



ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

P.O. BOX 5175, Raiwaqa, Suva – Phone & Fax # 3383183

E-mail: stpiusx810@gmail.com Website: www.stpiusxfj.com

Parish Priest: Fr. John McEvoy, S.S.C. / e-mail: mcevoyfj@gmail.com

Assistant Parish Priest: Fr. Euikyun Carlo Jung, S.S.C / e-mail: ejung@columban.org

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - CYCLE B: 11/02/18

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.

AGM of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held in the AB Petero Mataca Hall this Sunday 11th Feb. 2018. The Executive Meeting on Monday evening attended by almost all the HOC – laid the foundations for our AGM today. Let's look forward to our Parish Annual get together in Faith and in

The Turning of the Wheel: Fr Frank's Book on the Columban History in Fiji. Selling at \$10.00.

6th Sunday in Ordinary time: Healing the isolated

We all need to connect with others, to interact with them. We don't like to feel isolated or cut off from family, friends, or the wider community. One of the most challenging aspects of sickness or disability can be the isolation that it brings. When we are ill or our body grows weak we cannot take the same initiative we used to take to connect with others. People can become housebound because of their physical condition; the things they used to do to meet up with others are no longer possible. The most isolating form of illness in the time of Jesus was leprosy. For hygienic reasons, lepers had to live apart, 'outside the camp', in the words of today's first reading. Lepers were only allowed to have each other for company. They lived apart from their family, their friends and the community.

Both Jesus and of the leper have something to say to us about steps we can take to break out of our isolation, even when the odds seem to be stacked against us. We can all be tempted from time to time to retreat into our shell, whether it is because of our health or some disability or some past experience that has drained us of life. It is at such times that we need something of the initiative and daring energy of the leper. It was desperation that drove the leper to seek out Jesus. Sometimes for us too, it can be our desperation that finally gets us going, gets us to connect with that person who matters to us and to whom we matter more than we realize or gets us to link up with some gathering or some group that has the potential to do us good or maybe even to transform our lives. We see examples of this all the time – older people who have mastered the internet and have come completely at home with Skype; younger people who in spite of some serious disability have found the means to live a very full life that is marked by the service of others. The man in today's gospel could be the patron saint of all those who strive to connect with others against all the odds.

Congratulations and Welcome Rev Martin Korociri: Martin was admitted to Permanent Membership of the Missionary Society of St Columban by the Vicar General of the Society Fr Arturo Aguilar, at the end of the Columban Regional Assembly on Thursday 1st Feb. He was Ordained Deacon yesterday 10th Feb with two diocesans, Edward Vakatora and Semi Uluinasobu. Martin is with us here this morning preaching for the 1st time as Deacon. He will be doing his deaconate programme here in Raiwaqa. Our CCD Teachers are crying out for help – **Martin will be involved.**

Welcome to the Christian Community: Molfred Joseph Epeli, Block 6 Milverton Road.; Suzzane Leilani Brown, Block 1, Flat 13, Kia Project, Raiwai; Lorima Thomas Brown Vakana, Lot 51 Stage 8b, Browning St. Raiwaqa and Clare Grace Morell, Block 1, Flat 8 Kia Street, Raiwai, all who were baptised here Sunday last 4th Feb. by Fr Carlo.

Check List on those attending CCD Classes: As of last Sunday there were **33 children** registered for 1st Holy Communion Class. While there are **44 registered to receive Confirmation** on 26th August. But unfortunately there was a very poor attendance at last week's class. There is a strict criteria in place now – Miss 3 classes and No Confirmation.

Columban Centenary Altar Cloth: Is back among us – It is in the our Parish for our Sunday Masses today & Holy Hour today – At this time let us join in adoration and thanksgiving with all Columbans throughout the World. Thanks.

1. **The Lenten Programme:** We start the Lenten Season on Ash Wednesday 14th February with the blessing and distribution of Ashes at Masses in the Parish at 7.00am and 7.00pm on the Day. There will be a School Mass at **St Marcellin's** Vatuwaqa at 9.00am. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fast and Abstinence (No meat and one full meal for those who are able to comply). Lent is a time of extra prayer, fasting and abstaining from things that we like e.g. grog, smoking, entertainment etc and of course doing works of charity and mercy.
2. **Archdiocesan Lenten Appeal:** This is taken up each year for the poor and homeless. There are plenty of these in Fiji. **Lenten Appeal Envelopes can be obtained in the Parish Office and distributed by Community Leaders and Financial Reps:** These envelopes are to be returned on Holy Thursday. There will also be a collection for the Holy Places on Good Friday. You can start collecting when Lent starts. These moneys will be sent to the Archdiocesan JCD and Pontifical Mission Society Office, Nicolas House – for works of charity and mercy. As usual **collection boxes are also been readied** for distribution to the schools in the Archdioceses.
3. **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.

RCIA Class are on Retreat this weekend 9th -11th Feb at the Ashram: The group of 7 will be accompanied by Sala and Eroni Navuku. Let us remember them and all other members attending RCIA in our prayers this special weekend.

Thanks Expressed: Malatina Ve'ehala, sister of Losana and her family sent a **Thank You Card** to the Parishioners of St Pius for the support shown them on the occasion of the Memorial Mass for Losana on the 14th Dec 2017.

Lunar New Year: Is celebrated on Friday 9th Feb. Mass on this occasion here in the parish by Fr Carlo at 6.30pm.

1. **7 STEPS:** Thank you to communities 5A, 5B and 7B for continuing with 7 steps sharing. The animators will be visiting the following communities 7A, 4B and 6 this coming Tuesday (13/02). Community Leaders or Evangelisation reps please inform HOC of the venues for 7 steps this Tuesday. **Two Columban Seminarians will join groups.** Tuesday 20/02, animators will be visiting communities 4C, 3 and 4A, respectively please note
2. No prayer meetings this afternoon due to Parish AGM. And Holy Hour re Columban Centenary Altar Cloth.
3. Charismatic Group to meet at 5pm after the prayer meeting next Sunday in the hall. Important matters to discuss.

Moh & MS sponsored Mental Health Gap training, Friday, 16.2.18, Fr Hurley Hall from 8am - 4.30pm is a proactive 4.30pm approach of empowering members of the parish community to better identify, assess and manage mental health needs, be equipped with the appropriate skills to simultaneously attend to social issues that may contribute to depression and stress. This innovation is good for the society and enhances its capacity to act as mental health champions. Invitations will be issued to participants to attend the session so as to ensure maximum attendance for the day. (Contact Vero. 8912849).

Today Sunday 11th Altar Servers Meeting at 3.00pm in the Church with Filo and Fr Carlo.

Today 11th Feb. from 4.00 – 5.00pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Holy Hour re Centenary Altar Cloth.

Thursday evening 15th Feb Next meeting of the entire Jubilee Committee: (the 8 Sub Committees Heads) Liturgy, Finance, Marketing, Logics, Social, Works, Catering and Communications. Important that all be present to participate.

World Apostolate of Fatima: Central Eastern Meeting 24th Feb in Fr Hurley Hall from 9.00am – 2.00pm.

Workshop on the 3rd March held at Fr Hurley Hall – Sister Sisi facilitator. Time 9.00am – 2.00pm. Members and parishioners are invited. World of Apostolate of Fatima Book @ \$12.00 each. Contact Mere Avaiki.

Thanks: To Community 7a St Jacob's for animating the Liturgy during the week & cleaning of the Church & compound yesterday. Community 7b St Teresa of the Child Jesus starts this week from tomorrow Mon, 12/02/2018.

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

1st Collection \$965.80; 2nd Collection: \$78.50; Envelopes \$76.00 = \$1119.30

Reading coming week: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time [11/2/18] Lv 13: 1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10: 31—11:1; Mk 1: 40-45; Mon [12/2/18] Jas 1: 1-11; Mk 8: 11-13; Tue [13/2/18] Jas 1: 12-18; Mk 8: 14-21; Wed [14/2/18] **Ash Wednesday:** Jl 2: 12-18; 2 Cor 5: 20—6:2; Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18; Thur [15/2/18] Dt 30: 15-20; Lk 9: 22-25; Fri [16/2/18] Is 58: 1-9a; Mt 9: 14-15; Sat [17/2/18] Is 58: 9b-14; Lk 5: 27-32; **First Sunday of Lent** [18/2/18] Gen 9: 8-15; 1 Pt 3: 18-22; Mk 1: 12-15;

Continuation of our early History: THE ORIGINAL LAY-OUT

The structure of the church and its furnishings today is a far-cry from its original plan.

The compound enclosed the main church building, the presbytery, men and women's toilets, kitchen, laundry and a small cemented area at the back where parish gatherings were held on the side was a driveway for incoming vehicles. Inside the church things have been slightly altered to allow for more room as the number of parishioners increased. The long wooden pews were obtained from old Nicholas Houses where they had once been used as sunshades. Varnishes for these benches were painstakingly extracted by traditional methods from the bark of mangrove trees grown in the Rewa Delta area. The syrup-like paste that was smeared-onto the benches could easily be mistaken for varnish purchased from any hardware outlet in town. The end—product was used to coat the surfaces of the pews to give them a glossy and genuine varnish looks. Welding the bench frames together would have proved an expensive undertaking, if not for the services of Tony McKenzie who was a welder by trade. His expertise and labour saved the parish an exorbitant amount which might have left, a gaping hole in the pocket of parish finances.