by **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

Th next Youth Group gathering on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March. **Youth Group Flyers** for all dates in 2025 are now available in the church foyer. We encourage you to bring your school-aged child for a fun night!

Our Parish would like to form a **Fundraising Committee** for the Riverstone Parish. If you are interested and would like to volunteer, please place your name on the form in the church foyer.

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

### Pentecost Sunday— 8th June 2025 Entertainment for Pentecost Celebration

*Do you have a talent that relates to your culture, that you or a group could present on the day? Perhaps you sing, dance, read poetry or perform a short drama or show?*

If so - What would you present? How long would it take and what would you need?

*Do you know of a cultural group that could be part of our entertainment for the day?*

If so. Do you have direct contact with them? If not. Can you make enquiries as to who is in charge? Please ask the following. Would they be available on the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025. How long would their performance last? Would there be a cost or would they be kind enough to donate their time? Would they be able to provide all things necessary for the performance?

*We would like to have a firm commitment, in writing, so that this can be presented to the committee.*

Please submit your suggestion in writing with as much detail as possible so the committee has a very clear understanding

Please email/deliver your commitment to the Parish office by the 30<sup>th</sup> March.

## Parish Centre

***A Way to get involved in St John's*** - We will soon be moving into the next phase of the Parish Centre Restoration. In order to prepare for this, the ground floor needs to be cleared of various items & furniture etc. We are in need of volunteers who would be prepared to assist in doing this. If you would give a few hours of your time, we invite you to add your name and contact number to the list in the foyer of the church.

## Appeals

**Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2025**  
Project Compassion will take donations during Lent 2025. Caritas Australia invites you to Unite Against Poverty and take action to make a lasting difference. *Money boxes and envelopes will be provided on Ash Wednesday.*

## Prayers for our Community


### ✝ Deceased Mass Offerings -

All Souls, All Souls in Purgatory, Forgotten 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, Joseph Sultana, Chris, John, Maryann Sultana & Sultana family, John, Michael, Angelo, Clementina & Leanne Sultana & Sultana family, Maria & Nicholas Gatt, Joseph Jack Sultana, Michael Agius, John Jim Galea, John, Censina, Christopher, Nena & Spedito Baldacchino, Censina & Saviour Muscat, Rena Farrugia, Harriot Perera, Carmen & Edgar Said, Charlie & Grace Vella, Zane Bellista, Clementa Portelli, Amelia Medina, Carmela Bajada, Jasmin Fernando, Michael & Clementine Sultana, Joseph, Michael, Carmen & Carmelo Vella, Abandoned Souls in Purgatory, Asuncion Tuazon, Fraternidad & Guillermo Ramirez and Flora Ferino, Angelo Attard & Victor Gatt, Nunziato Orlando & Family, Domenico Procopio & Family, Mary Calleja, Joseph, Maria & Sam Mercieca & Sultana Family.

### 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, Lily Said, Candice Basopoulous, Anna Hoare, Myrna Manalili, Chadia, Lucia Musico, Daisy Pangilinan, Maximina Raymundo and those in our parish community.

***Divine Mercy*** Our Parish is now planning for the Divine Mercy which will be on Sunday 27th April 2025. A committee has been formed. The next meeting is on Saturday 8th March at 10am in the Parish Hall. Please phone the Parish Office if you would like to join the committee.

 **Exodus 90** - guides you toward a more meaningful life rooted in faith and strong relationships. **Next meeting Tuesday 25 February 2025 at 6pm – it is a 90 day program.** For more information please contact Atin Dsouza: [atindsouza@gmail.com](mailto:atindsouza@gmail.com) /Mobile: 0426113489

### St John's Primary School Riverstone OPEN DAYS 2025

Monday 3rd March     4—5 pm and 6—7 pm  
Tuesday 4th March    1.45pm - 2.45 pm  
Thursday 6th March    9.30am - 10.30am  
ALL WELCOME!!

## Sacraments

The 2025 Sacramental Program Dates and Parent Letter — now available in the foyer and both are on display on the noticeboard.

### Baptism Classes

The next Baptism Class: