



ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 23/12/2018 (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

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

Confessions: - Friday & Saturdays after Mass.

Baptisms: At 8.30 am 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 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.

Jessie Tree: The ornaments of the Jessie tree in Church tell the story leading up to the birth of Jesus. **The Advent wreath with four candles** of evergreen is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God.

The **4th Sunday of Advent** symbolizes **PEACE** with the “Angel’s Candle” reminding us of the message of the Angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will toward Men.”

CHILDREN’S CATECHISM

REGISTER TODAY (next year: 6-18 y/o)

Please, come to the parish office and register the Children’s Catechism for 2019.

	By December	Next Year
Up to 3 rd Child	\$10.00 / child	\$15.00 / child
4 th & 5 th Child	\$4.00 / child	\$7.50 / child
6 th Child +	FREE	FREE

Christmas & New Year’s Day Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	The Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day Mass (Solemnity & Holyday of Obligation)	Boxing Day Saint Stephen (Feast) (Public Holiday)	New Year’s Eve	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Solemnity & Holyday of Obligation)
Monday 24/12/2018 at 9.00pm	Tuesday 25/12/2019 at 9.00am	Wednesday 26/12/2018 at 9.00am	Monday 31/12/2018 at 9.00pm	Tuesday 01/01/2019 at 9.00am

Sunday’s Reflection:

There is a big age-difference between the two pregnant women in our Gospel today, yet both full of joy for themselves and for each other. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth because of the dangers attendant on so late a pregnancy. That she went with haste, halfway across the country, to make the visit is a clear sign of Mary’s generosity and goodness. Through the light of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognised Mary’s privilege as the mother of the longed-for Messiah. She greets Mary in the words we are so familiar with in our Hail Mary. And Mary responds in the equally familiar words of the *Magnificat*. These two great women understand the miracle of conception and birth. But in each case there was divine intervention in a truly exceptional way. The Gospel says that both were informed of this fact by the words of an angel; they each had a message from God telling them so.



The fact that both Elizabeth and Mary had this divine intervention is a reminder that our own lives too are a gift of God. It is from this understanding that the Church takes its position on all life issues. At some moments we may recognise the hand of God in our lives. Maybe at the point when we when we finally decided on our partner in marriage, or even felt a vocation to special service in the church. Maybe it was at the birth of a child, a change in job circumstances, or the death of a parent. Maybe it was a moment in prayer, the grace of a sacrament, advice in the confessional, wise words from a friend or relative at a critical moment.

God is always working within us and for our good. This thought can help us through times of trouble. Troubles are part of that drawn-out gestation which is our life on earth. We were meant to be pilgrims in this world and to grow to rebirth into eternal life. Sometimes we clearly recognise God’s presence, as John recognised a special presence in Jesus, and feel an impulse of joy. As we journey through life, God remains with us. We were loved into being, and the One who sustains us each day will in the end give us fullness of life. As well as the birth of Jesus, at Christmas we celebrate our own birth also — birth into a life in this world that flows towards final resurrection.

PARISH LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Ministers of the Word

DATE	TIME	1 ST READER	CANTOR	2 ND READER
SUN 23/12 4 th Sun Advent	7.00am	Rose	Margaret. Qalo	Miriama
	8.30am	Maria. Chand	Miliakere Rainibogi	Vasiti Kaivei
MON 24/12 Christmas Eve	9.00pm	Samu Burese	Miriama	Clara Jones
TUE 24/12 Christmas Day	9.00am	Catherine Burese	Vasemaca Luvu	Angeline Furivai
SUN 30/12 Holy Family	7.00am	Patricia Burese	Salome Levula	Maciu Vatuloka
	8.30am	Margaret. S	Margaret. Qalo	Piapiena Mua
DATE	TIME	Ministers of the Communion		
SUN 23/12 4 th Sun Advent	7.00am	Betty Chandra	Alex Edwards	Kelemete
	8.30am	Visoni Ravai	Miriama Naikelekelevesi	William Fong
MON 24/12 Christmas Eve	9.00pm	Alex Edwards	Selina Ravai	Miriama Naikelekelevesi
TUE 25/12 Christmas Day	9.00am	Betty Chandra	William Fong	Rafaele Roqica
SUN 30/12 Holy Family	7.00am	Betty Chandra	Alex Edwards	Kelemete
	8.30am	Visoni Ravai	Miriama Naikelekelevesi	William Fong

Congratulations to Atunaisa Wakana and Doreen Brown who received the **Sacrament of Matrimony** on Friday 21st December 2018. Vinaka vakalevu to Fr. Iowane Gukibau for administering the Sacrament to the couple. Many happy years together.

