



# ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT - CYCLE B: 25/02/18

#### 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.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 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.

**The Catholic Times is ready for collection in the Office now by Community leaders or Financial Reps. \$1.00 each. Thank You.**

**This year there will be a printed Envelope for your Parish Easter Offerings like as it was done some years ago.**

**The Turning of the Wheel: Fr Frank's Book on the Columban History in Fiji. Selling at \$10.00.**

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent: Preparing to Let Go:

The early church understood the relationship between Abraham and Isaac as pointing ahead to the relationship between God the Father and Jesus. Like Abraham, God was prepared to let go of what was most precious to him, his divine Son, out of love for humanity. God was prepared to let his Son take on our flesh, with all the dangers that entailed. Saint Paul marvels at this generosity of God on our behalf, as he writes, 'God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all'. God let his precious Son join in our humanity even though the consequences meant the rejection of Jesus by his own people and, ultimately, his crucifixion. Even after Jesus was crucified, God continued to give him to us as risen Lord. When Paul contemplates this self-emptying love of God for us, he asks the rhetorical question, 'With God on our side who can be against us?' If God's love for us is so total, then we have nothing to fear from anything or anyone.

Peter, James and John are taken up a high mountain by Jesus, and have an experience which takes their breath away. It was an experience so precious that Peter could not let it go. He wanted to prolong it indefinitely and so he says to Jesus, 'Rabbi . . . let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He and the other two disciples had a fleeting glimpse of the heavenly beauty of Christ, and did not want to let go of it. Beauty attracts the eye and the heart; it calls out to us. Yet, Peter and the others had to let go of this precious experience; it was only ever intended to be momentary. They would receive it back in the next life as a gift. For now, their task was to listen to Jesus, 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him'. That is our task too. We spend our lives listening to the Lord as he speaks to us in his word and in and through the circumstances of our lives; we listen to him as a preparation for that wonderful moment when we see him face to face in eternity and we can finally say, 'it is wonderful to be here.'

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday Last:** Attendance was vastly improved. Thank you parishioners for making that extra effort to boost the numbers – in answer to our requests for **more prayers for Lent and in preparation for our Golden Jubilee**. Adoration is also requested by the Pope's for World Peace at this time. As well as all that attended last week can we again suggest members of Community 2 to provide some members for **Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday afternoons 5.00pm – 6.00pm:** It will make a difference to the life and spiritual wellbeing of the Parish. Like last week we will finish the Holy Hour with Benediction.

**Welcome to Sr Lavinia and Marist Sisters Regional Leadership Team** to St Pius X Parish. The Sisters moved into the Parish, 39 Aidney Street, Raiwaqa on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. They are wished every success and blessings in their new residence – and hopefully they will be a leaven among us in the years to come.

**The Gospel of St Mark:** You are invited to a Seminar on the Gospel of Mark with Fr Donal McIlraith on Tuesday & Thursday from 7pm - 8pm for 3 weeks starting Tuesday, 27 February in the Cathedral Crypt.

**Columban Centenary Altar Cloth:** Last week the Altar Cloth (9.5metres long) visited Corpus Christi College, PRS and was in the Cathedral for the 1.05pm Mass to mark the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Coming of the Columbans to Fiji on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 1952. It is in Labasa this weekend. It is scheduled to be in Raiwaqa from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**'Wheels of Time' Communications Committee for Golden Jubilee** - will host a **Talanoa Session** with parishioners on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am in AB Mataca Hall. Speakers past Chairperson and Vice of Parish, Vero & Rafa.

1. **Archdiocesan Lenten Appeal:** This is taken up each year for the poor and homeless. **Lenten Appeal Envelopes in the office to be picked up by Community Leaders and Financial Reps** from 3, 4b, 4c 7a and 7b. These envelopes are to be returned on Holy Thursday. There will also be a collection for the Holy Places on Good Friday. These moneys will be sent to the Archdiocesan CSEJ and Pontifical Mission Society Office, Nicolas House – for the homeless. The Archbishop has promised to send some of our Lenten appeal to Tonga.
2. **Stations of the Cross:** As in other years On Wednesday Evenings in Fijian and on Friday Evenings in English at 5.45pm before the evening Masses. The Community animating the liturgy will lead the Stations of the Cross.

**Lectors Training Workshop:** begins this Sunday 25th Feb after the 8.30am Mass in the Hurley Hall. The workshop will continue throughout the Sundays in March with final session on Sunday 8th April 2018. Six Sundays in total. All those who submitted their names from the Communities for this training please take note.

**MOP: Men of the Parish: Retreat Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> March** starting at 9.00am – conducted by Fr Iowane Gukibau. Now that the Seat Pews have been complete we turn our attention to the next Project for our Golden Jubilee – that is the tiling of the Church Floor – a project sponsored by the MOP. Their Pledges for the tiling of Church Floor - going well.

