

# ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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### FORTH SUNDAY IN LENT CYCLE C: – 06/03/16

#### 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.

**Reflection on today's Gospel, Forth Sunday in Lent: The Parable of the Prodigal Son:** They say that's the best short story that was ever written. Some of its phrases are so powerful that they have become proverbial. Prodigal Son, fatted calf . . . lost and found. A story that has enriched the vocabulary of the world. And not just the world's vocabulary – the world's mentality as well. Its way of looking at things. No story tells us more about God or makes us feel better about ourselves. It's a short story with enormous scope, with the widest possible diameter, in that it embraces our sinfulness at one end and God's forgiveness at the other. The best part of it, of course, is that it brings both extremities to the centre. What provoked it? What led Our Lord to tell it? The fact that the Pharisees objected to the company he kept, to his eating with sinners. So he tells the story to give an insight into his own mind and the mind of God. The story of the Prodigal Son really needs no elaboration and maybe it's presumption to be commenting on it at all. The most respectful response to it is personal reflection. Just think about it; savour it and let it sink in. We'll all be touched by different pieces of it, because that's the way with everything we hear. I doubt if any of us can ignore its central message, that there is no limit to God's forgiveness and that our repentance brings joy to the Father's heart. You think God doesn't want us to turn away from sin? You think God doesn't love you? Then you haven't been listening to the story of the Prodigal Son.

**In the wake of Tropical Cyclone Winston: Thanks Expressed:** It is said that it takes a crisis to bring out the best in us. The outpouring of generosity shown by people (relatives and friends of those who have suffered) Government agencies, commercial and charitable organisations, parishes and church groups have all been touched and moved into action on account of the havoc wreaked on the people of Fiji especially those in Lomaiviti, Tailevu, Taveuni, Bua, Rakiraki and other places in the western division. Cyclone Winston has surely shattered our nation and wreaked havoc on so many lives. It will take years for the country to get back on its feet again. The Fiji Times on Thursday last 3<sup>rd</sup> March, quoted a Unicef Report which stated "that 347,000 people are directly affected and in need of urgent assistance - that is a third of the population of Fiji. People have lost everything, their possessions, their homes, their crops, their schools, community and parish halls and their health centres. Many do not have safe drinking water, power, or a roof over their head. They need urgent assistance".

**Our Parish Appeal** for the people in the villages of Ba Parish has gone very well and lots of foodstuff and cloths and utensils have been left in. There is still time for you to make a donation in cash or kind which will benefit the suffering people of Ba. Fr Donal took a small consignment to Ba on Friday. The rest will be taken tomorrow morning, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March by courtesy of Williams and Goslings – thanks to Helen Foster for taking the initiative and so kindly organised this transport. Thanks too to every person who contributed to our parish appeal and to the St Vincent de Paul Society who supplemented our donations with lots of cloths from their store room. Let's keep the victims of the cyclone in our prayers. It is going to be a hard year for them. May God protect and safeguard them.

**The Archdiocesan Second Collection Appeal:** the Archdiocese has requested that for the next few Sundays our Second Collection – be sent to the Office to help the victims of the Cyclone Winston. **Our 2nd collection was \$257.20.** Vinaka.

**RCIA Programme:** today Sunday morning 6<sup>th</sup> March is 'Second Scrutiny' ceremony for Kelera Baleinabuli (7A), Varina Grey (4B), and Pita Naigulevu (4B). This ceremony takes place at 7.00am Mass.

**Catholic Education Week: Starts tomorrow 7<sup>th</sup> March - 13<sup>th</sup> March.**

**There will be special programmes in our Schools this Week. Our school children will animate the liturgy at 8.30am Mass next Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Catholic Education Week:** From 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March, is organised by the Archdiocesan Office and will be celebrated at School level. The theme is ‘the Jubilee Year of Mercy for School Children - Be merciful like the Father is merciful’. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> will be called Education Sunday. The importance of education in general will be emphasised on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> at all Masses. The Education Office has even released a Children’s Song for next Sunday. Before Winston struck – it was suggested that the second collection would go towards the running of the Catholic Education Office, Suva. Meantime, March is also the month that Jubilee of the Family is celebrated. The Head for the Parish Family Commission, Jacob & Gina Kivi, will talk briefly on family life after Communion today. And C.C.D Classes will start again today after 8.30am Mass. We thank all our volunteer teachers who will run CCD.

