

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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5TH SUNDAY IN LENT - YEAR A: 02/04/17

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.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Tuesday 4th April.

The Parish will gather for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tues evening after 6.30 Mass. Preparation during 6.30 Mass.

Reflection on today's Readings 5th Sunday of Lent: Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life: It seems a bit strange to have this gospel on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. It seems to be clearly about the resurrection and yet we are still plodding through Lent and have to get through Good Friday before we get to Easter. This text is more about death than resurrection? After all, Lazarus isn't walking around today; he had to undergo another death. This text is more about our life and death here and now rather than about the resurrection.

We Christians don't really know any more about the next life than anyone else. Like all others, we need to approach humbly the dark fact of our death. But we do it trusting radically in the goodness of the mystery of God, that is shown to us in Jesus. This Jesus is the one whom we love, without seen him, and whom in that love, we profoundly trust.

This trust can only be lived by one who responds with simple faith to what Jesus says: «I am the resurrection and the life. Do you believe this? ». Recently Hans Kung, the most critical Catholic theologian of the 20th century, coming toward the end of his life, said that for him, dying is «resting in the mystery of God's mercy». That's how we too should want to die.

In Loving Memory: Manoa Buatava (52) Younger brother of Walusio Community (6) Deepest sympathy is expressed to Walusio and family. Reguregu will be held on Tuesday night at Walusio's Residence. Funeral in Lami Parish on Wednesday 5th April. May he rest in peace.

St Vincent de Paul AGM: Was held on Wednesday 29th March. About 20 parishioners attended, all of whom expressed interest in joining the Society. In attendance were Vini Vatuveilawa (Sacred Heart Conference) and Christina Rokova (Holy Eucharist) and members of the Central Eastern Council, who put before the gathering the Ideal and the Spirituality of the Society of the St Vincent de Paul. The Parish Priest emphasised the need for a vibrant Society of SVDP in parishes like St Pius X and acknowledged the outgoing members of the Society (especially the President Sera Moku and Treasurer Mrs Mow, Mere Wali and Ita Vosalevu) for carrying on faithfully over the last number of years. The Chairperson of the PPC then conducted the Elections for new office bearers. The following were elected from those present: President: Mere Naulu (5b); Vice – Mua Mausio (4a); Secretary – Emma Dimili (4a) and Treasurer – Christine Maharaj (3). Prayerful good wishes to the newly elected office bearers for the next year. They have much charitable,

Matter of Urgent Importance: The 1st Holy Communion Class this year has only about 10 children attending. And the cut-off day for registration is end of April. So, this is an urgent appeal **to all parents and guardians** who may have children eligible for 1st Holy Communion on the Feast of Christ the King this year – please, please bring along your children to CCD classes on Sunday mornings. Vinaka Vakalevu.

RCIA: 3rd Scrutiny This Sunday 2th April - at 7am Mass. Pray for our two candidates Pauliasi Vodivodi, and Teweia Batio on their final stage of their journey of preparation to become full members of the Church on Saturday 5th April – during the Rite of Christian Initiation - Easter Vigil 15th April.

Way of the Cross - Good Friday: Will be dramatised by the Youth of the Parish in the Church – at 10.00am. Next practice for the for those preparing for this spiritual event will take place after Mass on Monday 3rd April.

The Ritual of Promise for Confirmation Candidates: Their Parents and their sponsors will take place at the 08.30am Mass this Sunday, 2nd April. They had a wonderful practice on Wednesday evening. This Ritual of Promise is a part of the Archdiocesan 2-year Preparation Programme for young adults preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Candidates will receive a Cross and a white ribbon – which will be blessed as a sign of the Candidates’ commitment to continue their journey in Faith as followers of Jesus. This 1st time celebration should be a very meaningful for all in the Parish.

Next Sunday 9th April is Palm Sunday: Palms to be provided by the Communities. Blessing of the Palms in the Parish Hall at 7.00am Mass – followed by procession to the Church. **2nd Mass next Sunday at 9.00am.** Programme for Easter Week will be published on newsletter next weekend.

