

# ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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### EASTER SUNDAY IN CYCLE C: – 03/04/16

#### 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.

**Low Sunday: Jubilee of Divine Mercy**

**This is been celebrated this weekend at The Vodafone Arena. The Procession this afternoon will start at 2.00pm from Marist Brother High School Ground concluding with Eucharist at 3.00pm.**

**Reflection for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Low Sunday – Divine Mercy Sunday:** It's Easter Sunday and the disciples are huddled together in a locked room. After what happened to Jesus just two days before, they dare not venture out because of fear for their lives. But Jesus himself does not hide away. Suddenly he comes among them. His greeting is peace. Their response is joy. For the story-teller John, Easter Sunday is Pentecost, and the gift of the Spirit is the breath of the Risen Christ. The disciples breathe in the Spirit and the Spirit becomes part of their lives. Soon they will leave the Upper Room changed persons – fearless and courageous, energetic and zealous people. In short they will leave as persons animated, fired and propelled outwards by the Holy Spirit.

We learn from the gospel story that Thomas comes to believe in the Risen Jesus in the same way as the other disciples, i.e. when he sees the Lord for himself. But in the way John tells the story Thomas stands for all those who have not yet seen the Lord in the flesh but who are called to believe in him just the same. That's where we come into the story. We are among those many generations of believers ever afterwards of whom it may be said: 'Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' It's understandable that Thomas was so slow to believe. One reason is that he was such a rugged individual, a real self-starter. The other is because he was not present when Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into his fellow-disciples. But Jesus has given the Spirit to you and me, first at Baptism, then at Confirmation, and subsequently at every Eucharist we celebrate. The Spirit which Jesus gives is the Spirit of truth. It's the same Spirit that empowers us to say to Jesus with Thomas: 'My Lord and my God!'

**In Loving Memory:** Liku Teresa Malo, Malau Place, Vatuwaqa who died on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March was buried in Nasinu after Requiem Mass on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. May she rest in peace. (Thanks to members of Community 5a).

**Ratu Joni Niumataivalu:** Father of Joe (4b) died on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> March, and whose funeral was on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April. (RIP).

**Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy:** The Archbishop invites us to join with him and the Archdiocese this weekend in celebrating the 'Year of Mercy'. He writes 'I ask Parish Priests to encourage parishioners to join 'Celebrating the Year of Mercy' in particular I would like **to share this Congress with our youth.** I request that parish youth prepare songs related to the Theme of Mercy' The Congress is taking place in the Vodafone Arena which started at 8.30am yesterday morning Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and continues today Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. **Youth Festival of Mercy was held last night Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> April from 6.00pm – 9.00pm. \*\*Raiwaqa Parish Youth are slotted for an item at 10.00am today Sunday morning 3<sup>rd</sup> April.** There will be a procession at 1.30 today and the Congress will end with Eucharist at 3.00pm. The programme for the Festival and Congress is posted around the church. We thank and wish our youth well in performing their item with the theme of Mercy. May we all experience some of God's ever abundant Mercy during this year.

**'Misericordiae Vultus' Pope Francis Encyclical on God's Mercy:** The Columbans (Fr Donal McIlraith) has printed in booklet form the Pope's Encyclical "Misericordiae Vultus" It is for sale at \$2.00 per copy. Plenty available.

**Another Short Word of Thanks for all who took part and prepared so well for the Easter Ceremonies:** The general 'Thank You' was expressed in last week's newsletter – but once again, thanks to all who sacrificed their time and talents to celebrate worthy the Paschal Mysteries – Members of the Liturgy Commission, the choir and readers, the youth, etc. **Of course everything planned doesn't always work out** – and all this will be analysed at the next meeting of the Liturgical Commission Meeting scheduled for Wednesday evening 6<sup>th</sup> April in the Hall at 7.30pm.

**Program on Easter Monday** (28.3.16) i.e. the clean up inside church, around the premises, planting of flowers and backyard gardening demo. Seedlings were to be distributed to all who attended. **These events did not happen.** Due perhaps to the Wet Monday Morning, but more likely due to the fact that everyone was so tired after Easter!!!

