

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - CYCLE B: 17/12/17

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.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.

Today we celebrate the Rite of Anointing of the Sick for our elderly parishioners.

This will be followed in the AB Mataka Hall with refreshments. We express thanks to the Family Life Commission for organising the import event for our Senior Citizens. May they all have a happy, Blessed and joyful

Today's Advent Candle is Rose Colour: Symbolizing Joy: Today Gaudete Sunday has this joyful message: "Rejoice always. give thanks and hold fast to what is good." (Shepherd's Candle).

Reflection 3rd Sunday of Advent: In a spirit of joyful service

Today's readings are brimful of joy and hope. Israel radiates as a joyful bride coming to her bridegroom adorned for a lavish, oriental wedding. Paul's words to the Thessalonians continue the theme of hope and joy in a community that lives by the life of Christ. And St John, in the gospel, pictures the work of John the Baptist, who came to witness to God's light upon this earth. This is not a joyousness without responsibility. It's a joy that is found when people find and carry out their true mission in life. Isaiah speaks of one anointed and sent to bring good news to the oppressed – words that were adopted by Jesus to describe his own life's purpose – just as they should also be made real in the life of every Christian. Those privileged to share in Jesus' spiritual life must also share in his concerns and desires.

Two key ideas in today's readings go well together:

1. The spiritual joy that marks the Christian faith, that we are waiting for the coming of the Lord, and our entry into a life of eternal communion with God. The other is the willingness to bear our share of the Christian work-load, to do our bit, in our time, to realise the goals of Jesus in our world.
2. Our advent-mission to help the needy, if we are to carry on "the project of Jesus" – the commitment he always showed to people on the margins. Practical examples of his "good news for the poor" People who live peaceful and prosperous lives should not to be afraid to let the pain of the needy come through to them and touch them. By "passing by on the other side," is not the authentic joy announced in today's reading.

In Loving Memory: Losana Ve'ehala (Tonga) (50) Born on 27 January, 1967; Called to eternal rest on 10th December, 2017 (in Suva); Losana was a former Columban Lay Missionary who worked in the Philippines from 1996-2004 and presently was Columban Vocation Co-Ordinator in Tonga. Her **Memorial Mass** was held here in St Pius X Church, Raiwaqa on Thursday, 14th December 2017 at 6:30 pm. Her body was taken back to Tonga on yesterday Saturday 16th and her funeral will take place in Kolonga Parish, Niutoua, Tonga on Tuesday 19th December, 2017. Our deepest sympathies to her family and friends in Tonga and Fiji. She was very popular while working here in the Parish for a few years - her smiles, laughter and her great sense of humour will be missed. May she rest in Peace.

Memorial Mass for Losana Ve'ehala Raiwaqa 14th Dec: It was mainly a Lay Missionary Columban affair – but parishioners were highly involved too. About 200 including visitors attended the Memorial Mass. A huge word of thanks to Sophie and the CCIM women who did the cooking and serving of dinner; to the Liturgy Commission and to the Parish choir assisted by Community 2 who had only a short time to prepare they hymns for this special Mass; to Pauliasi, Alan and those who prepared the setting for liturgy and readied the hall for the evening function and who cleaned up afterwards. The gathering and the sharing of stories about the life of Losana in the AB Mataka Hall was beautiful too. All in all, another very successful evening in Raiwaqa Parish. Vinaka Vakalevu. JME.

Parish Rite of Reconciliation/Confessions: Will be celebrated on Tuesday 19th Dec. after 6.30pm Mass.

New Lectors Training Course due to begin today - Postponed to the New Year: Only 7 volunteered at this stage.

Evangelization Commission: Carol Singing Saturday Evening: No report on today's Newsletter. See next issue.
Thanks to Visoni, Marj & Alan – our Echo Crib is in place again this year and was blessed as part of Carol Service.

From the Archbishop and Curia Offices: Parish Appointments & Ordinations:

We congratulate **Fr. Pat Visanti** of the Columban Fathers who was ordained to the priesthood on Nov. 23.

Diaconate Ordinations: is scheduled for February 10th, 2018. The Archdiocese has two candidates for the diaconate: Edward Vakatora and Semi Ulunasobu. I ask the Congregations that have candidates for the diaconate to please inform me. The congregations are also responsible for the celebration of the Rite of Candidacy to the Priesthood.

