



ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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4TH SUNDAY IN LENT - CYCLE B: 11/03/18

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 Community Leader and Priests 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.

The Parish PPC Budget Meeting has not yet taken place. It is now planned for next Sunday 18th March. This is to endorse the Parish Budget for 2018/19. All are welcome especially Community Leaders and Financial Reps who will take the news back to your respective Communities.

Blessing of Candidates, parents and sponsors of Confirmation Programme at 7.00am Mass.

4th Sunday in Lent: Love Lifted Up

Have you noticed the kind of words we use to describe something wonderful? People use phrases like being ‘over the moon’ or ‘on cloud-nine’ – or recently, as “incredible.” A friend talks about being in the ‘seventh heaven!’ I can’t help thinking that our deepest experiences are those that have a power to lift us up. Such experiences take us out of ourselves. They raise us up so that we perceive life differently.

The Gospel is always inviting us to see things differently. When Nicodemus sought out Jesus, he was in the dark” both really and symbolically. He couldn’t see clearly. In the years that followed this late night conversation, Nicodemus became a disciple and, step by step, was drawn to see things differently. At last he finally *did* see. When at the end, Jesus was really and truly lifted up, Nicodemus was not too far away, and reverently helped prepare our Lord for burial.

When we meditate on the crucifix and join in the Eucharist we also see Jesus lifted up. Perhaps today as I lift my eyes to the cross, I might see the link between suffering and exaltation and wonder at the love that is lifted up and draws us ever closer, raising us as well.

In Loving Memory: Kaurasi Paulo Aropio (68) Community 7b died on 2nd March 2018 and buried in Nasinu after Requiem Mass in St Pius X Church on 7th March, 2018, **Laisenia Raibulu** (66) Community 4c, died 1st March 2018 and buried in Nasinu after Requiem Mass here on Friday 8th March. We also remember and pray for **Josephine Filipo** and **Udite Roqica** both from Tamavua Parish and both members of CCIM. Their Requiem Masses were held in St Joseph the Worker Parish, Tamavua on Wednesday and Thursday 7th and 8th March. May they all rest in peace.

RCIA Candidates 2nd Scrutiny – Today at 8.30am Mass. The members are as follows: Mrs. Arieta Diana Daurewa, Mrs. Kalolaini Tatafu, Josephine Tatafu, Maria Tatafu, Fepikou Tatafu, Martha Temo and Mathius Kwansing.

The Gospel of St Mark: You are invited to a Seminar on the Gospel of Mark with Fr Donal McIlraith on Tuesday & Thursday from 7pm - 8pm. – the last two sessions on this Tuesday & Thurs. 13th & 15th March in the Cathedral Crypt.

Columban Centenary Altar Cloth: Thanks to all of you who turned up for the last Holy Hour and Benediction last Sunday evening to farewell the Altar Cloth at its last stop in Fiji (Raiwaqa Parish). The next country it will visit is the Philippines. Certainly this Altar Cloth caught the imagination of the people who were privilege to see it and showed the extent of God’s Mission carried out by the Columbans in the 16 countries that they work in.

Lectors Training Workshop: Continues this Sunday 11th March after the 8.30am Mass. The 20 recruits that started was down to 12 last Sunday. Thanks again Rev Martin Koroiciri and 100% attendance every Sunday is a must.

The 2nd Collection today will be sent to Tonga by the Archbishop to help victims of Cyclone Gita there.

Society of St Vincent de Paul: Distributing Cloths after both Masses today (Free of Charge).

1. **Parish Easter Collection Envelopes:** Can be picked up by Community Leaders/Fin Reps after Masses today.
2. **Archdiocesan Lenten Appeal Envelopes:** Every house hold should have one of these by now – to be taken up on Holy Thursday Evening Mass to build homes for a few poor families. Some will be sent to Tonga.
3. **Good Friday Collection:** After the kissing of the Cross will go for the upkeep of the Holy Places

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday Last: Attendance still not good. Can we suggest members of Community 4a to supply members for **Eucharistic Adoration on Thurs.** We will finish with Benediction.

Stations of the Cross: As in other years On Wednesday Evenings in Fijian and on Friday Evenings in English at 5.45pm before the evening Masses. The Community animating the liturgy will lead the Stations of the Cross.

Evangelization: Commission Meeting after 8.30am Mass today in the hall. Members please take Note.

- **The animators will be visiting community 5B and 3** this Tuesday (13/03). Community Leaders or Evangelisation reps please organise and inform Parish Coordinator of venues.
- **Charismatic Group meets at 5pm** after prayer meeting in the hall. Members please attend meeting.
- **Animator's meeting/evaluation of 7 steps** on 19/03/2018 after evening Mass.

All men of the Parish are requested to attend a special meeting after Mass tomorrow evening, to discuss the kind of 'Veiqaravi Vakavanua' for the Archbishop and other guests for our Jubilee Celebration in August – recommendations to be presented and endorsed at the next PPC Meeting.

Women of the Parish: Wish to thank all who helped at their 1st Pledge Night last Sat 3/3/18. **Over \$2000 Collected.**

CSEJ Commission: Wish to thank Parish Communities, St Vincent de Paul & Youth for yesterday's Clean UP.

Parish Meetings: **Liturgy** Commission meeting; **Evangelization** meeting this Sunday, 11th March 2018

Cenacle @ 2pm, Divine Mercy @ 3pm, Charismatics @ 3.30pm. WAF @ 4.00pm.

Youth Meeting/Drama Practice: At 11.00am in Fr Hurley Hall after Lectors Session.

Choir Practice this Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm for Holy Week & Easter

7 Steps Prayer meeting on Tuesday 13th March at 7.30pm in Community 1B Visoni and Selina's Residence.

Youth Drama Practice for Good Friday: Every Evening after 6.30pm Mass – for one hour.

MOB Meeting this Sunday 11th March at 6.00pm in the AB Mataca Hall. All Marist Old Boys please take note.

Youth Lenten Retreat: On March 24th Saturday at Wailekutu Prayer Centre. Registration \$5.00 to parish Office.

Chrism Mass in the Central Eastern Region: Tuesday March 27th in the Cathedral. **Only Oils for the Sacraments.**

Brief Summary of the Golden Jubilee Sub-Committees on Wed night last. A comprehensive Liturgical Report submitted – seemed very workable. Likewise the ideas for catering – well advanced too. Ongoing and needing more work to be done was Communications and Cultural Programmes. Parish Renewal for month of May is on its way.

Thanks: To Community 3 St Joan of Arc for animating the Liturgy during the week & cleaning of the Church & compound. Community 4a St Peter Chanel starts tomorrow 12/03/2018.

Thanks for your generous Collections Last Week: The following is a summary:

1st Collection \$727.05; 2nd Collection: \$127.65; Envelops \$60.00 = \$914.70

Reading coming week: Fourth Sunday of Lent [11/3/18] 2 Chr 36: 14-16, 19-23; Eph 2: 4-10; Jn 3: 14-21; Mon [12/3/18] Is 65: 17-21; Jn 4: 43-54; Tue [13/3/18] Ez 47: 1-9, 12; Jn 5: 1-16; Wed [14/3/18] Is 49: 8-15; Jn 5: 17-30; Thurs [15/3/18] Ex 32: 7-14; Jn 5: 31-47; Fri [16/3/18] Wis 2: 1a, 12-22; Jn 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30; Sat [17/3/18] *St Patrick:* Jer 11: 18-20; Jn 7: 40-53; **Fifth Sunday of Lent** [18/3/18] Jer 31: 31-34; Heb 5: 7-9; Jn 12: 20-33;

The Archbishop's – (10 pages) March Pastoral Letter can be found on Parish website www.stpiusxfj.com

MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD: Sexuality is a gift from God. God made us sexual beings, male and female.

"Forgive us Lord for we have sinned by abusing the gift of sexuality". Sex related crimes top the crimes that are dealt with in the Fiji courts. High Court Judge Justice Salesi Temo said that Fiji's High Court is turning to be a 'rape court'. He said that from January to July 2017, two thirds of cases dealt in the Suva, Lautoka and Labasa courts were rape cases. He said there were 264 rape cases, 43 cases of robberies, 41 murders, 13 illicit drugs, 3 seditions and 35 others.

Included in the Archbishop's Pastoral is a section where Fr Frank Hoare identifies some of the root causes of sex-related crimes. {Well worth reading} The Archbishop goes on to deal with the Church's Pastoral Response and what we can do together. (Something that many of our Commissions will need to look into – for their goals and outreach.

Other Matters of News in his Pastoral: New **Archdiocese Website www.archdioceseofsuva.org** and on it is the **Diocesan Calendar** including parish events for some of the parishes – including St Pius X. Raiwaqa.

The Archdiocese of Suva will sponsor an **Easter Music Festival to raise funds for Tonga.** The Youth Commission will organize the Festival. The AB will also be conducting a Facebook appeal. Choirs, Youth Groups, Dance Groups, Bands, Sigi Drigi (String Bands), Bilo Levu etc... will be invited to participate. Please contact Fr Rogasiano Raikivi, Episcopal Vicar for Youth Commission or Petero Kubunavanua, Chairperson for the Youth.

Vocations Sunday: The Fourth Sunday of Easter is Vocations Sunday. I urge all parishes to conduct a vocation awareness program on this day. **Catholic Education Week and Catholic Education Sunday on 7th – 13th May.**