

## Youth



### St John's Parish Riverstone Youth Group

All school-aged children are invited to join us for an exciting and faith-filled time with friends, for fun activities that bring us closer to Jesus! Bring a friend and an open heart—we can't wait to see you there! The next Youth Group gathering will be on:

**Friday - 20th March at 6:30pm**

Flyers for the dates for 2026 are now available

## 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.

## Special Religious Educators (SRE's)

If you feel called to share your faith and would like to volunteer as an SRE in our local schools, please contact the parish office. We are in need of more SRE's and would be grateful for your support.

## Safeguarding

Training opportunities will be available throughout 2026 in our Parish (dates will be advertised) or surrounding Parishes. For more information, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

## Ministry Roster Feb/March 2026

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 29 Feb 6pm Week 1	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana family	J Missio	M Sultana	L Canlas P Canlas	M Sultana	A Delara	Paul Sultana	Team Sat
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni	V Bonnici F Bonnici	A Perera	P Perera	None	Power point	Team Wed
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	D Catig	R Cannilere P Tsui	V Sultana L Fernandez	G Fernandez	S Yapa S Brown	San Pedro Calungsod	
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig	Volunteer S Nobleza	I Sprem D Gorkic	S Suri	S Corben J Bugeja	Raymond & Co	
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> 6pm Week 2	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana Family	J Missio		S Nierves P Canlas	M Sultana	L Canlas	Jenchris & Co	Team Sat
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		A Perera	P Perera	None	Power Point	Team Wed
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> 9am	S Brown	R Brown	J Teuma		K Amanda N Tsui	D Thomas	V Sultana S Suri	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy (Neesha)	D Catig		Volunteer Volunteer	S Nobleza	S Corben J Bugeja	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.

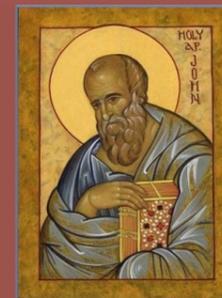
## Friday Prayer Group

**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 - 12pm and 12:30pm - 2:30pm  
**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

1 March 2026

Second Sunday of Lent Year A

*First Reading Genesis 12:1-4*

A reading from the book of Genesis

*The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.*

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:  
I will curse those who slight you.  
All the tribes of the earth  
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God*

*Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22*

*Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*

The word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love.

*Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you*

The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.

*Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you*

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.

*Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you*

## Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

*God has saved us, and called us to be holy.*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

**The word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

## Gospel Acclamation Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*His face shone like the sun.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

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Please respect the Blessed Eucharist and receive the Eucharist on the tongue. If you still wish to take the Eucharist 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.

## Masses & Feasts

**Fridays during Lent Stations of the Cross** 7.00pm

followed by *Mass*.

**Wednesdays during Lent Stations of the Cross** after the 8:30am Mass

**Eucharist 2028** - The journey begins on 1 March 2026. Join us for an hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, following the conclusion of the 10:30am Mass on 1st March 2026.

**Palm Sunday** 29 March  
Sunday Masses 7am, 9am & 11am

**NO Morning Mass** on Thurs 2/4, Fri 3/4 & Sat 4/4  
Easter Monday 6/4 8:30am Communion Service

<b>Wednesday April 1</b> Mass of the Holy Chrism (St Patrick's, Parramatta) 7:30pm	<b>St John's Church First Rite (Individual Confession)</b>
<b>Holy Thursday April 2</b> Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00pm	<b>Tuesday March 31</b> 9:30am – 10:30am and 5pm – 6pm
<b>Good Friday April 3</b> The Stations of the Cross Celebration of the Lord's Passion 10:00am 3:00pm	<b>Wednesday April 1</b> 9:30am – 10:30am
<b>Holy Saturday April 4</b> Celebration of the Paschal Vigil 7:00pm	<b>Thursday April 2</b> 9:30am – 10:30am
<b>Easter Sunday April 5</b> Easter Sunday Celebration 7:00am 9:00am 10:30am	
<b>Easter Monday April 6</b> Communion Service 8:30am	

## Events at our Parish... ..

**Divine Mercy** - Sunday 12th April

**Riverstone Festival on Saturday 9th May.** We need your help - please place your name on the list in the church foyer.

## 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

**St John's Easter Raffle tickets** are now on sale after weekend Masses. Tickets are \$2 or 3 for \$5. All proceeds will go directly to our Riverstone Parish.

The **Lenten Program** continues this Monday 2nd March at 7pm in the church hall. Books for the Lenten Program are \$10 and can be purchased on the night.

**Volunteers needed to set up and pack up the chairs** under the pergola during our busy times e.g Holy Thurs until Easter Sunday and other dates during the year. Please place your name on the list in the church foyer.