New Parish Appointments: I congratulate and thank the following priests for accepting their new appointments:

- Fr. Luke Nalau, Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Vatukoula
- Fr. Petero Nimilote, temporarily assigned as Come and See Director and Navesi while awaiting studies.
- Fr. Mateo Waqa, Pastor of St. Andrew's Parish Savarekareka
- Fr. Timoci Kolidisi, Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish Nadera
- Fr. Tomasi Selesitino, Parochial Vicar Our Lady of Hope Parish Vanuakula
- Fr. Vio Drou, Parochial Vicar St Joseph the Worker Parish Tamavua
- Fr. Tito Muavesi sm, Parish Administrator Holy Eucharist Parish Laucala Bay
- Fr. Fabiano Dakai sm, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Levuka
- Fr. Petero Tagidrau sm, temporary assignment St Mary's Parish Nadi

As the year 2017 comes to an end I take this time to sincerely thank you all for the good work you are doing for God's people. I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Bible Dairy's for Sale: After the Masses or from the Parish Office at \$15.00 each. (Only 16 left) There are still a few **Columban Calendars** available: The Art Calendar \$5.00 and the Colourful Wall Calendar at \$2.00 each.

Workshop on Stress Management, Anxiety, Depression and Suicide will be held in the parish Hall on Wednesday and Thursday 20/21st Dec. 2017 run by the Department of Health;

We all experience some level of stress or anxiety at different times in our lives in response to challenging and stressful situations. This can have a considerable impact on our lives, disrupting study, work and even relationships. Hence, the importance of this two (2) days training sessions in the Parish Hall on Wednesday and Thursday Next week on 20th and 21st Dec. cover many aspects of **Stress Management, Anxiety, Depression and Suicide** (SADS) and basic **counselling skills** and the aim is to give all participants the opportunity to learn the background and theory, have a 'hands on' experience of working with those that will benefit from the services. Communities in the Parish use this opportunity and send at least one delegate/Rep from your Community to attend this important Workshop. SVDP members and sporting groups within the community can also attend the training as well. It is free and meals provided.

Parish Christmas Programme – Drawn up Liturgy Commission:

- **Next Sunday 24th Dec is Christmas Eve.** There will be on one Morning Mass next Sunday at 8.30am.
- **Christmas Night Mass** will be celebrated at 9.00pm preceded by a half an hour Carol Singing.
- **Children's Christmas Drama** will be performed at the time of the Gospel,
- **Christmas Morning Mass** only one Mass on Christmas Morning at 9.00am.
- **Mass on St Stephen's Day Tuesday 26th Dec.** Mass at 9.00am
- **New Year's Eve – Sunday 31st Dec.** Normal Masses in the morning 7.00am and 8.30am.
- **No New Year's Eve Mass.**
- **Monday 1st Jan 2018 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass at 9.00am.**

Rite of Reconciliation on Tuesday 19th after the 6.30pm Mass. Visiting Priests. Please avail of opportunity. General Christmas clean up by all Communities (as many as can make it) on Saturday 23rd Dec.

Meetings Today Sunday 17th Dec.

1. Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner and sing along – carols and party. Let's honour them in a special Way.
2. Cenacle at 2.00pm; Charismatic at 3.00 and World Apostolate of Fatima at 4.00pm.
3. Choir practice at 5:00 pm in the Hall - Sunday 17th Dec

Meetings during the Week:

1. (7 Steps) this Tues 5th Dec. 2017 at 7.30pm in all Communities.
2. Drama Practice every evening at 3.00pm in the Hall. Thanks Filo Ruru – for producing drama this year.

Thanks: To Community 2 – St Joseph the Worker - for animating the Liturgy during the week & cleaning of the Church & compound yesterday. Community 3 St Joan of Arc starts tomorrow Mon 18th Dec. 2017

Thanks too for your generous Collection for last week. The following is a summary:

1st Collection \$522.15; 2nd Collection: \$84.40; Envelopes \$205.00 = \$811.55

Reading coming week; 3rd Sunday of Advent [17/12] Is 61: 1-2. 10-11; Thess 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8. 19-28; Mon [18/12] Sam 5: 1-7. 10; Mark 3: 22-30; Tues [19/12] Sam 6: 12-15. 17-19; Mark 3: 31-35; Wed [20/12] Sam 7: 4-17; Mark 4: 1-20; Thurs [21/12]

Sam 7: 18-19. 24-29; Mark 4: 21-25; Fri [22/12] Sam 11: 1-10. 13-17; Mark 4: 26-34; Sat [23/12] Sam 12: 1-7. 10-17; Mark 4: 35-41; **4th Sunday of Advent** [24/12] Sam 7: 1-5. 8-12. 14. 16; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38.