**The photos of all the Easter Ceremonies are on the Parish Website:** Thanks to Marjorie who has revamped the Parish Website – many of the photos of the Easter Ceremonies are posted on the Parish Website. So please do visit the website and invite your family members overseas to do likewise. The Parish Newsletter can always be found on the Website. **The address of the parish website is: stpiusxfj.com**

**Parish Guitar Missing:** One of our Parish Guitars have gone missing from the Music Room since Palm Sunday. Anyone who knows its where about or have taken a loan of it, please return it as soon as possible or contact Karalo. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

**CCD Classes Resumed:** Parents and guardians, please take note of this fact. Only a very small number have started CCD Class after 8.30am Mass - preparing for their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion later on in the year. Whereas no one has turned up yet for Confirmation Classes in the Church after 8.30am Mass. A worrying fact for 'Faith Formation Commission'.

**The Heads of Commissions:** It is urged that you identify the members of your Commissions – by finding out from past Parish Newsletters who are the members that make up your Commission. These were elected in each Community at recent AGMs. Each Commission should meet monthly before the PCC Meeting.

**Something very essential for the Growth & Running of the Parish - Training of Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors**

**Training for Parish Eucharistic Ministers:** First session on April 10, 2016, after the 8:30 Mass, at the Parish Hall.

**Training for Parish Lectors:** The first session on April 10, 2016, 10:00 - 11:30 am at the Hurley Hall

**\*\*Community Liturgy reps:** are encouraged to please remind your participants of the schedule. Names are to be given to Maria Qaranivalu on or before Wednesday, April 6, 2016.

**Liturgy Commission Meeting:** On April 6, 2016, 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

**Appeal Letter – Faith Alive Campaign:** The Parish Executives together with the Financial Council is striving to meet the Budget Target which is needed to run the parish for a year - are launching this appeal. In addition to your Sunday Offerings and Contribution to the Parish Bazaar, this campaign targets **200 parishioners to voluntary partake** in envelope contribution of \$260.00 per year so to meet the Budget Target for the coming year. They are naming the Campaign as the 'Faith Alive Campaign'. The Appeal letter and return **Slip - Forms** are ready for distribution via your Community Leaders and Financial Reps. These volunteering to participate in this Appeal will pledge to contribute \$5.00 per week for 52 weeks or \$20/25.00 per month for 12 months or \$65.00 per quarter or the yearly amount of \$260 once. As well as seeing this necessary for the running of our existing programmes e.g. CCD, Evangelization, Charity and Mission, Maintenance and Operational – we could also see this as necessary to the build up towards the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish which we will be celebrating in 2018. I endorse this appeal and commend it to your continuing generosity. Fr John McEvoy.

**Charismatic Prayer Meeting** this evening as usual at 3.00pm in the Church. Appreciation to those who did the Novena of the Divine Mercy – which finishes today – Divine Mercy Sunday.

**St. Peter Chanel community 7 steps:** On Tuesday next 5<sup>th</sup> April starts at 7.30pm. Venues as follows:

**Group 1:** Grantham Road and Davui Lane at Rokodovu's home. & **Group 2:** Milverton area at Don Williams home.

**Social Justice Commission Meeting:** Will take place after 8.30am Mass this Sunday. All Reps strive to be present.

**For your Generous Contributions:** Thanks to members of [1b] St Cecilia's for animating the Liturgy during Easter Week and the clean-up of the church & compound yesterday. You did very well. We invite Members of Community 2, St Joseph the Worker to continue from tomorrow 4<sup>th</sup> April. **Details of your Easter Collections published here:**

**Lenten Appeal - \$510.52; Holy Places - \$354.00; Holy Thursday Collection - \$567.00; Good Friday Collection - \$1213.90; Easter Saturday Night - \$830.90; Easter Sunday Morning - \$604.75.** Again thanks for your generosity towards the above.

**Reading coming week: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter:** Gen 15:5-2, 17-18; Phil 3: 17—4:1; Luke 9:28-36; Mon [04/04/16] Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8; Tues [05/04/16] Acts 4:32-37; John 3: 7-15; Wed [06/04/16] Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21; Thurs [07/04/16] Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36; Fri [08/04/16] Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15; Sat [09/04/16] Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21; **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter** [10/04/16] Exodus 3:1-8, 3-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9.