**For Sale at the Piety Store: God's Word 2026** \$24 each.  
**Columban Calendar 2026** \$10 each.

**Lost Property** - a box containing lost property can be found in the church foyer. The box will be emptied once it reaches capacity. If you have lost an item, please check the box.

**Hawkesbury Deanery Meetings - Attendees Required** 1-2 parishioners to represent the Riverstone Parish at the bi-monthly meetings held at St Matthew's Windsor. Please speak to Fr Zak or contact the Parish Office for more information.

**Parish Office**—If you send an email enquiry and have not heard back from the office—please follow up with a phone call. Thank you.

**120 Year Celebration** - We are now accepting new orders for plaques for our cross. Forms can be found in the foyer of the church. Please complete the form and return to the parish office. We will place another order soon!

**MET Natural Fertility – Natural Family Planning (NFP)**  
Are you looking for help to track your fertility cycle?  
Express your interest at [www.parracatholic.org/learn/natural-family-planning](http://www.parracatholic.org/learn/natural-family-planning)

## My Life in Christ -Adult Faith Formation Program

Come and join our parish's adult faith formation program! It's free and will be held fortnightly. The program continues on **Saturday, 7th March, at 10am** in the church hall. The topic for this session is *The Holy Catholic Church*.

To register - put your name on the sheet at the back of the church or ring the parish office. everyone welcome.

## Return & Earn

**St John's Parish Return & Earn - every 2nd Sunday of the month.** Please drop off your bag under the carport in the Parish Centre. Our Parish Council members will then Return and Earn with all monies going directly to the Riverstone Parish.

**Next Collection Day - Sunday 8 March 2026**  
If you bring any glass bottles, please pack separately in a cardboard box - 6 per box. Thank you.

## Appeals

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's **Project Compassion**.

Envelopes and money boxes are now available. Please return the boxes and envelopes anytime during Lent.

The **Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal 2026**

**Good Friday Holy Land Collection** will takes place on 3rd April 2026. Envelopes will be provided.

## 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, Matthew Faumui, Maureen Muccillo, Joseph Sant, Zeno Sartori, Peter Shipley, Joseph Sultana, Chris, John, Maryann Sultana & Sultana family, John, Michael, Angelo Clementina & Leanne Sultana & Sultana family, Maria & Nicholas Gatt, John (Jim) Galea, Joseph Jack Sultana, Michael Agius, Stephen & Julia S Thomas, Catherine & Rex Kodippily, Harriot Perera, Joseph Buttigieg, Francis Stivala, George Pulickal, Censina, John & Chris, Carmena & Spedito Baldacchino, Saviour & Censina Muscat, Menina & Paul Tedesco, Zane Belista, Grace Vella, Teresa Haber, Chardia, Benjamin Comilang, Joe & Rose Grima, Emanuel & Marija Hili, Jason Daep, Larsen Gajitos, Frank Stacy, Terry Cole, Gina Borqzio, Angelo Attard, Victor Gatt, Valerie Marshall and Raymond Keegan.

### For those who are sick:

Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos & Frances Saliba, Maria Pisto, Tony & Freda Attard, Margaret Galea, Belinda Grgic, Dominic & Angela Schembri, John & Janice Padernia, Helen Batih, Kerry Duffy, Theresa Bye, Antonietta Arbolino, Michael Burke, Vanessa Thomas, Rita & Domink & family and those in our parish community.

**ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL RIVERSTONE**  
ENROLLING NOW FOR 2027. VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION FORM <https://www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au/>

Check our Notice Board for Open Day Dates & Times

## Parish Centre & Church Restoration

**Works for the restoration of our Church will take place from the Monday 9th March to the Wednesday 11th March. Part of the carpark around the church will be closed due to heavy machinery and for the safety of our parishioners and school community. Limited parking will be available near the old classroom area (Galilee Room). If no parking is available, please use street parking including Bellevue Street. Please be cautious, in the carpark, during this time.** We thank you for your understanding. Thank you to all that have made donations to projects for our Parish Centre. Your ongoing generosity and support is greatly appreciated and will greatly assist in our efforts to complete these important projects.

## RCIA

There are three Elect for Easter Saturday Vigil Celebration at 7pm at St John's Parish in 2026. Please keep them in your prayers.

## Sacraments

**Sacramental Program -**  
The 2026 Sacramental Program Date and Parent Information Sheet is now available in the church foyer. Sacramental Coordinator Rosanna Ph: 0428766727 or email: sacraments10@outlook.com.au  
**Baptism Classes -**  
The next Baptism Class: Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall.