

# ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - CYCLE B: 14/1/18

#### 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.p.m

**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.

**Back to School:** This week will see the return of our school children to their new classes and even new schools (Secondary). Today they will help out with the Liturgy at the 8.30 Mass. and will be dressed in their respective school uniforms. Let us support and encouragement our children in these

**Day Light Saving ended last night Saturday – All clocks should be put back an hour.**

#### 2nd Sunday in Ordinary time: Who are you looking for??

The first words of Jesus in John's Gospel go straight to the heart and touch the very roots of our life. To two men who are starting to follow Jesus, he says: "What are you looking for?" It's not easy to respond to this simple, direct and fundamental question.

Some seem to regard life as a huge supermarket, and are only interested in acquiring objects to soothe and brighten their existence for a while. Naturally we seek to escape sickness, loneliness, sadness, conflicts or fear. Others just want is to be left alone. To forget everyone else and be forgotten by everyone; to not care about anyone and expect no one to care about you. Most people simply seek to meet our daily needs and keep fighting to see our puny desires fulfilled. But even if all these desires were fulfilled, would our heart be satisfied? Would our thirst for consolation, liberation and complete happiness be appeased?

The deeper question is this: don't we human beings desire something more from life than material well-being? Don't we desire something beyond what can't be delivered by any political or social project? Some fear that today's men and women have forgotten God. But the truth is that, when a person questions oneself with just a little honesty, it's not that easy to wipe from the heart our nostalgia for the infinite.

Who am I? A miserable human being, destined to plough a miserable plot of space and time, cast into life in order to disappear quickly into nothing, without rhyme or reason? Is that all there is? Nothing more? The most honourable thing a person can do is seek for the fullness of life. Look for God, maybe with the last smidgen of energy and of faith. God doesn't hide from anyone who looks sincerely for purpose. God is already at the heart of that search. Thus says the Lord in the book of Isaiah: "I have let myself be approached by those who did not consult me, I have let myself be found by those who did not seek me" (Isaiah 65, 1-2). [José Antonio Pagola]

**In Loving Memory: Augustine Isireli Veikoso (55):** Aidney Road, Raiwaqa 4b who died suddenly on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. Requiem Mass was celebrated here yesterday at 10.00am followed by burial in Vatuwaqa Cemetery. **Letila Vollmer**, Sigatoka, who died on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018, eldest sister of Antoinette Parker (1B). **Bessie Ann Young**, **Nadi** niece of Mrs Mow and daughter of Sam and Jessie Young who died Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. leaving 6 children. May they rest in Peace.

**Launch of Fr Frank Hoare's New Book:** Will take place here in the AB Mataca Hall on the 28<sup>th</sup> Jan - Sunday afternoon at 4.30pm. The book is a history of the Columbans in Fiji since 1952 until 2017 (65 years) The Title of the Book is

**"The Turning Wheel" – Columban Mission in Fiji 1952 -2017.** There will be about 70/80 invited guests and the Launch will be done by His Grace Archbishop Peter Loy Chong.

**Welcome Fr Carlo Jung Euikyun:** Fr Carlo was accorded a simple traditional ceremony of welcome after 08.30 Mass last Sunday. A good representation of parish groups and organizations was there to witness his welcome. Later on he had his 1<sup>st</sup> Community lunch with our nearest neighbour in 4b. On Wednesday evening the Parish Executives met with Fr Carlo and presented a very detailed power point presentation on the various Commissions in the Parish and all the Organisations that come under each Commission. It was expressed that the more hands on experience we give Fr Carlo the faster he will learn the ways of the parish. He has been given the 1. The Parish Constitution; 2. Parish

Finance Procedures Manual; 3. Parish Manual of Policies; 4. Parish Update 2014 – 2015 Fr Carlo was wished well. The Executives then shared a cup of tea and refreshments with our new priest followed by a few bowls of yagona.

**Deaconate Ordinations:** Of Diocesan Students and Martin Korociri (Columban) will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. Like previous Deaconate Ordinations – the Parish of the Central Eastern Division are requested to cater for the meal afterwards. Our parish has been allotted the cooking and providing Chicken Curry and 1KG of yagona for the occasion.

**Thinking ahead to Parish Jubilee:** Jubilee Committee meeting next Thursday (18 Jan) to open this year's discussions for the 50th Anniversary. It is important that we all start our preparations right now – we have less than 8 months to our celebrations. So much work still remains to be done on all fronts – spiritual and temporal. 100% effort from every organization and committed individual will be required.

