

# ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER – LOW SUNDAY IN CYCLE A: – 23/04/17

#### 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 – 6.00pm

**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: Divine Mercy Sunday**  
Each Parish is to celebrate this Sunday in their own Parishes. Thanks to the small group in the parish who have been meeting for the Novena of Divine Mercy from Good Friday to yesterday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

**PPC Meeting Next Sunday after 8.30 Mass**

**Reflection for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Low Sunday – Divine Mercy Sunday:** In the gospel reading today we find the disciples locking themselves into a room because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Even though Mary Magdalene had come to them from the empty tomb announcing, “I have seen the Lord,” this was not enough to overcome their fear. What had been done to Jesus could be done to them... which led to their hiding in self-imposed confinement. The turning point came when the risen Lord himself appeared to them behind their closed doors and helped them over their fear. He did this by breathing on them the Holy Spirit, filling them new energy and hope, freeing them from fear and releasing them to share in his mission. “As the Father sent me, so am I sending you,” he said. In the power of the Spirit they came to life and went out from their self-imposed prison and bear witness to the risen Lord. This is the picture of the disciples that Luke gives us in the first reading today. He describes a community of believers, the church, witnessing to the resurrection both in word and by the quality of their living.

We can all find ourselves in the situation of those first disciples locked in their hiding place. Like the disciples in the gospel reading, we can be tempted to give up on our faith journey. The will to self-preservation can prevent us from doing what we are capable of doing with the Lord’s help. The wounds we carry from earlier, failed initiatives make us hesitate to try again. Even when someone seems full of enthusiasm and hope like a Mary Magdalene, we shrug it off. We let them get on with it, while we hold back and stay safe. The gospel reading today suggests a way out of our self-imposed confinement. If Magdalene makes no impact on us, the Lord will find another way to enter our lives and to fill us with new life and energy for his service. No locked doors, nor even locked hearts, can keep him out. He finds a way to enter the space where we have chosen to retreat and he empowers us to resist what is holding us back. He does require some openness on our part; at the least some desire on our part to become what he is calling us to be. The risen Lord never ceases to recreate us and to renew us in his love. Easter is the season to celebrate the good news.

**In Loving Memory: Late Death Notice: Patrick Morell**, Good Sir Lane (Community 7b) died Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April, was buried in Serua on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April. May he rest in peace.

**Welcome to the Christian Community:** Josaia Iowane Kuruduadua; Simone Tuisawana Vutoni & Nanise Makitalena Vilisi, Viria Road Vatuwaqa (5b); Havilah Carrienne Gibbons, Tamani Lane (4b); Pelasio Marawa Daveta & Marcelin Therasia Losalini Daveta, 7 Ming Ting Lane, Raiwaqa (4a); Manasa Leonard Carl Yeates (4a) – all of whom were baptised on Easter Sunday Morning during the 9.00am Mass. **Thanks expressed to Baptism Instructors.**

**Feast of St Peter Chanel: Priests Day on 28<sup>th</sup> April:** We will have a Mass for the Feast Day at 6.30pm on Friday evening followed by a social gathering in the parish Hall. Refreshments will be the usual contributions from the Communities: Tuna Sandwiches – (4b, 2 & 3) Egg Sandwiches – (1b, 4c, 5a & 7b) Pie – (4a, 5b, 6 & 7a) The parish will provide grog, tea, sugar, milk and juice. Vinaka all.

**Retreat - Charismatic Prayer group:** held their annual retreat at Wailekutu Prayer Centre yesterday 22/04/2017.

**Meeting of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission:** Took place in the Fr Hurley Hall yesterday 22/04/2017.

