

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - CYCLE B: 03/12/17

Sunday and Weekday Mass Schedule

Sundays: 7:00 am & 8:30 am

Weekday 6:30 pm - [Monday to Friday]

Saturday & Public Holidays: - 8.30am.

Wednesday Fijian Mass [Misa Vakaviti]

Thurs Holy Hour, Adoration & Benediction: 5.00pm – 6pm

Holy days 7:00 am. & 7:00 pm. except Christmas & New Year.

Confessions: - Friday & Saturdays after Mass.

Baptisms: The 8.30am Mass on the first Sunday of the month is reserved for Baptisms. Parents seeking baptism for their child make arrangements with the Parish Priest before commencing session with Baptism helpers.

Matrimony: Those preparing for marriage must contact a priest at least 3 months before and are required to undertake preparation sessions. Guidelines available at the Parish Office.

RCIA: Session every Sunday after the 7am Mass.

Trip to Rotuma: The Briana left Suva for Rotuma on the evening of Wed 29th Nov. Was due to reach on Friday 1st Dec at noon but due to the boat encountering engine trouble didn't arrived until Saturday morning circa 4/5.00am. Thus, their return and arrival home time/date not certain. We pray all will

Tomorrow Monday 4th Dec is public Holiday in honour of Mohammed's Birthday. As usual on public holidays our Mass in the Parish here will be at 8.30am.

Reflection for 1st Sunday of Advent: Beginning again, in Advent

Beginning again is an invitation to look in two directions. What happened for me in the last year, both in my ordinary life and in my life as a believer, a person of faith? For what do I ask forgiveness? For what do I give thanks? We also look forward and the new beginning gives us a chance to start again on the Way of discipleship. Both thanksgiving and renewal are to be found in today's readings. The Gospel is in invitation to wake up, to keep watch, to live fully the present moment under God, in whom we live and move and have our being. Advent is a time of heightened awareness that invites us to see ourselves as God sees us – insofar as that is possible. Both liturgy and life are pointing us towards the future. Isaiah calls us to confess our sins and hope for better days. Saint Paul's message in Corinthians is confident and upbeat. Mark warns us against complacency, since the end is coming sooner than we expect

It's interesting to watch the behaviour of people at airports, waiting for loved ones to arrive from a flight? They seem excited, eager for the first appearance of the familiar face, ready with the broad smile of greeting. We too wait for the Lord's coming with anxious eagerness, because we long for his presence. It is an alert, active waiting – in Advent spirit. In the gospel Jesus says, "Be on guard, stay awake". He wants us to have a clear purpose in life, to mature in our relationship with him and with others, to give time to prayer, and to live with his message in our hearts. That's what our Advent should be like. And while we wait, we can enjoy his promised gifts. St. Paul assures us: "You will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ." May we use these coming weeks in a spirit of hope and awareness, in the spirit of an Advent people.

In Loving Memory: **Abigail Tugaga (10 years of age)** Community 6, Rewa St. died on Wednesday 28th Nov. 2017. Funeral yesterday Saturday 2nd Dec after Requiem Mass here at St Pius X, Raiwaqa. May she rest in Peace.

Correction to name - last Sundays Newsletter: (William Copeland RIP) should have been Michael Copeland. Apologies.

Rite of Entry into the Order of Catechumens: This will take place today 1st Sunday of Advent at the 7.00pm Mass. There are 5 Candidates from the parish who have desired to join the Catholic Faith at Easter this year: They are 1. Arieta Diana Daurewa, 2. Mrs Kalolaini Tatafu, 3. Josephine Tatafu, 4. Maria Tatafu and 5. Fepikou Tatafu. Our Faith Community will witness this Ceremony with great joy on Sunday Morning. We will keep our new Catechumens and their families and sponsors in our prayers during their course on instructions. We thank Mr and Mrs Eroni and Sala Navuku for accompanying and walking with these Candidates for the next 4/5 months until the night of their reception into the Church.

A word of appreciation and thanks: In spite of a few short comings (made known in the Homily last Sunday for the Celebrations and Preparation for 1st Confessions and Holy Communion, we had a lovely 1st Communion Day. The children looked great in their Communion outfits. Once again thanks to the teachers who instructed the children - **Mrs Sera Vira, Mrs Emily Tabua and Mrs Sophie Waqanidrola** and the children's parents and guardians. Although not on the agenda for the day (but a traditional practice) thanks to the few parents who brought cakes and juice for the children after the ceremony. A lovely and necessary part of 1st Communion Days for the sake of the Children. After all the rest of us wants to see and admire their style!!!

I also salute you parishioners for a job well organised, executed and brought to a complete satisfactory conclusion on Monday night last for Fr Pat's 1st Mass here in the Parish. Perhaps one of the best organised parish function in a long time. Thanks for your dedication and commitment to the smooth running of the evening. Perhaps the best part of the event was how the function ended on time and how the premises were left - clean, tidy and not a piece of garbage anywhere to be seen. We have come a long way and long may it last. It was a delight to behold. Thanks again for all your efforts - big and small over the past few weeks. We can now go forward with confidence and pride edging our way to our Golden Jubilee Celebrations next year. (**Fr John McEvoy PP**).

A Huge Word of thanks to all who made things happen and saw us through a really busy month of Nov.

As we head into Advent we look back at one of the busiest, if not the busiest month in our Parish calendar. And even these days we are mindful of our Rotuma – bound brethren travelling and wishing them a safe passage there and looking forward to seeing them back safely on 5 December.

