

# ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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### THE TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - CYCLE A: - 17/09/17

#### 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 – 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 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.

#### **Up and Coming Events in other Parishes**

Ordination of Rev Vio – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. Cath.

Cathedral Sacred Heart – Soli - 14<sup>th</sup> Oct.

St Agnes–Soli -28<sup>th</sup> October.

Holy Spirit Soli and Bazaar – Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Holy Eucharist Soli – 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Ordination of Rev Pat Visanti-23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Cath.

**Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council Next Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September after the 8.30 Mass. All Community Leaders and HOCs please attend.**

**Reflection for the 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year: FORGIVING:** Jesus' disciples have heard him say incredible things about loving enemies, praying to the Father for those who persecute them, forgiving those who do them harm. Surely this seems to them to be an extraordinary message, but hardly realistic and definitely problematic. Peter now approaches Jesus with a more practical and concrete suggestion that lets them at least resolve the problems that arise among them: resentment, jealousy, arguments and conflicts. How should that family of follower's act who walk in his footsteps? Concretely: «*How often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me?* ».

Before Jesus answers him, the impetuous Peter jumps in to give his own suggestion: «*As often as seven times?* ». His proposal is one of a generosity much superior to the avenging atmosphere that breathes in Jewish society. It goes way beyond even what is practiced among rabbis who at the most talk about forgiving up to four times.

Jesus' answer forces us to be in a whole other ballpark. There are no limits to forgiveness: «*Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times*». It's no use keeping track of how many times I've forgiven. Anyone who starts counting how many times he's forgiving his brother is embarking on an absurd path that ruins the spirit that should reign among Jesus' followers.

Lack of mutual respect, insults and calumny take place frequently. Without anyone discrediting them, groups that call themselves Christian take advantage of the Internet to sow aggressiveness and hate, heartlessly destroying other believers' name and reputation. We urgently need witnesses of Jesus who announce his Gospel with firm words and who spread his peace with humble hearts. Believers who go around forgiving and healing this unhealthy obstinacy that has penetrated the Church. (*José A Pagola*).**In**

**Loving Memory:** **George Lockington**, Kadavu, formally Community Leader of St Paul's Community (6) died Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept in Kadavu and was buried on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept in Nasalia, Kadavu. **Lusie Weber** (68) sister of Maria Waqavanua (7b) who died in Montana, USA and was cremated on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. **Anna Mataiwai**, Derrick St. - Cousin of Kele – Parish Coordinator – whose funeral took place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. May they Rest in Peace & Sympathy is expressed to the above families.

#### **More From the Archbishop's Letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017:**

**The Indo Fijian Catholic Community:** held the 29<sup>th</sup> Dharam Sammellan at St Joseph's Secondary School on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The Sammellan's theme was "*Deepening our Faith in Christ by Understanding the Sacraments*". The different age groups discussed how to link the sacraments to everyday life. The vibrant choir of the Suva area led the liturgy. The Sammellan was inspiring and indicated the potential that our Indo Fijian Catholic community can offer to the mission of the Church. I was particularly moved with the bhajans which brought back memories of my time with Indo Fijian Catholic Community in the USA. Dhannyavaad!

**Disaster Management:** In July we conducted two important workshops, **Disaster Management training** conducted by Caritas, (Parish needs to hear from Mua and **Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Training** conducted by trainers for the Archdiocese of Sydney. The Disaster Management Training trained parish disaster teams on the fundamentals of disaster management. The focus of the training was to help parishes respond more effectively to natural disasters.

**Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Training** ensured that all Church institutions are safe environments for children. This training is a response to the rising numbers of sexual abuse cases in the Catholic Church and society. The Archdiocese of Suva will soon be putting together policies for ministerial conduct and procedures.

**Confirmation Preparation:** This year we are piloting a new Confirmation Program to be used in the entire Archdiocese of Suva.

We have received some very positive feedback from the parishes. During the Christmas holidays we will conduct training for all parish Confirmation Preparation teams. **Marriage Preparation:** On August 19-20 we piloted a Marriage Preparation Program

with five Couple Trainers. Fifteen engaged couples attended the marriage preparation classes. We will conduct a formation for the team and then train parish marriage preparation team-couples and priests. + (*Archbishop Peter Loy Chong*).

**Elections: - St Theresa of the Child Jesus** Community 7b will elect new Community Office Bearers this Sunday after their week on Liturgy. The election will take place before the Community Lunch and members of the Parish Executives will be in attendance. We look forward to a great Liturgy today and full attendance of 7b at this important AGM in our Jubilee Year. Thanks for last week.

**Parish Raffle** is being organized now by the Parish Executives and members of the Parish Financial Council. 30 excellent prizes to be won –The draw towards the end of Oct/beginning of Nov. There will be at least 30 prizes to be won including Pressure Cooker, Coffee Maker, Electric Kettle, Toaster, Pure Fiji Gift packs (worth more than \$100.00) chickens, Rugby and Soccer Balls, Assortment of T-Shirt, Umbrellas and surprise prizes etc. Parish Executives think that a sheet of 100 blocks be distributed to each Community at \$5.00 a block is reasonable. All proceeds go to the parish account for further renovations during our jubilee year.

