

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT CYCLE C: – 14/02/16

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 – 6.pm

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation/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.

**‘When We Put God first, all other things
fall into their proper place.’**

Happy Valentine’s Day to All.

And Today We Have The Parish AGM.

May we have a Successful AGM Meeting.

Reflection on today’s Gospel, First Sunday in Lent: The Temptations of Jesus in the Desert: What the three temptations have in common is the lure of selfishness, for taking the soft options of security, power and prestige. We ourselves are often exposed to temptations to selfishness of one kind or another – in the form of pride, anger, lust, gluttony, envy, sloth, etc. Like Jesus we turn to God for guidance and strength, relying especially on the power of the holy Eucharist to remain faithful. For better results when we are tempted, we would do well to do as Jesus did – read the scriptures, reflect on them and pray them. Our Church encourages the practice of reading, thinking about, and praying the scriptures each day of Lent. Whatever ways we choose to help us take God’s word to heart, our Lent is meant to be a time for correcting our faults and raising our minds to God, a time of personal and community renewal, a time for coming face-to-face with God in his all-powerful word.

St Pius X, Raiwaqa Parish AGM: This is an important annual gathering of Parish Executives, Heads of Commissions, Community Leaders and Community Financial Reps and all interested parishioners (indeed every parishioner is welcome) to look at all aspects of Parish Life and to consider how we are carrying out our responsibilities and exercising our stewardship towards building up the Kingdom of God in St Pius X, Raiwaqa. The Meeting will start at 10.15am with the usual reports from the Parish Chairperson, Parish Treasurer and the Report from the Parish Priest. The Reports from the Heads of the Commissions will also be tabled and given to Community leaders. There will be time for questions and suggestions from the floor. Light refreshments will be served during the meeting. Since it is Valentine’s Day, all should be at home in plenty of time for their lunch with their loved ones and families.

Welcome Marjorie Engcoy to the Parish: Today we welcome Marj, Columban Lay Missionary to the Parish. The parish has been awaiting her arrival since before Christmas. Today Marj will be welcomed at our AGM. We look forward her insights, and leadership in areas that need to expand and grow and be consolidated – evangelization, liturgy, justice and development and youth. She comes to us with 3 years pastoral experience from Holy Family Parish, Labasa.

Columban Vocation Seminar: Will be held at Columban Formation House, 239 Queen Elizabeth Drive on Saturday 20th Feb. from 8.30 – 3.30pm. Young men who have passed the FSLC are invited to fill out an application form (Parish Office) or ring 3308290 or 7614438 before Wed. 17th Feb. 2016. Lunch will be provided and 50% of travel cost refunded.

Lenten Seminar on *Laudato Si: Pope Francis’ Letter on the Environment*: At the Sacred Heart Cathedral Crypt, Suva; on Tuesdays February 16, 23, Mar. 1, 8, 15. Time from 7.00 – 9.00 pm each evening. **Speakers:** Archbishop Peter Loy Chong, Fr Frank Hoare, Mr Joe Nainima, and Sr Mariana Tevurega. This Lenten Seminar is sponsored by the **Archdiocesan Justice and Development Office**. ALL WELCOME.

“Our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us”. (no.1). “Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society”. (no.91)

RCIA Programme: The Rite of Election: Mrs Kelera Baleinabuli (7A), Ms Varina Grey (4B), Mr Pita Naigulevu (4B) will join 10 other catechumens from other Suva Parishes for the 'Rite of Election' at the 10am Mass today Sunday 14 Feb. The Mass will be celebrated by his Grace, Archbishop Peter Loy Chong. Normally during the 'Rite of Election' each catechumen writes his/her baptism name [elected name] in a book (Register) which will be placed on the altar during the Mass. The next stage in their preparation towards reception into the Church is called the Rite or ceremony of the 'First Scrutiny'. This ceremony will be held in our own Parish on Sunday 28 Feb 2016 at 7.00am Mass. Kelera, Varina & Pita are wished well in their preparations towards Easter. Again thanks is accorded to Mrs Sala Navuku for her commitment and dedication to the Catechumenate Programme.

