

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY OF TIME YEAR A: 5/01/17

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 – 6pm

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. Arrangements to be made by parents seeking the sacrament of Baptism from 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 on today's Readings: Taking stock of ourselves: Two thoughts dominate the readings: first, John's dramatic call to behold the Lamb of God; second, that we do a good personal stock-taking during this first month of the new year, look where we are going, and make the practical resolutions that might raise the quality of our lives. The Baptist urges us to ask what are we fundamentally about and then seek to reset our lives. And St Paul reminds us that we are "called to be saints together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

An honest stock-taking of our spirituality may unveil the selfish, ego-centric motives that often direct our lives. To rise above these we need to recognise something outside of and larger than ourselves, the God who cares for us and for the whole human community. Can we listen to John's call to restore what is broken, and Jesus' call, to bring light to the world? Do we see that it is with our cooperation that the Lamb can remove the "sin of the world"? "Facing such truths is always difficult; it calls us to not just drift along with this world's evil, always taking the line of least resistance. Discipleship is urgent and costly, but it is also possible and is the way towards the deeper joy and fulfilment that our soul is longing for. If we properly hear the Baptist as he witnesses to Christ, our response will be a stock-taking that goes to the root of our being. It may even reveal to us the truth that sets us free.

In Loving Memory: Fr Jim Johnston SM (79): Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Fr Jim Johnson SM** well known Marists Priest from Ireland expert in the Rotuman and Fijian languages and well known for his yagona drinking and his singing - died on 10th Jan 2017 in Ireland. He served as Parish Priest in Levuka, Rotuma, Wariki and Mount St Mary's Nadi. In recent year Fr Jim suffered from dementia & Alzheimer's disease. May he rest in Peace.

The Archbishop Requires from Each Parish at this time of Year the Following Reports and Updates

1. The Parish Baptismal and Marriage returns for 2016
2. Up-to-date census report from each parish:
3. Parish Budget for 2017 as well as Parish Financial Statement for the year ending 2016.
4. Parish Pastoral Plan as well as Parish Development Plan/Master Plan (short term and long term development plans for the parish – to ascertain if parishes are planning any major church extensions or school construction works?)

We have been working on the above – during the last week: The Baptism and Marriage Returns are ready to be submitted. So also is our Budget for 2017. Thanks to Angie and Dominiko for all they hard work and they many hours they have put into compiling our Parish Financial Statement for the end of 2016. The Parish Executives have also put together a Parish Development Plan for the next few years – as we are gearing up towards the Celebration of our Golden Jubilee in 2018.

Updating of the Census: – *All Community Leaders are requested to report to the Parish Office or Priest Immediately new Families who have come into your Community during last year and also the families or individuals who may have left your community during the last year.* Please also identify the **ethnicity** of an individual or Family too. These were supposed to be in last Wednesday. Only five (5) Communities have responded. **Leaders from Communities 3, 4b, 4c, 5a, 7a & 7b. Please Please.**

Parish AGM is scheduled for Feb 12th at 10.30am. This year is Election Year. The Parish AGM will elect a Chairperson and an assistant chairperson. **Nomination Forms for the Communities to have their say – are available in the Parish Office now.** Some Community Leaders have collected theirs. Community Leaders please collect one for your Community. All nomination forms must be **back in the Parish on the 29th January.** Again calling on Community Leadership to carry out their responsibility in this regard – Collect the forms from the Parish Office, hold your Community Meeting, Nominate your choice for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for our parish for the next 2 years and return your Nomination Form to the Parish Office (**in an envelope please**) before or on the 29th Jan. A criteria sheet will be issued to Leaders as well as the Nomination Forms.

Confirmation Co-Ordination Team: With the new 2 Year Confirmation Preparation Programme being introduced by the Archbishop and the Archdiocesan Commission for Faith Formation, there will be no Confirmations in any Parish this year. To set the new Preparation Programme in motion – each parish are requested to put a Confirmation Co-Ordination Team in place, consisting of the teachers who will carry out the instruction for the candidates, some parents and sponsors, some from Liturgy and a youth member or two: Having Consulted with most of the following: **Our Confirmation Co Coordinating Team will be: Master Dan Burese, Patricia Burese, Sophie Waqanidrola, Eta Roseru, Tupou Nawalu, Maria Qaranivalu, Niseta Buatava and Maretino Lalakobouma (Youth Rep).** A few more may be added in time.

The Programme really starts today with the Registration of Candidates for Confirmation in 2018. Parents are requested to accompany their children for Registration. Candidates must be 14 years of age or over.

