

# ST. PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENTEN SEASON

31/03/2019 (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.

**Reflection for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent: What kind of fairness is this?** When reading the story of the Prodigal Son we might feel some dissatisfaction at how he is welcomed home. Rather than being delighted with the mercy of God, we may feel irked by the apparent unfairness of the father towards his elder son. And yes, some parents do indeed show favouritism. We often hear parents say “No, they couldn’t do a thing like that. It’s just not in their nature.” At other times a concerned teacher, priest or kindly neighbour will hear the lament, “I don’t know what to do with him. He has my heart broken. I can’t understand him at all.

Is it that we know the elder sons and daughters all too well - children who have stayed at home, single, to care for ageing parents? And by the time the parents die, they have buried with them the best years of their lives. Theirs was a hard life and if they had grudges one must be slow to blame them. Yes, we can and should feel for the elder son. Sometimes the dutiful quality of our lives make us envy the Prodigal’s wild life of freedom. We might grudge the sinner his good times. We cherish the thought that our good times are ahead of us and hope that the playboys of this world will pay for their pleasures in due time. So the elder son is the patron of all the solid citizens, “the salt of the earth”, while behind the banner of the Prodigal huddle all the rakes and misfits, drop-outs, lame-ducks and the rest of the world’s rejects.

The puzzling thing about this parable is this epilogue on the elder son’s attitude? Surely if the parable is about the boundless mercy of God to the sinner. Why divert some of our sympathy towards the resentful elder son? Of one thing we can be sure, the storyteller was a master of his craft. Look again at it, but this time through the eyes of one of the world’s rejects, a dropout, a misfit, in some way handicapped. Perhaps this is our Lord’s answer to their protest: “Why me? Why was I singled out for to be an outsider?” What the grudging elder son failed to see was how the needy have most claims on God’s love and forgiveness. Not just during the Year of Mercy, but always.

**Book of the Gospels:** While in Australia recently the Parish Priest sourced ‘The Book of the Gospels’ for the Parish to be used in the procession and our Sunday Liturgies. The Liturgy Commission are requested to take good care of this expensive Book.

**Parish Pastoral Council** will have its first sitting at 10.00 this morning. Please be seated then as the Guest speaker will begin promptly at 1000. All newly elected Community representatives are urged to attend the opening address on ‘Leadership and Accountability’ as part of ongoing leadership training.

**Preparation** - Archdiocese-Cathedral Choir commences Saturday 6th April at 2:00 pm at Lambert Hall. Apart from the 14 parishioners who are **Synod** currently members, we are looking for another 26 interested available parishioners who want to be part of this choir for the closing of Synod at the end of June. Please see Karalo and Selina.

**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

**RCIA - 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.

#### 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)*

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

**7A Combine See** on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 at 7,30pm in Lusía Savea's residence.

**Parish Financial Committee Meeting** will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month after 8.30 Mass. Except next Sunday when 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday is Easter Sunday.

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

**Lenten Appeal Box**: We kindly seek contribution for the unfortunate in our Communities you could drop off at the Parish Office.

**Lenten envelope** - all families please ensure you have collected an envelope from the office. These will be taken up for collection at Mass on Holy Thursday evening. The proceeds go towards the Archbishop's Appeal to provide a few homes for poor families.

**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 in charge.

**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.

**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 Youth visitation** has been deferred to April 6.

**St Michael Youth AGM** was held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The new office bearers for 2019 are as follows:

Youth leader: Touribo Ruby; Secretary: AkisiLewatu; Treasurer: VeronikaNaduva; Assistant Treasurer: MeliVakatale. All together there were 10 members and there will be a membership drive soon so that others can join. Other items discussed after their AGM were the 7 steps bible sharing, visit to juvenile prisoners on 30<sup>th</sup> March and the Easter Youth Drama for those who wish to join in.

**Evangelization News from St Michael's**: Mrs IowanaKaravaki is 5a's Evangelization Rep. Assistant Evangelization Rep. is Mrs Vinau Williams.

**Vinaka Vakalevu Parish Youth**: for coming together most evenings after 6.30pm Mass to practice their production of the Drama for Good Friday. The leadership team is inviting more youth to join in this most important Annual Liturgical Drama

**CCD** There will be no classes today. Teachers 'Evaluation' immediately after the 7.00am Mass in the AB Mataca Hall.

**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. **Charismatic Prayer** meeting at 3.00pm. Followed by Divine Mercy and World Apostolate of Fatima.
2. **Liturgy Commission**: meeting next Sunday 7th April after 8:30 am mass - at 10:00 am
3. **Liturgy Mass** - for all members of Liturgy Commission tomorrow evening Monday 1st April. Straight after mass there will be a Meeting for all Liturgy Ministries Leaders - Lectors, Alter Service, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Music Directors, and Sacristan
4. **Ushers** - meeting on Wednesday, 3rd April, after mass. Workshop on Saturday after Mass from 9:30am-4:00 pm.
5. **St Paul Community 6** Seven Steps on Tuesday night at 12 Bhakshi Street, in the Mausio's residence.
6. **St Francis o Assisi SSC (Davui Lane, Grantham Rd )** at Ben & Fiona Kamsoo's residence
7. **Altar Servers**: are requested to attend a meeting at 5.00pm on Monday (1<sup>st</sup> April) to begin preparations for Holy Week and Easter celebrations. You want to start now to avoid the last minute rush. Meeting is at the carport.

**Synod Committee in Lami** Kava Barrel fundraising night on the Archdiocesan (See Notice Board). 26<sup>th</sup> April

**Thanks**: to St Joan of Arc Community 3, for animating the Liturgies during the week and the Church cleaning yesterday. We now invite St Peter Chanel Community 4A, to take on these important responsibilities from tomorrow (**including Thursday Adoration**).

**Thanks for last Sunday's Collection**: 1st Collection: \$985.05 2nd Collection: \$163.20 Total: \$1148.25

**Readings Today: Fourth Lenten Sunday 31/03**: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32; **Mon 1/04**: Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54; **Tue 2/04**: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16; **Wed 3/04**: Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30; **Thurs 4/04**: Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47; **Fri 5/04**: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; **Sat 6/04**: Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53; **5<sup>th</sup> Sun. Lent: 7/04**: Is 43:16-21/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11.