The First Meeting of the PPC for 2017: It was well attended and most of the reports presented via multimedia. Due to the fact that the Commissions had to present their plan of pastoral activities for the year – the meeting was rather long. **The following report from Chairperson of PPC:** ‘Thanks for your many contributions through the reports and the discussions that followed. From now on we will do our best to fit the monthly PPC meeting into an hour and a half’s timeframe. Expressed needs voiced at the meeting were and which calls for action: -

1. Urgent need for PPC Executives to visit Community (7b) St Theresa of the Child Jesus in Raiwai.
2. Request from St Columban’s for us to offer support as they grapple with the issue of squatter resettlements.
3. Liturgy Commission to ensure the smooth flow of proceedings during Holy Week with an “all hands-on deck” The parish choir will be there, the lectors, ushers, Ministers of Communion, etc. will be called upon for support. Let us come and join them and make Easter special. We must, we can! ‘*Deeds not words*’

Retreat for the Men of the Parish: Yesterday Saturday 1st of April. The retreat was conducted by Fr Willie Lee. Turn out rather disappointing – only about 12 men; **but Jesus had only 12 also!!!!** Thanks to all who made the effort.

Ushers Workshop Yesterday Saturday 1st April. Turnout utterly disappointing!!! Commissioning ceremony of 2 new ushers took place afterwards. Thanks Romeo and Terence (new ushers) Thanks Marj and Maria for organising the event.

Chrism Mass: Sacred Heart Cathedral: On Tuesday 11th April at 5.00pm. No Mass in the Parish that Evening.

CCD classes will take place after the 07.00am Mass from this Sunday, 2nd April onwards.

(This is so that they are not in the way of other parish meetings. CCD teachers too are part of these meetings.)

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

Meetings Today Sunday 2nd April. 2017

1. **Liturgy Commission Meeting:** will be held today Sunday 2nd April after the 8.30am Mass.
2. **St Vincent de Paul Meeting:** immediately after 8.30 Mass. The old Executives will hand over to the New.
3. **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** at 3.00pm in the Church. **World Apostolate of Fatima** Meeting at 4.00pm.

Meetings during the Week:

- **Prayer Meetings** in most Communities (7 Steps) on Tuesday Evening 4th April.
- **St Peter Chanel (4a)** Prayer meeting Tuesday 4th April in Eric & Alena Krishnat’s Residence.
- **St Columban’s (5b)** Meeting at Nanuku on Wednesday 5th April at 8.00pm (JPHP) issues to be discussed.
- **Liturgy Awareness Visitations:** To Community 4a on Thursday 6th April;
- **Youth Prayer Meeting** (7 Steps) Friday straight after the 6:30 pm Mass

JPHD: Justice & Peace and Human Development Parish Commission met on 30/3/17 to hear Paulo Bale (Archdiocesan JPHD Head) explain the principles of Justice and Peace and how it is tied into the Social Teaching of the Church. This will be continued on Saturday April 8th and Sunday 9th April from 10.00 – 3.00pm in the Fr Hurley Hall - facilitated by Vosita and Visenia. All Communities are requested to send 3 Reps each, ie JPHD Commission Reps and Assistant JPHD and a member of the Youth from your respective Communities. Vinaka.

Very Important Notice: Application Forms for Free Medicine Programme – can be had in the Parish Office. The Free Medicine Programme is to assist individuals who earn less than \$20,000.00 per annum, including dependent children and other dependent persons to access selected medicines from the Government Hospitals/Dispensaries and selected private Pharmacies free of charge.

Thanks, and Appreciation: To Community 6 St Paul’s for animating the Liturgy during the week and for cleaning of the Church & compound. We invite Community 7a St Jacob’s to continue tomorrow 3th April.

Thanks too for your generous Mass Collections last weekend.

1st Collection \$465.95; 2nd Collection \$65.10; Envelopes \$335.00 = \$866.05

St Vincent de Paul Church Gate Collection for March = \$74.80. Vinaka Vakalevu for your generosity.

Reading coming week: 5th Sunday of Lent [2/4/17] Ezekiel 37: 12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-5; Mon [3/4/17] Dan 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8: 1-11; Tue [4/4/17] *Isidore of Seville*: Num 21: 4-9; John 8:21-30; Wed [5/4/17] *St Vincent Ferrer*: Dan 3: 14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8: 31-42; Thurs [6/4/17] Gen 17: 3-9; John 8:51-59; Fri [7/4/17] *St John Baptist de la Salle*: Jer 20: 10-13; John 10: 31-42; Sat [8/4/17] Ezekiel 37: 21-28; John 11: 45-56; **Palm Sunday** [9/4/17] Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philipians 2: 6-11; Matthew 26: 14—27:66