

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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3RD SUNDAY IN LENT - YEAR A: 19/03/17

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 7:00am. & 7:00pm. except Christmas & N. Year.

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confessions: - Friday & Saturdays after Mass.

Baptisms: The 8.30am Mass on the first Sunday of the month is reserved for Baptisms. Arrangements to be made by parents seeking the sacrament of Baptism from 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.

Welcome to the Christian Community

Flori Louisa Genevieve Faleula Cirikisuva, Vatuwaqa
Who was baptised here yesterday morning during 8.30 Mass.

Reflection on today's Readings 3rd Sunday of Lent: The thirsting soul: Our need to drink regularly is obvious; without water we would quickly die. Not so easily recognized is the soul's thirst for meaning, for vision and purpose in life. We can be fully preoccupied with the surface of things, and quite neglect our spirit's obscure longing for eternal life. Like the Israelites, we worry constantly about physical needs, but are often unmindful of God who supplies them. Today, Jesus offers us the refreshing water of eternal life, a power of faith and union-with-God which is our deepest need, and can satisfy the thirst of our soul. How the desert blossoms, when water is brought to it. (We may cite dramatic examples of successful irrigation in Israel, Egypt, California.) The same miracle of growth can take place in the parched soul, if God lets his Spirit flow over me. All the ravages of doubt, fear and sin will yield to the new life of grace.

A sacramental washing: Already in baptism, the sacramental washing with water by the Christian Church was a first contact with the grace of Christ. I was given a good start, planted well in the garden of God, with room to put down roots, and draw vital nourishment from the living spring of the Saviour. Yet, I need continuing help, to keep my spirit alive and pleasing to God as life goes on. Like the desert-wandering Jews, I often suffer from thirst and grow weary in confronting problems in life, personal, family etc. But at a deep level, Jesus guarantees me the "living water" I need. His own Spirit is always at hand, as a force of encouragement and fidelity.

Congratulation Once Again Rev. Pat Visanti: On your ordination to the Diaconate last Sunday 12th March, together with Rev Vio Drou (Diocesan) and Rev Tuia Afoa (Salesian) in the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Thanks to members of the CWL of the Parish who did their share of the catering for the huge crowd that turned up for lunch in St Joseph's Secondary School Hall after the Diaconate Ordination. Thanks the CCIM, The Formation House and Staff, St John Vianney Group, St Columban Community Suva Parish, Pat's Family and others who catered for another huge crowd in the Columban Formation House that evening.

Memorial Mass for Fr Charles Duster: of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA died at Bellevue, Nebraska on early morning of March 7th, 2017 was buried on Tuesday 14th March. His Memorial Mass which was held in the parish on Tuesday evening arranged by the CCIM and Ex Lay Missionaries. The liturgy was done to perfection by members of the Parish, Choir and St Michael's Community. The pot-luck dinner that followed was excellent too. Thanks to all involved – who did their best to honour the Missionary Life of Fr Charlie and all that he did for the Church in the Archdiocese of Suva. However there was an expectation that the crowd would be greater especially since Fr Charlie was Vicar General of the Archdiocese for 4 years, taught Canon Law at PRS, worked in the Marriage Tribunal, served as Parish Priest in Solevu and Raiwaqa, worked in parishes of Nabula and Tamavua and Labasa etc. Coordinator of the Columban LM Programme for 6 years. Fr Roger McCarraick SM was the only outside priest who attended.

The First Meeting of 50th Anniversary Committee: It took place on Thursday Evening in the Hall. The meeting was chaired by Master Dan. 12 people in all turned up for the meeting. Master stressed that this Committee will be made up of the 11 leaders of the Communities as well as appointed members by the parish priest – the men of the parish and other too so that all the below sub-committees be filled: The following are a tentative list of Sub-Committees that will be needed for an effective celebration in August 2018:

Logistics – Supplying and maintaining figures; **Liturgy** – Eucharist Celebrations; **Culture** – Ceremonies; **Social/Sports** – Get togethers , sharing of stories, guests. **Catering** - Food and Drinks and Cooking; **Communications** – Awareness, Magazines, Gallery; **Works** – lots of renovations need to be done in the next 17 months. **Budget** – Finance – a must.

