



ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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1ST SUNDAY IN LENT - CYCLE B: 18 /02/18

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.

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 Community Leader and Priests 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.

AGM of the Parish Pastoral Council was held last Sunday – 102 parishioners attended the AGM. Many Thanks indeed. There were 3 major reports: The Parish Priest's, PPC Chairperson & Treasurer's. The Special Budget PPC Meeting will be held on Sunday 4th March 2018.

The Turning of the Wheel: Fr Frank's Book on the Columban History in Fiji. Selling at \$10.00.

1st Sunday in Lent: Children of the Desert

It is not surprising that the three great world religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, were all born in the desert. It was through the desert that Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. It was from that desert that John the Baptist came to herald the Messiah and soon after Jesus followed to proclaim himself Messiah. After my visit there, I came to realise the significance of the desert. The desert is a purgatory man must pass through to reach paradise. What is impressive about the desert is its sheer aridness. There is no vegetation, no bird life and, apart from the odd tiny lizard, almost no animals.

The silence is almost total. In that bleak landscape, nothing comes between man and his God. One either discovers God or succumbs to despair. It is no wonder that those Bedouins who ply the salt trade following their caravans across the desert are deeply religious. No life thrives here except the inner life. It is not surprising that it was the Desert Fathers who created that great institution dedicated to fostering the inner life, Western monasticism. It has so profoundly marked Christianity that we are all now, in a sense, children of the desert.

Living now as many of us do, in built-up areas, piled high on top of each other in high-rise apartments, bombarded day and night with the roar of city traffic and the blare of electronic music, we are in danger of losing our desert roots. And with that our inner life. We need to create a time and a space to nurture our spiritual lives. Lent is such a time. The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert and he remained there for forty days. Like Jesus, we should let the Holy Spirit lead us out into the desert this Lent where we can confront the devils that haunt our lives, and like him too, triumph over them. That is the freedom, dignity, and gift that is offered in today's gospel.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday Evenings: It has really gone down in recent weeks. In view of the above article the need for silence and desert experiences in our lives, can the parish make an extra effort at least during Lent to boost the attendance of **Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday afternoons 5.00pm – 6.00pm:** Now that we are starting the cycle of the Communities again for Liturgy Animation – may we humbly suggest that 1B will provide an adequate number for our hour of Adoration on Thursdays. How about it 1B - Give it a go. See the difference it will make. Thanks Philip and Mrs Mow for always been present and a few more that turns up from time to time.

Thanks to Sophie and other women of the Parish: for cooking and serving for the Deaconate Ordination on Saturday last. Crowds were not as large as usual and plenty of food left over.

Welcome Rev Martin Korociri: After the Parish AGM on Sunday last the Rev Martin presented his Sevusevu to the Parish – where he will be doing his deaconate, the Parish reciprocated with a simple Sevusevu to Martin who preached for the 1st time as Deacon at our 8.30am Mass. Our CCD Teachers are crying out for help – **Martin will be involved.**

Columban Centenary Altar Cloth: It didn't arrive last weekend. The new schedule for Raiwaqa is from the 2nd to the 4th March. It is in Ba this weekend. In the Cathedral on 22nd Feb for a special Mass at 5.30pm to mark the arrival of Columbans to Fiji 22nd Feb 1952, (66 years ago) and in Labasa from 23rd - 27th. It will also visit CCTC & PRS.

1. **Archdiocesan Lenten Appeal:** This is taken up each year for the poor and homeless. There are plenty of these in Fiji. **Lenten Appeal Envelopes can be obtained in the Parish Office and distributed by Community Leaders and Financial Reps after Masses today.** These envelopes are to be returned on Holy Thursday. There will also be a collection for the Holy Places on Good Friday. These moneys will be sent to the Archdiocesan JCD and Pontifical Mission Society Office, Nicolas House – for works of charity and mercy.
2. **Stations of the Cross:** As in other years On Wednesday Evenings in Fijian and on Friday Evenings in English at 5.45pm before the evening Masses. The Community animating the liturgy will lead the Stations of the Cross. Big crowd on Friday evening and thanks Aloï Tugaga (7b) for leading stations so well. **But No Altar Servers**

Lectors Training Workshop: begins next Sunday 25th Feb after the 8.30am Mass in the Hurley Hall

The workshop will continue throughout the Sundays in March with final session on Sunday 8th April 2018. Six Sundays in total. All those who submitted their names from the Communities for this training please take note.

Parish Disaster Management Team: Was activated for the 1st time on the evening Tuesday 13th Feb. It was decided that Ben Lee spearhead operational matters if Cyclone Gita should worsen and affect Fiji – Thankfully it didn't. But taking no chances some 51residence from Nanuku piled into the Fr Hurley Hall for the night. It was a learning curve for our Parish Management Disaster Team. Thanks for responding to the Call. Your action was praised by the AB.