**Report on PPC Meeting & Meeting of Heads of Commissions:** A very short PCC meeting was held last Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. - decided that the Heads of Commission meet on the following Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March to draw up parish Programmes aligned to the proposed Archdiocesan Programmes for the Year of Mercy. A very successful and lively meeting was held on Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> March with the Heads of Commissions. They drew up a blue print for the coming year – Jubilee Year of Mercy – in accordance to what was suggested by the Archdiocese. Some of our suggested programmes will be revisited and maybe enlarged, added to or even changed as they year progresses. This proposed programme for each month during the year can be made available to Community Leaders.

**St Michael’s Community AGM:** was held last Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. There was a disappointing turn out. Kelemete Rausuvanua, Thomas Tavutonivalu and Fr McEvoy represented the parish executives. The following were elected office bearers for the coming year. **Leader of the community:** Amani Cirikisuva; his assistant Kafoa Lorenti; Secretary: Vasemaca Tivonieva; Treasurer: Florrie Cirikisuva and her assistant, Teresia Vetanibua; Commissions: Liturgy: Milika Nabou; assistant Mereula; Evangelization: Iowana Karavaki; Social Justice: Sala Qaqa. The community has yet to appoint a person or couple to the on the Commissions for the Family and for the Youth.

**Peter Chanel’s Community AGM:** due to be held this afternoon 6<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00pm in the Wong’s residence. Members are also invited to bring along food items for the Parish Appeal to Ba that will be moved to Ba on Monday.

**St Cecilia’s Community 1b:** A meeting of Office Bearers and Commission Reps scheduled to meet on Thursday evening in Vasiti and Lasaro’s residence.

**St Patrick’s Community 4b:** Prayer Meeting and AGM on Wednesday evening in Parish Hall after evening Mass.

**Community 5b St Columban’s:** Are due to have their AGM next Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

**Choice Weekend: To be held next weekend 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March** at St Joseph’s Secondary School. Opened to youth between the ages of 20 – 25 years. The Organisers would like to register 25 females and 25 males from the Central Eastern Division. Registration Fee is only \$20.00. Our parish will be represented by 4/5 young adults. Contact 9333162.

**Lenten Seminar on Laudato Si: Pope Francis’ Letter on the Environment:** Has been **postponed** for some time due to the National Crisis. But since the Archbishop is so interested in this most urgent issue (and indeed so should all of us) it will surely be rescheduled for a date later this year.

**The Charismatic Convention** scheduled to be held in Wairiki, Taveuni from 27<sup>th</sup> April to 29<sup>th</sup> April – is **not likely** to take place in Wairiki due to the devastation that Taveuni suffered with Cyclone Winston.

**Stations of the Cross:** Big crowds are attending the Stations of the Cross on Wednesday Evenings in Fijian and on Friday Evenings in English at 6.00pm before the evening Masses. The Community on liturgy leads the Stations.

**Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Every Thursday from 5.00pm – 6.00pm until further notice. There are so many things to pray for, give thanks and praise God. Vinaka Vakalevu ladies who turn up and look after the running of this hour – exposing the Blessed Sacrament and keeping watch for the hour. How about joining them!!

**Evangelization Meeting:** today after 8.30am Mass.

**Liturgical Meeting:** today after 8.30am Mass.

**Youth Meeting:** today after 8.30am Mass, to discuss Easter Programme and Programme for Year of Mercy.

**Charismatic Prayer Meeting** this evening as usual at 3.00pm in the Church.

**Community of St Columban’s Prayer Meeting:** Next Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at Naulu’s Residence at 7.30pm.

**Community St Joseph the Worker:** Prayer meeting & bible sharing at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**For your Generous Contributions:** Thanks to members of [5b] St Columban’s for animating the Liturgy during last week and the great clean-up of church compound yesterday. We invite Members of Community [6] St Paul’s to start from tomorrow 7<sup>th</sup> March. **Thanks too for your last week’ Collection which amounted to \$445.80.**

**The second Collection for the Archdiocesan Cyclone Appeal Fund amounted to \$257.20.** Thanks too for your generosity in this respect. This Collection will continue for a sometime...

**Our Special Thanks** this week goes to **Ben Kamsoo** for fixing out radio mic which has been very sick since I arrived!!!!