Next weekend Saturday/Sunday 21 & 22nd Jan. Co-Ordination Teams from the Parishes will meet in St Joseph's Hall to be briefed on the new Programme. An outline of classes will be explained and other matters pertaining to the 2 Year Programme.

Today Sunday 15th January 2016:

1. **Registration** of Candidates for Confirmation today after Mass. Candidates Parents are requested to attend also.
2. **Youth Meeting** today Sunday right after the 8:30 am Mass, Fr Hurley Hall;
3. **Lectors' Meeting** today after the 8:30 am Mass.
4. **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** this afternoon at 3.00pm in the Church. **Starting with the 'Divine Mercy'**
5. **World Apostolate of Fatima Meeting** on Sunday Evening at 4.00pm.

Health Check Up (Zone Nurse): On Tuesday 10th January Staff nurse Christine and Dietician Shelveena were in the parish to do free medical check-ups. Some 16 Adults and 6 children took advantage of this free service.

The Health team will return next month to see the Women of the Parish – at a date to be fixed by them. They would also like to have sessions with the Youth of the Parish. The Women of the Parish and The Youth please follow up and come up with dates that will suit you for these important free sessions. The two health people who are responsible for this area/zone would like to organise talks on the following topics – (mid next month) Depression, Suicide, Teenage Pregnancy, Side effects of Drugs and the importance of being conscious of our diet.

St Pius X Pre School: Application Forms for the coming year are now available in the Parish Office.

Youth 2017 AGM on 5th March, straight after the 8:30 Mass at the Fr Hurley Hall.

Parish Disaster Management Team: There has been 3 meetings on this matter so far: On the 5th January, on the 9th January and last Thursday Night on 12th January to discuss ways forward which will eventually lead to our Parish Disaster Management Team. Paulo Bale from the Archdiocesan Justice and Development Commission visited us on Thursday Night to give ideas as what is required according to the intension of the Archbishop. Any volunteers or interested persons are welcome to join the Team being formed gradually at this time in the Parish. We appeal to your sense of Christian Commitment and Civic Responsibility to help us form a Parish Disaster Team that will be ready for action when an emergency happens in our locality or country. Vinaka Vakalevu.

More Ushers Needed: The Commissioned Ushers (whose ministry is one of Welcoming and inviting people in and showing visitors to their places) are few in numbers. The Liturgy Commission would like to invite other to join the ranks of Ushers. So new volunteers will be welcomed. Thanks to the faith few that turns up Sunday after Sunday and are faithful to their commitment.

Overseas Donor of Reading Glasses (Specs) There has been a great response to this offer of free Reading Glasses. The donor from Australia informs us that he would be prepared to donate 40 pairs – and no bifocals as these require measurement of people eyes and that can't be done by him. So we will finalise the list of 40 this week and submit them to him – he did say that there might be customs implications. Can anyone inform us on that one???

Working Towards our forth coming 50th Anniversary of the Parish in 2018.

1. The Plans for the renewal of the Boundary Fence around the Church Compound has been approved by Suva City Council. These plans were presented by the 'Men of the Parish Club' to members of the Parish Executive Team on Thurs. 12th Jan.
2. The Parish Executive Team **invites the neighbours of Good Lane to a meeting on Monday Night in the Parish Hall** to look and have a discussion on the Plans. These Plans will also be presented to the Archbishop and Copas for their consideration. These Plans will be a part of our Development Plans for the Parish towards our 2018 Celebrations.

Thanks and Appreciation: To Community 6 St Pau's for animating the Liturgy during the week and for cleaning of the Church and compound yesterday. We invite Community 7a St Jacob's to continue as of tomorrow 16th Jan.

Thanks too for your generous Mass Collections last weekend.

1st Collection \$647.85; 2nd Collection 137.80; Envelopes \$20.00 = \$805.65.

Reading coming week 2nd Sunday of the Ordinary Time [15/1/17] Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1: 1-3; Jn 1: 29-34; Mon [16/1/17] Heb 5: 1-10; Mk 2: 18-22; Tue [17/1/17] **St Anthony, Abbot:** Heb 6: 10-20; Mk 2: 23-28; Wed [18/1/17] Heb 7: 1-3, 15-17; Mk 3: 1-6; Thurs [19/1/17] Heb 7: 25—8:6; Mk 3: 7-12; Fri [20/1/17] Heb 8: 6-13; Mk 3: 13-19; Sat [21/1/17] **St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr:** Heb 9: 2-3, 11-14; Mk 3: 20-21;

3rd Sunday of the Ordinary Time [22/1/17] Isaiah 8: 23—9:3; 1 Cor 1: 10-13, 17; Mt 4: 12-23