Asian Lunar New Year: Was celebrated on Friday 16th Feb. The main celebrant at the 6.30pm Mass was Fr Carlo accompanied by the Parish Priest. About 40 Koreans attended, followed by a traditional meal (pot luck) afterwards.

Mental Health Workshop Sponsored by Ministry of Health: 14 parishioners turned up for this training, Friday, 16th Feb in the Fr Hurley Hall. This workshop endeavoured to empower members of the parish community to better identify, assess and manage mental health needs, to equip them with the appropriate skills to simultaneously attend to social issues that may contribute to depression and stress. Thanks to the Parish JDIC Commission and all who attended.

MOP: Men of the Parish: Evaluation of first Pledge Night – General satisfaction with response. Total raised \$3,836. **Charity Work in the Parish** – Saturday, 24th February, 2018 – 0900; **Retreat Day on 3rd March** starting at 9.00am – conducted by Fr Iowane Gukibau. **Next Pledge Night - April, 13th 2018.**

Church Seats now Complete: The last batch of Church Seats were returned from Boystown on Friday. The seats look very nice – but **scratches already noticed on newly painted benches.** Please, Please, don't allow children to scratch the seats. Take pride in what is been done in the parish for the Celebration of Our Golden Jubilee.

WOP: Women of the Parish: Membership is open to all women of the parish, 18years & above. Our mission is simply to be a community of women in the parish. Due date for collection of pledge form & money is Saturday 3rd March in AB Petero Mataca hall from 4pm - 8pm. Contact Patricia Burese for Pledge Forms after Sunday Mass.

Evangelization - 7 STEPS and visitation by Animators: Communities visited so far are 7A, 4B, 5A, 5B and 7B, thank you for hosting the animators and you're encouraged to continue with the 7 steps sharing. The animators will be visiting the following communities 6 this afternoon, and on Tues. 20th Feb - 4C, 3 and 4A on Tuesday Community Leaders or Evangelisation reps are requested to inform Parish Coordinator of venues for 7 steps. Communities 1B and 2 are requested to organise your 7 steps sharing for 1st March. Animators will be visiting.

Parish Prayer Meetings: Cenacle @ 2pm, Divine Mercy @ 3pm, Charismatics @ 3.30pm and WAF @ 4.30pm.

Charismatic Group to meet at 5pm after the prayer meeting this Sunday in the hall. Important matters to discuss.

Altar Servers Breakfast after 8.30 Mass: Recruiting New Members – If you have received 1st Holy Communion.

Lectors meeting in the Music Room after the 8.30am Mass. All lectors please take note.

Seven Steps in Community 2 Peter Loli's Residence on Tuesday 20th Feb.

Important Meeting: - CCD Teachers & Parents of those attending CCD Classes Next Sun 25th Feb. after 8.30 Mass.

'Wheels of Time' Communications Committee for Golden Jubilee - will host a **Talanoa Session** with parishioners on Sunday 25th February at 10.00am in AB Mataca Hall. Speakers past Chairperson and Vice of Parish, Vero & Rafa.

World Apostolate of Fatima: Central Eastern Meeting 24th Feb in Fr Hurley Hall from 9.00am – 2.00pm.

Workshop on the 3rd March held at Fr Hurley Hall – Sister Sisi facilitator. Time 9.00am – 2.00pm. World of Apostolate of Fatima Book @ \$12.00 each. Contact Mere Avaiki.

Thanks: To Community 7b St Teresa of the Child Jesus for animating the Liturgy during the week & cleaning of the Church & compound yesterday. Community 1B St Cecelia starts this week from tomorrow Mon, 19/02/2018.

Thanks for your generous Collections Last Week: The following is a summary:

1st Collection \$689.65; 2nd Collection: \$95.60; Envelops \$45.00 = \$820.25

Reading coming week: *First Sunday of Lent* [18/2/18] Gen 9: 8-15; 1 Pt 3: 18-22; Mk 1: 12-15; Mon [19/2/18] Lv 19: 1-2, 11-18; Mt 25: 31-46; Tue [20/2/18] Is 55: 10-11; Mt 6: 7-15; Wed [21/2/18] Jon 3: 1-10; Lk 11: 29-32; Thurs [22/2/18] The Chair of St Peter the Apostle: 1 Pt 5: 1-4; Mt 16: 13-19; Fri [23/2/18] St Polycarp: Ez 18: 21-28; Mt 5: 20-26; Sat [24/2/18] Dt 26: 16-19; Mt 5: 43-48; *Second Sunday of Lent* [25/2/18] Gen 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8: 31b-34; Mk 9: 2-10;

(Continuation of our early History: THE ORIGINAL LAY-OUT OF CHURCH: Will commence again next week)