- The Youth at their recent meeting have come up with a Jubilee project. They have a Kati planned for this coming Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2018.
- The Parish must also think of producing a **Magazine** to Mark the Occasion. Many stories and photographs need to be collected, co-ordinated and published. To this end to give us encouragement we hope to publish the short history of the Parish (week by week) that was put together for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. {1<sup>st</sup> episode in this issue}.
- The **Men of Parish and the Women of the Parish** are encouraged to get organised too. Vinaka Vakalevu.

**CCD Classes** for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion, Confirmation and RCIA will commence again next weekend after 7.00am Mass. The Parish is looking at **Sunday Aug 26<sup>th</sup>** as the date for Confirmation – the last day of our Jubilee celebration.

**Renovation of Kitchen in Parish Hall** is now complete. Hopefully the Women of the Parish are satisfied. More shelving has been installed in the Laundry Room for much needed storage. Please take care of our ever improving parish property.

**Invitation to make a habit of Visiting Parish Website:** The Parish has a new look and now very easy to follow all the parish events. Many of the parish events are covered. Weekly Newsletter is up there too. Please tell your family and friends overseas to follow us – the website can be a great means for them to keep up with parish happenings eg deaths baptisms and weddings and photos etc. It is surprising how many contact us from overseas because of the Parish Website. So spread the word, have a look at it: [www.stpiusxfj.com](http://www.stpiusxfj.com)

**Eucharistic Ministers Schedule for Sunday Visits:** Maria Qaranivalu – the Vatuwaqa area; Miri – 4c and Jittua area; Philip – walking area around the church; Jacob & Gina – community 6 etc.; Kele and Alex – the rest – 2/3/7s etc.

**Parish Meetings: Evangelization Meeting today:** after 8.30 Mass. Reps from all areas – Please be present.

**Prayer meetings:** Cenacle @ 2pm; Divine Mercy @ 3pm and Charismatic @ 3.30pm

**Evangelisation news:** Communities are encouraged to continue with the 7 STEPS on Tuesday evenings this week.

**Jubilee Committee – Marketing and Merchandise:** Meeting on to be held on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2018.

**Parish AGM on Sunday:** 11 February, at 10.00am in the AB Mataca Hall. **First PPC** of the year on Sun. 25 March.

**Thanks:** To Community 4c – St John the Baptist for animating the Liturgy during the week & cleaning of the Church & compound yesterday. Community 4c starts this week from tomorrow Mon, 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$662.50; 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$93.35; Envelops \$274.90= \$830.75.**

**Reading coming week: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** [14/1/18] 1 Sm 3: 3b-10, 19; 1 Cor 6: 13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1: 35-42; Mon [15/1/18] 1 Sm 15: 16-23; Mk 2: 18-22; Tue [16/1/18] 1 Sm 16: 1-13; Mk 2: 23-28; Wed [17/1/18] **St Anthony, Abbot:** 1 Sm 17: 32-33, 37, 40-51; Mk 3: 1-6; Thurs [18/1/18] 1 Sm 18: 6-9; 19: 1-7; Mk 3: 7-12; Fri [19/1/18] 1 Sm 24: 3-21; Mk 3: 13-19; Sat [20/1/18] **St Fabian, pope and martyr, and St Sebastian, martyr:** 2 Sm 1: 1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mk 3: 20-21; **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** [21/1/18] Jon 3: 1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7: 29-31; Mk 1: 14-20

**EARLY PIONEERS:** (Continuation of the Introduction found in the pamphlet 'A Brief History of Raiwaqa Parish').

A handful of these pioneers sought more than just a comfortable place to settle in. They needed to identify with others who shared the same interest and common goals. Moreover, they, needed to feel secure in the company of believers of the same Gospel. These were the very few Catholic families who would later lay the platform from which the Parish of St. Pius) would grow. These families believed they had quite a substantial number to call meetings and discuss matters of mutual interest. At the forefront of their discussions was the need to reach the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Suva for Sunday Masses. One of them would collect a few shillings from everyone to pay for transport to the Cathedral and back. Any leftovers from the collection would be banked and the procedure was repeated the following week.

The Archbishop of Suva then, His Grace George Pearce, assigned Frs. Dutton and Malone to the area on a regular basis to conduct prayer meetings at these Catholic homes : Burese's, Croker's, Baraiwai's, Santos, Lavulo's, Kutty's, Dunne's,

Hale's, Nansen's, Baledrokadroka's, Shaw's. Raiwaqa at that time was confined mainly to the immediate surroundings, of what is today, Bryce Street. Up Derrick Street, the Wakana's and Maharaj's would join in. Down Davui Lane, the Raduna's would similarly provide supporting roles.

Urbanisation contributed to the steady influx of people from rural areas into the new surroundings. The Archbishop realized that new ground was breaking and it might be opportune to start a new parish. For many of these families their dreams were soon to become a reality.