In the previous week alone, like the congested afternoon traffic on Milverton Road, we had our fair share of pastoral and social commitments to attend to. It was not like we had a choice. First Confessions, four funerals, three graduations, one ordination, a wedding and First Holy Communion last Sunday. Then on Monday 27th Nov. we hosted the newly ordained Columban priest Fr Pat Visanti for his First Mass in the Parish in a much looked forward to celebration. Having said that, we haven't forgotten a laborious and demanding Archdiocesan choir practice for which I salute our parishioners and others, who gave their all to sing the praises of our God at the Ordination. Did I mention the food, intrinsic to the Pacifican culture, that without it on such occasions, it is as incomplete as a day without sunshine? I would be amiss not to acknowledge the Parish for putting up a well-organized evening for Fr Pat on Monday last: We salute The Liturgy Commission and St John Vianney group for the singing at Mass; the participants at serving, prayers of the faithful and the offertory; The Mandali Community for the traditional welcome; Parish Communities for the preparation of the food and their presence at the celebrations themselves; The Women of the Parish for the decoration of the hall, catering and the serving; our parishioners for the spotless surroundings after the function; The Youth for ensuring grog was available till 11.00pm; Kadavu men for the 'Yaqona Qaravaki'; the Men of the Parish for the Sevusevu and Veiqaravi; the Parishioners who went unnoticed for their contributions in cash or kind and the Rotuman Community for the garlands, gifts and words of encouragement.

December is here now and so is Advent. We have a few programs before Christmas initiated by the Family Life and Evangelization Commissions. Our last PPC meeting on 10 December should be the perfect platform to round off the year anticipating a holy Christmas with family members and dear friends. (*Master Dan Buresse Chairperson PPC*)

Today the 1st Sunday of Advent: Today the Advent Wreath will be blessed and the 1st Purple Candle will be lit. The Jesse Tree will also be blessed and readied to receive the Advent Symbols of the History of God's dealing with his people through the Ages. Also, it will contain tags with food and other requirements for poor families in the parish that the members of St Vincent De Paul will later distribute for Christmas. So, it helps us to think of other at this time.

Friday 8th December: Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. Parish Masses at 7.00am and 7.00pm.

Bible Dairy's for Sale: They can be had after the Masses or from the Parish Office at \$15.00 each. There are still a number of **Columban Calendars** left also: The Art Calendar \$5.00 and the Colourful Wall Calendar at \$2.00 each.

Evangelization Commission:

Carol singing on 16/12. Community Leaders & Evangelisation reps please note, donation list will be picked from the Jesse Tree in church during evening weekly Masses. It is preferred that either a rep either liturgy, evangelisation or leader to pick out the list from the tree. Communities and organisations are encouraged to participate. (*Vama Mausio – HOC*).

The PPC Meetings in Parish Hall next Sunday 10th Dec. All reps please attend.

Mass and anointing of the Sick for the elderly on Sunday 17th Dec followed by morning tea with some carols singing.

Invitation to 10 youth members: To attend 1st Aid Course in Laucala Bay Parish on Sat 9th Dec. Free, Lunch provided, Certs issued at the end of the day for those who complete the course. But Registration need. **Contact: 8777728 or 3300348.**

Advent Retreat: - Fr Donal McIlraith directing Advent Retreat on 10th December, 9am - 4pm, at Nazareth Prayer Centre. Confession available, Mass at 3pm. Registration \$10; pay at Nicolas House. Registration closes on 7th December. All Welcome.

Woman At The Well - meets every Tuesday at 5:30pm in the Sacred Heart Crypt, starting on 28th Nov and every Tuesday thereafter. This is a support group for women who are divorced, separated or going through separation; to discuss topics of importance & healing after such a difficult transition. Enquiries call Asela 9388132.

Meetings Today Sunday 3rd Dec.

1. Liturgy Meeting after 8.30 Mass/ Preparation for New Lectors starts 17th Dec. After 8.30 Mass. All communities take note.
2. Evangelization Meeting after 8.30 Mass. See above re Carol Singing Evening on 16th Dec.
3. Youth AGM today together with a small kanavata. **Thanks to the Youth for 1st Fruits of my back-yard Gardening.**
4. Cenacle at 2.00pm; Charismatic at 3.00 and World Apostolate of Fatima at 4.00pm.
5. Altar Boys Meeting at 3.00pm today in the Church also.

Meetings during the Week:

1. Men of the Parish Meeting Monday at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall.
2. (7 Steps) this Tues 5th Dec. 2017 at 7.30pm in all Communities

Thanks: To Community 7ab St Teresa of the Child Jesus for animating the Liturgy during the week & cleaning of the Church & compound yesterday. Community 1b starts tomorrow Mon 4th Dec. 2017

Thanks too for your generous Collection for last week. The following is a summary:

1st Collection \$771.30; 2nd Collection: \$133.75; Envelopes \$40.00 = \$945.05

Reading coming week: 1st Sunday of Advent [3/12] Is 63: 16-17; 64: 1. 3-8; Cor 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 33-37; Mon [4/12] Sam 1: 1-8; Mark 1: 14-20; Tues [5/12] Sam 1: 9-20; Mark 1:21-28; Wed [6/12] Sam 3: 1-10. 19-20; Mark 1: 29-39; Thurs [7/12] Sam 4: 1-11; Mark 1: 40-45; Fri [8/12] **The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary**; Gen 3: 9-15. 20; Eph 1: 3-6. 11-12; Luke 1: 26-38; Sat [9/12] Sam 9: 1-4. 17-19. 10: 1; Mark 2: 13-17;

2nd Sunday of Advent [10/12] Is 40: 1-5. 9-11; Peter 3: 8-14; Mark 1: 1-8.