In Loving memory of the late **Eliesa Fiu**, father of **Maria Morris (4B)** and **Felix Parker (1B)** who passed away at 2pm on 17/12. The funeral mass was held at Naulu Church yesterday and burial afterwards in Nasinu. May he rest in peace.

SVDP Raiwaqa: Our parish Conference would like to thank sincerely the generous groceries contribution towards the 14 families that have received them.

“My Christmas Offering” (Christmas Envelopes): Community leaders, please, pick them up from the parish office for your communities and also we will be giving it out with the Newsletters seeking all members of the family who could contribute kindly.

Awareness on Trauma Counseling Session tabulated hereunder:

2 (This Week)	3	4A	4B	4C	5A	5B	6
27.12.18	4.1.19	11.1.19	18.1.19	25.1.19	7.2.19	14.2.19	21.2.19

2019 Bible Diary: Are for sale in the parish after Sunday Mass and during the week at the parish office for \$10 only.

Let's buy one each for our 7 Steps Bible Sharing Prayer Meeting for the next year.

Columban Calendars: Prepared from Australia (flip Calendar) for \$5 and Fiji Columban Wall Calendars for \$2.00

Catholic Times latest issue is available in the parish office to be collected by Community Leaders and Treasurers who have not done so (Communities 3, 4C, 5A and 7B).

► PARISH MEETINGS & PRAYERS TODAY:

- Prayers Today:** Cenacle (2pm), Divine Mercy (3pm), Charismatic (3.30pm). All are welcome.
- Liturgy Commission: Special Meeting at 10a-** All ministries head for this important commission are requested to attend.
- Parish Choir Practice:** All parishioners please join in one with the choir practice at 5pm in the AB Hall.

► OTHER PARISH MEETINGS & PRAYERS:

- 7 Steps Bible Sharing Animator's Evaluation Session:** Wednesday, January 9 at 7:30pm

PARISH YOUTH	PARISH CHILDREN
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Hymn Practice: Thursday & Friday (Dec 27, 28 & Jan 3) starts at 8pm & finishes at 9pm. Please, be on time. All young parishioners (age 14~35 y/o, married & not married) are welcome for the Hymn Practice. Youth Weekday Mass & Holy Hour Parish Youth will lead the liturgy on Every Friday before the First Sunday (Youth Mass) of each month. Friday, January 4, 2019 – Youth Mass at 6:30pm Youth Holy Hour 7:00-8:30pm 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Nativity Drama & Choir: 3pm (Inside of the Church). Primary school children – Last Practice TODAY. CHILDREN'S CATECHISM REGISTRATION (Promotion Period by the End of December, 2018 - \$5 OFF) Teacher's Committee & Parent's Committee Meeting: Sun. Jan. 13 at 10am FIRST DAY OF CHILDREN'S CATECHISM SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019

Thanks: To St Therese the Child of Jesus Community, 7A, for animating the Liturgy during the week and cleaning the church yesterday. We invite St Cecelia Community, 1B, to take over these responsibilities from tomorrow, 24th December.

Thanks for last Sunday's Collection: 1st Collection: **\$602.75** 2nd Collection: **\$87.05**; Total **\$689.80**

Readings Today 23/12: - 4th Sunday of Advent: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45; **Mon 24/12-**The Nativity of the Lord (Night): Is 9:1-6/ Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14; **Tues 25/12-** The Nativity of the Lord (Day): Is 52:7-10 ; Heb 1:1-6 ; Jn 1:1-18; **Weds 26/12:** Saint Stephen: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17;22; **Thurs 27/12:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8; **Fri 28/12**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs: 1 Jn 1:5 2:2; Mt 2:13-18; **Sat 29/12:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35; **Sun 30/12:** 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52