

# ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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Assistant Priests: Fr Carlo Jung and Fr Koroiciri

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENTEN SEASON 24/03/2019 (YEAR C)

### 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:** 5.30pm – 6.30pm

**Friday Holy Hour:** Friday before the First Sunday (Youth Sunday) - 6:30pm (Mass) adoration until 8:30pm. World Apostolate of Fatima continues the Adoration until 10pm.

**Holy days** 7:00 am. & 7:00 pm. except Christmas & New Year.

**Confessions:** - Friday & Saturdays after Mass.

**Baptisms:** At 8.30am Mass on the first Sunday of the month. Parents wishing for baptism of their child make arrangements with the assistance of Community Leaders in seeking Sacrament Priests before commencing preparation Baptismal Helpers.

**Matrimony:** Those preparing for marriage must contact a priest to seek for the Sacrament and are required to undertake preparation sessions earnestly. Guidelines are available at the Parish Office.

**RCIA:** Session every Sunday after the 7am Mass, as for now programs are held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5pm and Saturdays at 3pm to 5pm.

### Update on Synod

1. **Theme:** 'Connecting in Jesus/Neighbor'. 'Creation' is the theme for the closing celebrations.

2. **Regional Pre Synod Mass 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2019** – Liturgy in the three regions in preparation for the Synod Meeting.

3. **Synod Meeting** – The Synod Meeting will be held at the Novotel Hotel in Lami on 7 – 9 June, 2019.

4. **Parish Level Synod Spirit Build Up** – 10<sup>th</sup> June to 29<sup>th</sup> June would be an excellent time for Parishes to stimulate spiritual interest and awareness and take the initiative to organize programs to prepare for our Synod Year closing celebrations eg. Holy Hour, Liturgy, prayers and some other activities.

*(Further updates to follow)*

### Reflection for the 3rd Sunday of Lent: Learn from the gardener

Death stares out at us from our newspapers and TV screens. Apart from natural deaths, somewhere in the world there's always some natural calamity, a terrorist attack, (last week in Christchurch, which left 50 worshippers dead) ethnic brutalities, murder for gain, epidemics, tsunamis, earthquake or famine. People who were expected to live to old age die suddenly while others whose childhood was marked by illness often survive to a remarkable age. Our reactions to other people's death can be, "Maybe it was his/her time to go" or "It should not have happened so soon!" When people told Jesus how some Galileans died, victims of Pilate's anger, they wondered how God could have let this happen; but instead of explaining it, Jesus asks "do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?" He goes on to warn about the need of repentance. "Unless you repent, you will all perish as they did!" and illustrates this with the parable of the fruitless tree. The parable of the fruitless fig tree is thought-provoking. The fig tree that bore no fruit is like a Christian who does no good work and lives a purely selfish life.

Francis of Assisi once invited a young friar to go with him into town to preach. Francis and the young friar spent all day walking through the streets and then came home. When the day's journey was done, the young friar was disappointed and asked "Weren't we supposed to preach today?" Francis replied, "Son, we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking. We were seen by many and our behavior was noted. It is of no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach wherever as we walk!" He summed up his idea in these words "Preach the Gospel everywhere, and if necessary, use words." The gardener in the Gospel asked the owner of the vineyard to give the barren fig tree another chance to produce fruit. He promised to dig around it and manure it, one last chance to prove itself. We too need to nurture our faith and commit ourselves to helping the lives of others.

**RCIA - 24 Mar:** *First Scrutiny*; St Pius X Parish; 7.00am Mass. **31<sup>st</sup> Mar:** *Second Scrutiny*; St Pius X Parish, 7.00am Mass. **7<sup>th</sup> April:** *Third Scrutiny*; St Pius X Parish, 7.00am.

**Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord:** Mass on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, will be celebrated at 6.30pm.

**The Columban wellness Programme:** Four teams registered and weighed in on Saturday morning 16<sup>th</sup> March. There will be an Aerobics Sessions in the Hall on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 morning at 6am. Please bring fruit with you.