It was suggested and discussed that our Celebration start on Wednesday 22nd August – the day after our Feast Day and continue each day until the finale on Sunday 26th August. It was suggested that we invited ex parishioners both in Fiji and overseas back for our celebrations. But lots of preparation need to be done in the next 17 months. But first and foremost those Sub Committees need to be filled as soon as possible.

For this reason – there will be another meeting of the Committee with all Community Leaders of the Parish, Men and women of the parish next Thursday Evening 23rd of March in the Hall at 7.30pm. See you all there.

RCIA: 1st Scrutiny This Sunday 19th March - at 7am Mass in the Parish here. On Sunday 26th March - 2nd Scrutiny - 7am Mass - St Pius X Parish On Sunday 2nd April - 3rd Scrutiny - 7am Mass - St Pius X Parish. And on Saturday 15th April - Rites of Christian Initiation - Easter Vigil - St Pius X Parish.

CCD Classes: The end of Registration for candidates for Confirmation – **Cut-off date end of March** and the Cut-off date for those receiving Holy Communion **will be at the end of April**. Please take note and if you have someone who wishes to receive 1st Holy Communion this year or Confirmation next year who have not yet registered, please do so.

Special Mass for Confirmation Candidates: Will be held at 8.30am, 2nd April. **Parents and Sponsors** to be present.

Joint SJHD retreat with Evangelization Bible Commission members at the **Wailekutu Prayer Centre** yesterday. Thanks to Fr Willie Lee who lead the retreat for members of the above combined Commissions.

Stations of the Cross: Every Wednesday in Lent in Fijian lead by the Community Animating the Liturgy for the week, and every Friday in English at 5.45pm before the evening Masses. The Youth has volunteered to lead the Stations of the Cross each Friday evening. This year the Parish Liturgy Commission are following texts 16 Stations.

“Fortnight Stop” A 4a Social Justice initiative: Registration and weigh-in at 8 Vuiyasawa Lane on Friday 24th March. Why not give it a try??

AGM of Pre-School was held on Thursday Evening 16th March at 5.00pm. The New School Committee are as follows: **Chairperson:** Dominic McGoon, **Secretary:** Melanie Immanuel, **Committee members** - Maria Ruru, Nina Grey and Simone Bula. Both teachers and Committee are wished well for the coming year 2017.

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

Meetings Today Sunday 19th March. 2017

1. **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** at 3.00pm in the Church. **World Apostolate of Fatima Meeting** at 4.00pm.
2. **St. Columban Community Meeting** – Sunday, 19/03/2017, 5.00pm at Mere Avaiki’s residence, Craig Pl. All members are asked to attend this very important meeting.

Meetings during the Week:

- **Prayer Meetings** in most Communities (7 Steps) on Tuesday Evening 21st March.
- **Youth Prayer Meeting** (7 Steps) Every Friday straight after the 6:30 pm Mass
- **Youth Monthly meeting nest Sunday the 19th March.**
- **St Vincent de Paul Meeting** are seeking new Members. **The Youth are invited to join.**
- **1st Marriage Encounter Weekend on 24th March at St John Bosco School 9 miles.**

Thanks and Appreciation: To Community 5a St Michael’s for animating the Liturgy during the week and for cleaning of the Church & compound. We invite Community 5b St Columbans to continue tomorrow 20th March. Thanks too for your generous Mass Collections last weekend.

1st Collection \$596.85; 2nd Collection \$68.70; Envelopes \$125.00 = \$790.55

Reading coming week: 3rd Sunday of Lent [19/3/17] Exodus 17: 3-7; Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8; John 4: 5-15, 19-26, 39-42; Mon [20/3/17] Joseph, Husband of Mary: 2 Sam 7: 4-5, 12-14, 16; Rom 4: 13, 16-18, 22; Matt 1: 16, 18-21, 24; Tue [21/3/16] Dan 3: 25, 34-43; Matt 18: 21-35; Wed [22/3/16] Deut 4: 5-9; Matt 5: 17-19; Thurs [23/3/17] Jer 7: 23-28; Luke 11: 14-23; Fri [24/3/17] Hosea 14: 2-10; Mark 12: 28-34; Sat [25/3/17] Annunciation of the Lord: Isaiah 7: 10-14; 8:10; Heb 10: 4-10; Luke 1: 26-38; 4th Sunday of Lent [26/3/17] 1 Sam 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13; Eph 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-41