**WOP: Women of the Parish:** Membership is open to all women of the parish, 18years & above. Our mission is simply to be a community of women in the parish. Due date for collection of pledge form & money is Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March in AB Petero Mataca hall from 4pm - 8pm. Contact Patricia Burese for Pledge Forms after Sunday Mass.

**Evangelization - 7 STEPS and visitation by Animators:** Communities visited so far are 7A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 7B, 2, 6 and 4C. Thank you for hosting the animators and you're encouraged to continue with the weekly 7 steps sharing. The animators will be visiting the following communities 1B, 3 and 4A on Tuesday (27/02). Community Leaders and Evangelisation reps are requested to organise and inform Parish Coordinator of venues for 7 steps.

**World Apostolate of Fatima:** Workshop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March held at Fr Hurley Hall – Sister Sisi facilitator. Time 9.00am – 2.00pm. World of Apostolate of Fatima Book @ \$12.00 each. Contact Mere Avaiki.

**Parish Meetings:** Today **Cenacle @ 2pm, Divine Mercy @ 3pm, Charismatics @ 3.30pm** and **WAF @ 4.30pm**.

**Important Meeting: - CCD Teachers & Parents** of those attending CCD Classes. Today after 8.30 Mass.

**Youth Drama Practice for Good Friday:** Today after 8.30am Mass.

**Marriage and Baptism Instructors Meeting** after 8.30am Mass.

**Charismatic Group meets at 5pm** after prayer meeting in the hall. Members please attend meeting.

**Ecumenical Service today @ 3.00pm** in Davuilevu Theological College.

**Fiji Language Lenten Retreat:** Today in Wailekutu Prayer Centre from 9.00am until 3.00pm.

**Seven Steps in 4a:** at Ema and Mausio Mua Residence. Followed by Community Meeting. **7 Steps in Communities.**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March:** Meeting of the Jubilee Sub Committee Leaders at 7.30pm.

**Friday/Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> March:** Youth Rally at Sacred Heart College, Nasese. 25 from parish invited. Reg. \$2.00.

**Thanks:** To Community 1B St Cecelia for animating the Liturgy during the week & cleaning of the Church & compound yesterday. Community 2 St Joseph the Worker starts this week from tomorrow Mon, 26/02/2018.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$863.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$101.35; Envelops \$80.00 = \$1,044.35**

**Reading coming week: Second Sunday of Lent** [25/2/18] Gen 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8: 31b-34; Mk 9: 2-10; Mon [26/2/18] Dn 9: 4b-10; Lk 6: 36-38; Tue [27/2/18] Is 1: 10, 16-20; Mt 23: 1-12; Wed [28/2/18] Jer 18: 18-20; Mt 20: 17-28; Thurs [1/3/18] Jer 17: 5-10; Lk 16: 19-31; Fri [2/3/18] Gen 37: 3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21: 33-43, 45-46; Sat [3/3/18] Mi 7: 14-15, 18-20; Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32; **3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Lent** [4/3/18] Ex 20: 1-17; 1 Cor 1: 22-25; Jn 2: 13-25.

#### **From the Archbishop to the Clergy of the Central Eastern Division – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2018 in Nicolas House.**

- Part of the Lenten Appeal will be sent to Tonga – where lots of damage was done by Cyclone Gita eg. 75% of the population affected; 31,882 children affected; 1,131 houses partially damaged; 119 homes totally destroyed; 108 evacuation centres where 4,500 evacuees took shelter from the cyclone.
- It was decided that the **2<sup>nd</sup> Collection on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent** will also be sent to Tonga. The AB also will request the youth to organise a concert around Easter for relieve in Tonga in the form of choir singing etc etc.
- The Archbishop will **appeal for Tonga on the Archdiocesan Facebook Page** where people can donate.
- The Archbishop was very concerned about **how the Commissions were working in parishes**. Each parish has a different idea of what the Commissions should be doing and how they are put together by election/or appointment etc. The AB considers that each Commission consist of 8 to 12 members to be effective. That sometimes members elected from the Communities may not be the best way to go. In his opinion the better way would be to identify talent, find out who has a desire for the work of a given Commission, then issue an invitation to these people to be a member of a particular Commission. He indicated that ‘The Commissions’ are the **Power House of the Parish**. The Commissions have all the **Concerns of the Parish at Heart and work for the whole Parish**. He also felt that **all the Parish Organisations** need not necessary be grouped or come under a Commission – that they be left to do their own works may be a better way to go.

- **CJD** to be changed and to be known now as **CSEJ = Commission of Social and Ecological Justice.**