

# ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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### FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT CYCLE C: – 13/03/16

#### 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.

#### **Today is Catholic Education Sunday.**

Our school children will animate the liturgy at 8.30am Mass today. On Thur. evening 77 children turned up to prepare for today's Mass. Thanks Mrs Buatava – who now wishes to form St Pius X, Children's Choir

**Reflection on today's Gospel, Fifth Sunday in Lent: The woman caught committing adultery:** What do we make of the Pharisees in today's gospel story? They caught a woman in the act of adultery and brought her into the Temple precincts, thronged with all kinds of people, making her stand before everyone to shame her as publicly as possible. Then they insisted that her execution should follow the full rigour of the Law of Moses, namely death by stoning. Jesus sees their motive not their zeal for the Law, but to use the woman as a pawn to discredit Jesus. "What have you to say?" they demand of him. If his response was simply, "Leave the woman along; let her go free," they could accuse him of ignoring the Law and condoning adultery. If, however, he were to say, "Let her be stoned to death," then he would be seen as lacking in mercy, and as rejecting the legal restrictions set by Roman authority, which reserved the right to impose the death penalty. Jesus saw through their plotting and made them withdraw in confusion. Although Jesus did not condemn the woman, neither did he condone what she had done. "Don't sin anymore," was his invitation and warning to her.) When we do fall we gain a deeper understanding of the extraordinary mercy God is prepared to extend to the sinner. Our sins make no difference to God's love for us.

**Our Parish Appeal** for the people in the villages of Ba Parish was amazing. Your generosity knew no bounds. A huge amount of foodstuff, cloths and utensils were left in here to the Parish. It was all taken to Ba early on Monday morning last 7<sup>th</sup> March by a Williams and Goslings container truck – (once again thanks to Helen Foster who 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. I travelled to Ba on Tuesday and was heartened to see so many volunteers, mainly youth together with Fr Nilton loading some of our food and cloths onto 3 pick-up four wheel drive vehicles to be distributed to the villages of Navala, Nadругu, Tabuquto, Tabelei, Namau, Sasa and Natunuku. I travelled with the trucks that delivered to Navala and Namau in the morning and in the afternoon to Sasa and Natunuku. About 14 Fijian houses (bures) in Navala were damaged and some completely destroyed – thee are still a number of families living in the church at night in Navala. The trip to the West was revealing and yet amazing to see how people are beginning to put their lives back together again. 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 (Fr John McEvoy).

**In the wake of Tropical Cyclone Winston:** Archdiocese of Suva Commission for Justice & Development Post Disaster Response Team are requesting 100 volunteers to assist with distribution of relief items donated by Caritas International to affected families in the 12 parishes worst affected by TC Winston. For those interested, please register your names at Nicholas House or call Petero on 7310104 (email:[peteroratucove@gmail.com](mailto:peteroratucove@gmail.com)). The volunteers will first undergo some basic training before they are sent to the various areas. Vinaka valalevu.

**The Archdiocesan Second Collection Appeal:** The RCA Office has requested that for a few Sundays our Second Collection – be sent to the Office to help the victims of the Cyclone. **Our 2nd collection last week was \$478.80.** Vinaka.

**RCIA Programme:** today Sunday morning 13<sup>th</sup> March is 'Third Scrutiny' ceremony for Kelera Baleinabuli (7A), Varina Grey (4B), and Pita Naigulevu (4B). This ceremony takes place at 7.00am Mass.

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

**St Joseph the Worker (2):** Community Reconciliation; AGM at 7.30pm Tues. 15<sup>th</sup> March at Pius Burese's House.

### **Parish Preparation for Easter: During this week we will begin our Liturgical Preparation for Holy Week**

1. A meeting of the Liturgical Community Reps on Wednesday evening 16<sup>th</sup> March after the 6.30pm Mass. Community Liturgical Reps are reminded to bring in the names of those participating in the Washing of Feet. They are also requested to submit the names of their participants to be trained as Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers in Workshops – due to begin on 10<sup>th</sup> April from 10.00am -12.00 noon.
2. Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday Evening 18<sup>th</sup> March after Mass. Visiting Priests to be present.
3. Drama by the Youth for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday in progress. More participants needed.
4. Chrism Mass on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (Time Announced next week) No Evening Mass in Raiwaqa.
5. Holy Week Ceremonies will be set up and arranged by Liturgical Reps at Wednesday's Meeting 16<sup>th</sup>.