The 7 STEPS Prayer Programme or SCC (Small Christian Communities) A meeting to report on how these methods are going in parishes was called by His Grace at Nicholas House on Thursday 11th Feb. Vamarasi Mausio & Maria Qaranivalu represented our parish at this meeting. His Grace said that the 7 Steps prayer method feeds into the Year of Mercy. The actions (feeding the sick, visiting families, community work etc.) is referred to as corporal works of Mercy and forgiving, praying over, comforting, counselling etc. is referred as the spiritual works of Mercy. Thus the 7 STEPS connects to the Year of Mercy. The 7 STEPS Method of Prayer is here to stay – Community leaders and Evangelisation Reps are encouraged to re-start the 7 STEPS within your communities. It should be all our aim to strengthen the 7 STEPS this year. There will be another workshop later in the year to train more prayer leaders who will encourage the spread this way of prayer in Communities or set up Small Christian Communities. (*Report Vama*).

Stations of the Cross: As in other years On Wednesday Evenings in Fijian and on Friday Evenings in English at 6.00pm before the evening Masses. The Community animating the liturgy will lead the Stations of the Cross.

Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Resumed last Thursday and will continue each Thursday from 5.00pm – 6.00pm until further notice. There are so many things to pray for and also to give thanks and praise to God.

Central Eastern Youth Council Meeting: To be held in the Hurley Hall on Wed 17th Feb. Our Parish youth will provide refreshments for this occasion. Fr Kaitu, Nausori is chaplain to the Central Eastern Youth. On the same evening immediately after the Mass our Parish Youth intends to meet and start practicing for the Easter Drama.

1. **Archdiocesan Lenten Appeal:** This is taken up each year. Last year the Commission for Justice and Development was able to provide 2 houses for needy families. The Appeal is for the same reason this year. Envelopes for the Lenten Appeal are available in the Office. Community Leaders please come to the Office and take the amount of envelopes needed in your respective Communities.
2. **The Year of Mercy During Lent:** Lent will be a good time to practice some of the Works of Mercy in our families and Communities: The following are the **Corporal Works of Mercy: To Feed the Hungry; To give Drink to the Thirsty; To Cloth the Naked; To Welcome the Strangers; To Attend to the Sick; To Visit the Prisoners; To Bury the Dead. And the Spiritual Works of Mercy Are: To instruct the ignorant; To counsel the doubtful; To admonish sinners; To bear wrongs patiently; To forgive offences willingly; To Comfort the afflicted; And To pray for the living and the dead.** (*All are welcomed aboard*).

Forthcoming Parish and Diocesan Events:

- **Parish AGM at 10.15 today. All welcome – light refreshments provided.**
- **Charismatic Prayer meeting: Today Sunday at 3.00pm in the Church.**
- **World Apostolate of Prayer: Rosary Today Sunday at 3.00pm in Mere Avaiki's Residence.**
- **Community 2 Prayer Meeting on Tuesday Evenings.**
- **Community 5a Prayer Meeting on Wed 17th at Waqa Seru's Residence at 7.30pm.**
- **Christian Meditation: On Sat 20th Feb at the Prayer Centre, Wailekutu from 9.00am – 3.00pm**
- **Catholic Education Week March 7th to March 13th 2016.**
- **Conference for Principals, Head Teachers, School Managers, April 26th – April 28th 2016.**
- **The Fijian Translation of the Roman Missal will become official on Pentecost Sunday 15th May 2016.**

For your Generous Contributions: Thanks to members of [4ab] St Patrick's for animating the Liturgy during the week and for the cleaning of the Church and Compound yesterday. We invite Members of Community [4c] St John the Baptist to start from tomorrow 15st Feb. Thanks too for your generous Collection Contribution last week which was \$777.50.

Reading coming week: First Sunday of Lent [14/02/16] Deut 26: 4 – 10; Rom 10: 8 – 13; Luke 4: 1 – 13; Mon [15/02/16] Lev: 19:1-2, 11 - 18; Matt 25: 31 - 46 Tues [16/02/16] Is 55: 10 – 11; Matt; 6: 7 - 15; Wed [17/02/16] Jonah 3: 1 - 10; Luke 11: 29 - 32; Thur. [18/02] Esther 4:17; Matt 7: 7 - 12; Fri [19/02/16] Ezek 18: 21 - 28; Matt 5:20 - 26; Sat [20/02] Deut 26: 16 - 19; Matt 5: 43 – 48; **Second Sunday in Lent** [21/02/'16] Gen 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3: 17 – 4:1; Luke 9: 28 – 36.

Laudato Si: Care for the Earth: Our special thanks today goes to Master Eroni Navuku, Visoni and Selina for using the wet day on Thursday to weed & plant around the church compound. The fixing of boundary fence continues. Vinaka.