**Parish Financial Committee Meeting:** Held last Wednesday – was a lively and informative meeting but attended by Financial Reps from only 5 Communities: 1B, 2, 4b, 6 and 7A. The statement of income and expenditure for the 1<sup>st</sup> two months of 2019 were presented and explained. Monthly statements are now presented to the RCA Offices together with our monthly 15% tax. There were discussions on the ongoing problem of the sewage overflow into our car park, the need for a new parish water blaster, the fan –systems in church and halls need to be revamped, LED electric tube lights for the Halls and outside security lights, need to look into acquiring of fire reels and extinguishers for the church and halls, new parish computer for parish records and parish census, the envelope pledge for communities and the proposed quarterly kati that was proposed at our AGM. The 1<sup>st</sup> of these will be organized for the end of March. Since there was such a poor turn up on Wednesday night – it was decided that the next meeting of the Finance Reps will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month after 8.30 Mass. (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday next month will be Easter Sunday)

**Family Life Commission;** PRS Pastoral Training Program continues its 4th week at St Cecelia's 1B tonight.

**Lenten Appeal:** Let us not forget the Archbishop's Lenten Appeal for the poor and Homeless. Envelopes have been given out at the beginning of Lent. These will be returned at Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday.

**Parish Reconciliation** on the 12<sup>th</sup> April; Laucala Bay 17<sup>th</sup> April and Nadera on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Men of the Parish** general clean up from 8<sup>th</sup> April to 13<sup>th</sup> April. More details in next Sunday's Newsletter

**Stations of the Cross:** Wednesday (Fijian) and Friday (English) at 5:45 pm; Adoration on Thursday at 5:30 pm - to be led by community on duty for the week.

**Parish Jubilee Celebration Video Discs** are ready for sale at \$30.00 with Jubilee Magazine. Those interested could place cash order now at the parish office. **Only 3 Copies left.**

**Senior Youth 7 Steps Venue Tuesday, April 2** – A (1B+4A) Amini Qalo, B(2+3+7A+7B) Mrs. Nawalu, C (4B+4C) Maciu Vatuloka, D(5AB+Veidogo) Bruce Vute, E (5B Nanuku) Adriu Conaliku, F (6) Leo Roqica

**Tuesday, April 16** – A (1B+4A) Eroni Vira, B(2+3+7A+7B) Terrence, (4B+4C) Vasemaca (5AB+Veidogo) Bruce Vute, E (5B Nanuku) Adriu Conaliku (6) Leo Roqica,

**Youth Commission** wishes to thank Fr Martin and the 3 Seminarians who facilitated in the Youth Empowerment Weekend Retreat at Marist Champagnat Institute. Thanks and appreciation also to the 25 parish Youth who gave up their Saturday and Sunday to be a part of the weekend. 1. **Youth visitation** has been deferred to April 6 instead of March 30<sup>th</sup>. **Youth Empowerment** workshop are led by the Columban seminarians (Navitalai and Elia).

**CCD Classes** continue this morning. Thanks to St Jacob's for the refreshments today. There will be no classes next Sunday, but the teachers will have their *Evaluation* immediately after the 7.00am Mass in the AB Mataca Hall. Up for discussion in the evaluation exercise is the perceived poor attendance at the Confirmation and post Confirmation classes among other issues affecting the Children's Catechism program in general. Teachers please take note. **Confirmation registration deadline Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>** - last day for registration for Confirmation. ***We start with the two-year program on Sunday 12th May.***

**Parish Meetings and Prayers Today and during the week:**

**1. Extraordinary Ministers of Communion:** Meeting today after the 8.30am mass at 10am. Please all members make an effort to attend

**2. Charismatic Prayer** meeting at 3.00pm. Followed by Divine Mercy and World Apostolate of Fatima.

**3. Parish Pastoral Council** will have its first sitting next Sunday, 31 March at 1000. Venue is the AB Mataca Hall.

**Synod Committee in Lami** is holding a Kava Barrel fundraising night on the 26<sup>th</sup> April – to fund transport for the Youth Rally and other program from the Archdiocesan Synod Team (See Notice Board).

**Thanks:** to St Joseph the Worker Community 2, for animating the Liturgies during the week and the Church cleaning yesterday. St Joan of Arc Community 3, to take on these important responsibilities from tomorrow (**including Thursday Adoration**).

**Thanks for last Sunday's Collection:** 1st Collection: **\$894.15**; 2nd Collection: **\$194.70** Total: **\$1088.85**

**Readings Today: Third Sunday of Lent 24/03:** Ex 3:1-8, 13-15/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9; **The Annunciation of the Lord- Mon 25/03:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38; **Tue26/03:** Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35; **Wed 27/03:** Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19; **Thurs 28/03:** Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23; **Fri 29/03:** Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34; **Sat 30/03:** Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14; **Fourth Sunday of 31/03:** Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32.