**Raffle Tickets for Catechist** AGM in Savusavu on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. 100 books at \$10.00 per book - handed in - 10 Prizes. 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$2,000.00

**Application Forms for Corpus Christi Teachers Training College:** As usual these can be had from the Presbytery these days. Necessary Qualifications for successful candidates are on the Application Forms and must be accompanied by ref from Parish Priest.

**Parents and CCD Teachers and Candidates for the Sacraments:** There was a great improvement of attendance at Mass and at CCD Classes last week. Thank you all involved. As stated last week from now on there will be much closer monitoring of children this term. Facilitators will liaise closely with parents and updating them with the attendance record of their child. An article on **our 2-year preparation Programme** has been requested by ‘the Catholic Times’ and sent in by PPC Chairperson, Master Dan. It will appear not in this month’s edition but next time round.

**Rev Vio Drou (Ra) Ordination Lunch St Joseph’s School Hall 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2017:** Fr Vio will be ordained next Saturday in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. The women of Raiwaqa Parish requested to cook the Beef Curry while the parish requested to supply 2 KGs of yaqona and donate serviettes, paper plates or other food items. **The combined choir to include Raiwaqa Parishioners.**

**The Family Life Commission:**

1. Marriage Encounter Original Weekend is on this weekend at St John Bosco. Please pray for the teams and couples that will be attending. From the 15th - 17th September, 2017.
2. Family Life Commission Reps will be visiting the communities beginning with 7b and 5b this Sunday day. Tuesday 19th - 5a, 7a, & 4a, Sunday 24th – to Community 6. Please community leaders get see if this can be arranged.
3. There will be a visitation by the Solo Parents on Sunday the 24th at 4pm. Please meet at the Blind School.

**Celebrating September – The Season of Creation:** Thanks to the Parish Youth for their clean up the last 2 Saturdays. They did a great job and we look forward to their planting now and of course to a good harvest in a few months’ time. They are using this month to celebrate Sept – the Season of Creation – well done folks. Let us all take heart and do something for Creation around our own homes this month also.

**Invitation to members of Smaller Ethnic Groups:** e.g. Indian speaking Catholics and the Kiribati Community etc. to get more involved with us this year as we prepare to Celebrate our Golden Jubilee. Parish Executives are contacting these groups at present.

**Justice and Development Commission Visitations to the Communities:** Rescheduled to 26.9.17. JD rep’s will conduct session in respective communities. (Rep’s to attend meeting on Wed (20.9.17) to be briefed on session details) - Census, session with Suva City Council and Parish Census exercise.

**Archdiocese of Suva Synod Awareness** This is the month that the Archbishop has asked us to make all parishioners aware of the Synod. There is a slide **Presentation available from the Chairperson of PPC both in English and Fijian.**

In October and November, there will be the Consultative Phase which involves a diocesan survey on what the faithful think of the Catholic Church in Fiji and what it means to be Catholic in Society.

**Meetings Today Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Sept:**

1. **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Meeting of the **Men of the Parish** straight after the 8.30am Mass.
2. **Evangelisation meeting** is after 8.30am Mass in the hall. Evangelisation reps please attend
3. **Solo/Lone Parents Support Group:** Meeting after 8.30am Mass to prepare for Workshop on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2017.
4. **Cenacle at 2.00pm; Divine Mercy @ 3.00pm; Charismatics @ 3.30pm; World Apostolate of Prayer - 4.00**
5. **Sunday Night: Census Night.** Everyone will be counted where they are staying tonight. Census every 10 years.

**Meetings during the Week:**

1. **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept.** Meeting of Parish Executives after Mass this evening. Members please take Note.
2. **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept.** St Joseph the Worker (2) Bible sharing and 7 Steps in Lal’s Residence. (Also in other Communities).
3. **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Sept.** JD Reps – Compulsory meeting for all JD Reps to be informed of the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> Sept.
4. **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Sept.** Family Life Commission Meeting at 7.15. All Community Reps Please Attend.
5. **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. Parish Structural & Constitution Review Team to Meet tonight.** (Youth Seven Steps).
6. **Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept.** Christian Meditation Retreat Day - Prayer Centre - 9.00am – 3.00pm (Sr. Denise 3361106/8672760).

**Thanks:** To Community 7b St Teresa of the Child Jesus for animating the Liturgy during the week & cleaning of the Church & compound. A great attendance at evening Masses. Community 1b St Cecilia starts tomorrow Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Sept.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$775.30; 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection \$97.85 and Envelop \$195.00 = \$1,068.15**

**Reading coming week: 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time [17/9]** Ecc 27:30-28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matt 18:21-35; Mon [18/9] Tim 2:1-8; Luke 7:1-10; Tues [19/9] Tim 3:1-13; Luke 7:11-17; Wed [20/9] Tim 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35; Thurs [21/9] **St Mathew, Apostle and Evangelist** Eph 4: 1-7. 11-13; Matt 9: 9-13; Fri [22/9] Tim 6:2-12; Luke 8: 1-3; Sat [23/9] Tim 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15; **25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time [24/9]** Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20-24.27; Matt 20:1-16.