**St Peter Chanel's Community AGM (4a):** was held last Sunday evening 6<sup>th</sup> March. There was a good turnout. Fr McEvoy represented the parish executives conducted the elections for office bearers for the coming year. The following were elected. **Leader of the community:** Don Williams; **his assistant** James Rathun Ratuyada; **Treasurer:** Anthony Wong and **his assistant:** Marica Ratuyada; Commissions: **Liturgy:** Filo B; **Evangelization:** Divuki Kustina; **Social Justice:** Master Tifere Mausio; **Youth** Suliano Rausuvanua; **Family:** Tifanue Mausio.

**St Patrick's Community AGM (4b):** was finally held on Wednesday night after Mass (all be it an hour and half late). When the meeting eventually got underway, there was a good turnout and a very successful AGM eventuated. The following were elected: **Community leader** - Mrs Sala Navuku; **Assistant** - Maciu Vakaloka; **Treasurer** – Ratu Joe Niumatawalu; **Liturgy Rep** – Filo Ruru; **Evangelisation** – Cecilia Vakaloka; **Social Justice** – Andrew Grey; **Family** – Elizabeth and Tony Vusonilawa; **Youth** has yet to be filled. The Elections were followed by a form of Reconciliation among the members. Thanks & Congratulations to the leadership teams and Reps elected from the 2 above Communities.

**Choice Weekend: Is being held this weekend 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March** at St Cathedral Secondary School. Our parish is represented by 4 young ladies only. No boys turned in spite of the Archbishops request to send at least three. We thank the 4 for making the Choice to attend this weekend and look forward to your return to the parish. The Archbishop earnestly request the parents of the participants to attend a session with your daughters on Sunday afternoon at 2.30pm in the Cathedral Secondary School. The weekend will finish with a Mass at 5.30pm. These weekends are an effort by His Grace, the Archbishop to revitalise the youth of the Archdiocese and give them a new purpose and direction in life.

**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. Thanks to the ladies who turn up and look after this hour.

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

**Community of St Columban's Prayer Meeting:** Next Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**A Huge Gap Discovered in our Baptismal Registers:** During the week we discovered a gaping gap in our Baptismal Registers. No Baptisms were written into the Register from the month of August 2008 to end of December 2008. And from the month of July 2009 to end of December 2009. So parents if you have had a child baptised in those months during those two years, please contact the office here with details; Date of Birth of child; parents' names; sponsors names and a possible date of Baptism. We will try and insert them on a separate sheet in our Baptismal Register. Your cooperation in the matter is vital for future sacramental events in your child's life.

**For your Generous Contributions:** Thanks to members of [6] St Paul's for animating the Liturgy during last week and the clean-up of the church & compound yesterday. We invite Members of Community [7a] St Jacob's to start from tomorrow 14<sup>th</sup> March. **Thanks too for your last week' Collection which amounted to \$841.45.**

**The second Collection for the Archdiocesan Cyclone Appeal Fund amounted to \$478.80.** Thanks too for your generosity in this respect. This Collection will continue for a sometime...

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the last two Sundays** which amounted to \$736.00 has been paid into the RCA Office.

**Interfaith Search Fiji (ISF)** wishes to acknowledge and thank you all for the assistance provided to the victims of cyclone Winston. To strengthen us all spiritually, ISF has organised an interfaith/ecumenical Prayer from all faith denominations for our people in the aftermath of cyclone Winston. The Prayer will be held at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Church, Pratt Street Suva on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 6.00pm. Your presence will be a great source of strength to us all as we move together in re-building our lives and our homes.

**Special Thanks** This week goes to the team that turned up @7.00am Monday Morning to load William & Gosling truck with our foodstuff and cloths for Ba Parish – it arrived there 1.30pm and a lot of it distributed on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March.