**Central Eastern Meeting World Apostolate of Fatima Prayer Group:** Met in the Parish Hall yesterday 22/04/17.

**Diocesan Seminarian Formation Collection: Letter from the Archbishop:** “I thank priests who have inspired and mentored youths towards the priestly vocation. I thank married couples and families who through their love have formed young men who are now priests or currently in the seminary. I thank the Catholic Women’s League for their annual Soli since 1984 for the diocesan seminarians’ tuition. The 1<sup>st</sup> CWL Soli in 1984 raised \$4,000.00. Last year they raised \$200,000.00 of which 46% (\$92,000.00) goes towards the seminarian’s tuition. I also thank the various associations and movements in the Archdiocese that have also inspired young men towards priesthood  
The Archdiocese of Suva has formed 48 priests. We have 12 Seminarians currently at PRS. The annual tuition for a seminarian is around \$14,000.00. This brings the total tuition for 12 seminarians to \$168,000.00.  
Since we all share the responsibility of forming of our diocesan priest, I ask all parish to take up a special collection on the Sunday (April 30<sup>th</sup>) after the Feast of St Peter Chanel, April 28<sup>th</sup>. This will become an annual diocesan collection. We request that you put your Soli in the Seminarian Collection Envelope or send it into the parish. I look forward to your support for the formation of diocesan seminarians and last but not least pray for vocation to the priesthood. May God bless the good work you are doing”. Archbishop Peter Loy Chong. **Special Envelopes will be given out today.**

**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, the Ushers and Eucharistic Ministers etc. **Omitted from the long lists last week were members of the Financial Council** who played a special role in regulating the Collections after all was over. Their time and sacrifice acknowledged here. **Of course, everything planned doesn’t always work out** – there will be an analysis at a special Liturgical Commission Meeting after 8.30 Mass today 23/04/17.

**The photos of all the Easter Ceremonies are on the Parish Website:** – many of the photos of the Easter Ceremonies in the parish are posted on the Parish Website including the Youth Good Friday Drama of the Stations of the Cross. Do please 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](http://stpiusxfj.com)**

**The Charismatic Convention next weekend [28/04 to 30/04/2017] at Natovi:** The Charismatic Group departs church at 4pm on Friday and return on Sunday around 8.00pm. Members wishing to join the group, please give name to the Parish Coordinator before Wednesday 26/04.

**Urgent Appeal from Teachers of St Pius X Kindergarten:** Our Kindy Teachers request soft toys and other children’s toys together with Lego sets and children story books that you may have in your homes and not using any more. Vinaka. **CCD classes** will take place after the 07.00am Mass from now on after 7.00am Mass. (The reason for this is that they are not in the way of other parish meetings. CCD teachers are very often need to attend these meetings.)

**Catholic Bibles on Sale for \$15.00** in Parish Office from Parish Coordinator or Evangelization Commission Head.

#### **Meetings Today Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. 2017**

1. **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** at 3.00pm in the Church with **Divine Mercy** followed by praise and worship.
2. **The World Apostolate of Fatima** prayer meeting at 4pm.
3. **Justice and Development Meeting:** This Sunday 23/4/17 Fr Hurley Hall after 8.30 Mass - Recent Reports.

#### **Meetings during the Week:**

1. **Prayer Meetings** in most Communities (7 Steps) on Tuesday Evening 18<sup>th</sup> April.
2. **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting** Monday 24 April at 7.30 in the Parish Hall.
3. **Youth Prayer Meeting** (7 Steps) Friday straight after the 6:30 pm Mass.
4. **Get Fit – Stay Healthy: Zumba Dance Exercise:** Every Saturday Morning Vuiyasawa Park from 6 - 7am.
5. **Evangelisation & Bible meets** on 7<sup>th</sup> May after 8.30am Mass.

**Thanks, and Appreciation:** To Community 1b St Cecilia’s for animating the Liturgy during the week and for cleaning of the Church & compound. We invite Community 2 St Joseph the Worker to continue from tomorrow 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**Thanks too for your generous Collections over the Easter weekend. The following is a summary of Easter Collections: Holy Thursday \$595.25; Archdiocesan Lenten Appeal \$462.00; Good Friday \$854.20; Holy Places \$227.00; Easter Saturday Night \$776.75; Easter Sunday Morning \$579.10; Envelope Pledge \$340.00 = **\$3,834.3.****

**Reading coming week: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter [23/4/17] Acts 2: 42-47; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19-31; Mon [24/4/17] Acts 4: 23-31; John 3: 1-8; Tue [25/4/17] St Mark, Evangelist: Acts 4: 32-37; John 3: 7-15; Wed [26/4/17] Acts 5: 17-26; John 3: 16-21; Thurs [27/4/17] St Louis Grignon de Monfort: Acts 5: 27-33; John 6: 31-36; Fri [28/4/17] St Peter Chanel: Acts 5: 34-42; John 6: 1-15; Sat [29/4/17] St Catherine of Siena: Acts 6: 1-7; John 6: 16-21; **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter** [30/4/17] Acts 2: 14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1: 17-21; Luke 24: 13-35**