

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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THE TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - CYCLE A: - 24/09/17

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.

Reflection for the 25th Sunday of the Year: God sees-full picture

The forty-two parables in the Gospels are designed to take us up short and make us think again. Today's is a good example. The employer's treatment of the workers simply would not work today as a labour relations strategy and would also not have worked in the time of Jesus. And what is the point? Really that it doesn't matter *when* or *how* we come to the Gospel, whether early, middle or late, by routes direct or circuitous, in full stride or falteringly. All that matters is that we actually *come* to the Gospel. Achievement counts for nothing; grace is everything, thanks be to God!

The core of today's Gospel parable is prefaced in God's word to Isaiah: "My thoughts are not your thoughts." Try as we may, it is impossible to justify the payment of the workers in the vineyard in ordinary social terms. It could hardly be said to be fair. Yes, the owner is generous to the last comers, but why is he not generous to the others as well? It is simply that there is no reckoning up deserts when man meets God.

In Our Lord's time Judaism had reached a legalistic state, and the mentality was prevalent that salvation could and must be earned – a slot machine mentality. It was this slot-machine conception of God that Jesus opposed by his **emphasis on love, for in love there is no calculation of duties, rights and obligations; there is only an open-handed giving without counting the cost, and a grateful receiving.** We can never say that we have earned salvation, or anything from God. The latest workers in the vineyard have not earned what the owner gives them, and the mistake of their colleagues is to think that they deserve more from the owner. Devout Christians may find it hard to stomach that a deathbed penitent is admitted to the kingdom no less than those who have struggled and suffered all their lives for what is right. The greater the struggle, the more, a Christian turns to God and finds comfort in the security of his love. The parable of the vineyard-workers is no blueprint for how labour relations ought to be, but it illustrates Jesus' teaching about grace and mercy. There are consequences to be drawn. As Pope Francis eloquently writes in *The Joy of the Gospel* (§114): "The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel."

In Loving Memory: Keberi Toma Teianang, (67) brother of Elizabeth and Julie (4a) who died recently. Requiem Mass in Lami and burial in Suva Cemetery on Friday 22nd Sept. **Paul Julian Perao,** (49) 8 Talbot Lane (4a) who died on Friday evening 22nd Sept. Funeral arrangements later. May they rest in Peace and Sympathy is expressed to their families.

Elections: - St Theresa of the Child Jesus. Congratulations to members of Community 7b who on completing their well-attended and much improved week on Liturgy held their AGM in Filippo's residence and elected Officer Bearers for the coming year last Sunday 17th Sept. Kelemete – Parish Co-Ordinator conducted the Elections. This was an important AGM for the Community as it signaled the revitalization of this Community. About 20 from the Community were present. New Office Bearers are as follows: -

Community Leader - Josefo Seru (Rafaele); Assistant: Apete Vosalevu; Liturgy – Aloï Tugaga; Finance Rep - Albert McGoon; Evangelization – Maria Waqavanua; Family Life – Maria Seru; Youth – Bale Baselala; JPIC Rep – Alisi Vosalevu and Secretary for the Community – Jane Tukana. Congratulations to all new Office Bearers and the parish look forward to great things from 7b.

The Parish wishes to thank Maria Waqavanua for her tireless support & effort over the years to her Community 7b

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

Up and Coming Events in other Parishes

Cathedral Sacred Heart – Soli - 14th Oct.

St Agnes–Soli -28th October.

Holy Spirit Soli and Bazaar – Sat 4th Nov.

Holy Eucharist Soli – 18th November.

Ordination of Rev Pat Visanti-23rd Nov. Cath.

Brianna Leaves for Rotuma on 29th Nov.

Next Phase of Renovations for Golden Jubilee.

This has started last week with the painting and refurbishment of Parish Meeting Rooms

to each Community at \$5.00 a block is reasonable. All proceeds go to the parish account for further renovations during our jubilee year.

Welcome Fr Carlo (Korea) newly appointed Columban to the Fiji Region: He will lead our 8.30 Mass and Liturgy today.

Raffle Tickets for Catechist AGM in Savusavu on 4th Dec. 100 books at \$10.00 per book - handed in - 10 Prizes. 1st prize \$2,000.00 2nd Prize \$1500.00 3rd Prize \$1000.00 etc etc. and 4 prizes of \$200.00 each. Books of tickets can be had in Parish Office.

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.

Fr Vio Drou (Ra) Ordination Lunch St Joseph's School Hall 23rd Sept 2017: Congratulations Fr Vio on your ordination yesterday in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. The women of Raiwaqa Parish cooked the Beef Curry while members of CWL helped out with the catering. The parish also supplied what it was requested - 2 KGs of yaqona, serviettes, paper plates and cups. **The combined choir includes Raiwaqa Parishioners** while Margaret Qalo did some of the conduction at the Ordination Mass.

Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission: After consulting with Archbishop Peter Loy Chong, and at his suggestion, we will be holding a Training for parish trainers of SCC Leaders in St Joseph's SS Hall on **Saturday, October 7th and Sunday October 8th**. This training is needed so that each parish will have some committed trainers who can hold training at parish level for SCC 7 Step gospel sharing sessions and can regularly visit SCCs to encourage, support and correct (when necessary) the community prayer leaders. We request Parish Priests to choose two intelligent, dependable and experienced leaders who may have had previous training but who are now willing to take a kind of supervisory and training role within the parish for SCCs. Thank you for your interest and support to keep our diocesan priority on course. *(Fr Frank Hoare)*.

Evangelisation Commission in collaboration with Justice & Development is organising a Talk in the hall for October relating to climate change. Members felt it is important for parishioners to be awareness of the seriousness of the issue. Dr. Joeli accompanied His Grace to the CWL recent AGM and spoke on the topic which they found v useful.

Boat to Rotuma: For Rev Pat Visanti's 1st Mass there: The Brianna will leave Suva on the evening of Wed 29th Nov. DV. It will be in Rotuma from Friday until Monday 4th Dec. Capacity 140 passengers. **Estimate return price \$350.00.** Not yet confirmed.

Youth Leadership Workshop Tuesday 19th Sept: The workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sport with sponsors from major stakeholders and NGOs. The workshop was attended by more than 40 participants from community youth clubs, religious youth groups from within the Central Eastern Division. There were 10 sessions throughout the day and each speaker was given 20 minutes for their presentation. The reason for the workshop was to promote independent and self-sustainable Youth. The day ended with a cocktail to allow all participants to socialise and discuss about the days sessions. Our parish youth were represented by Pauliasi Vodivodi and Mue Mausio – who will be in touch with our youth to give feedback and help our Parish Youth to be registered with the Ministry of Youth and Sport – so that we can benefit from grants and projects that the Ministry fund and promote. *(Pauliasi Vodivodi)*

Youth Legends: St Pius Youth Legends or former youths of the Parish [1975 to 2015] have been meeting to plan for a Grand Reunion, to coincide with the Parish Golden Jubilee in Aug 2018. Next Meeting Sat 30th Sept in Caroline's Res. Details of this group can be seen on the Parish Notice Board.

The Family Life Commission:

- Family Life Commission Reps will be visiting the communities: - This Sunday - 6 and 1B; Tuesday 26th - 7A, 5B, 4C Community 2 - Sometime in the week after Mass. Community 3 and 4B please arrange dates with your Reps.
- The Family Life Commission will be conducting a month-long Family Theme in October for St. Pius X Parish to promote the age old saying "The Family that Prays Together, Stays Together". We are urging all Parishioners to please sit together as a Family during Mass, this will begin on the 1st of October.
- The Members of the Commission are also requesting that each Family of the parish have their evening/morning Rosary together as a family to begin on the 1st of October.

Archdiocesan Synod Preparation: 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 10th Sept:

1. **Sunday 24th Sept:** Meeting of the **Parish Pastoral Council** after the 8.30am Mass.
2. **Family Life Commission Reps** will be visiting the communities: - This Sunday - 1B & Community 6.
3. **St John's Past Pupils Cawaci:** Meeting this evening 24th Sept at 5.00pm in Andrew Grey's Residence.
4. **There will be a visitation to the Solo Parents** on Sunday the 24th at 4pm. Please meet at the Blind School.
5. **Cenacle at 2.00pm; Divine Mercy @ 3.00pm; Charismatics @ 3.30pm; World Apostolate of Prayer - 4.00**

Meetings during the Week:

1. **Tuesday 26th Sept.** St Peter Chanel 4a in Master Dan Buresse's + Children (Also in other Communities).
2. **Tuesday 26th Sept:** JD Commission Visitations to the Communities: JD rep's will conduct sessions.
3. **Wednesday 27th Sept.** Family Life Commission Meeting at 7.15. All Community Reps Please Attend.

Thanks: To Community 1b St Cecilia for animating the Liturgy during the week & cleaning of the Church & compound. A great attendance at evening Masses. Community 2 St Joseph the Worker starts tomorrow Mon 25th Sept.

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

1st Collection \$900.75; 2nd Collection \$80.75 and Envelop \$75.00 = \$1,056.50

Reading coming week: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time[24/9] Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20-24.27; Matt 20:1-16; Mon[25/9] Ezra 1:1-6; Luke 8:16-18 ; Tues[26/9] Ezra 6:7-8.12.14-20; Luke 8:19-21; Wed[27/9] **St Vincent de Paul, Priest** Cor 1:26-31; Matt 9:35-37; Thurs[28/9] Haggai 1:15-2:9; Luke 9:18-22; Fri[29/9]**St Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels** Dan 7:9-10.13-14; John 1:47-51; Sat[30/9] Zech 2:5-9.14-15; Luke 9:43-45; **26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**[1/10] Ezek 18:25-25; Phil 2:1-11; Matt 21:28-32.