

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

P.O. Box 5175, Raiwaqa, Suva - Phone & Fax # 3383183

Email Address: stpiusx810@gmail.com

Parish Priest: Fr. John McEvoy: email: mcevoyfj@gmail.com website: www.stpiusxfj.com

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER - CYCLE A: - 28/05/17

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.p.m

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.

Meeting of the PPC takes place this morning after 8.30 Mass.

Hopefully all Community Leaders and Heads of Commissions will avail of their time to attend this most important meeting of the PPC today.

Items for Newsletter should be in Parish Office by Thursday midday or email mcevoyfj@gmail.com before midday Thursday.

Reflection for 7th Sunday of Easter: Time of Powerlessness and Weakness: The 1st reading of today's Mass tells how, after the Ascension, the Apostles gathered in the upper room, with Mary the Mother of Jesus and waited in prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Apostles seemed to be in a state of Limbo – powerless and weak not knowing what to do next. We all experience our own powerlessness and weakness. A sudden illness or perhaps a brush with death and we come face to face with our own powerlessness. We find ourselves not capable of the simplest prayer. All the Saints knew such moments. Far from being moments of damnation these will become moments of enlightenment and salvation for us. They will convince us once and for all of our utter need for Spirit.

The Liturgy of these days: Nine days separate the feast of the Ascension from the Feast of Pentecost. During these 9 days, the apostles with Mary in their midst assembled in the upper room and made an intense novena of prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit. This was the oldest and most important novena in the Church. Nowadays it is probably the most neglected – this is a pity for each Pentecost renews the Holy Spirit in the Church. In whatever way, we can we must make these days – days of prayer. These precious days will deepen our consciousness of our need for the Holy Spirit and increase our longing to receive him more completely. Pentecost will then renew his gift in us and in the Church.

Wednesday 31st May – Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Last day of May and last day of procession of Our Lady in various Communities. There will be a special Mass for those communities at 6.30 on Wednesday Evening. So, Communities St Peter Chanel (4a), St Patrick's (4b), St John the Baptist (4c), St Michael's (5a) and St Columban's (5b) are invited to take their statues to the church on this evening for this Mass. Thanks is expressed to all those who took part in this May Devotion to our Lady this year.

From the Archbishop: On Pentecost Sunday (4th June) I will be issuing a Decree to formally announce our Archdiocesan Synod. Our synodal year will be from Pentecost Sunday 2018 to Pentecost Sunday 2019.

What is a Synod? The Code of Canon Law (cc. 460-468) describes the Diocesan Synod as an assembly that brings the bishop together with his priests and his people to assist him in governing his diocese. The Synod will engage the entire Catholic population in sharing their needs and wisdom. Together, they will evaluate past programs and propose new pastoral plans. As the bishop and his priests provide the gift of their ordained service of word, worship, and governance; the priestly people provide their public expression of prophetic wisdom, their consecration of the world, and their spiritual leadership for families, workplaces, political action, and moral purpose. The Synod will help to:

- Come up with an overall diocesan pastoral plan and help to apply local norms and directives.
- Address acute pastoral problems requiring pastoral responses and solutions;
- Further a more intense ecclesial communion, and help the Bishop to Discern for the future.

Parish of St Pius X – Chosen for Synod Pilot Project: This will be explained to the Leaders of the Communities at PPC meeting today, who in turn will take it back to their communities for action. It will be in the form of a questionnaire to be filled out in families, or by groups e.g. Youth, St Vincent de Paul, SCC Groups etc or individuals. It is of the utmost importance that Community Leaders and Heads of Commissions attend this PPC Meeting. (Last PPC meeting only 6 Community Leaders present. Some Commission Heads and some Parish Executives missing too.)

Summary of Executive Meeting - Monday 22nd May.

Community visitation by Parish Teams are going well – Thanks to members of these teams going out to the Communities to update parishioners on issues that need addressing.

1. **Updating of the Parish Constitution** this is to cater for the new structures introduced in the Archdiocese recently. These are the only changes called for here. There is some misunderstanding that the entire Constitution needs changing – this is not the case, which means that the task is much easier than expected. We are simply bringing our Constitution in line with Archdiocesan Structures
2. **Translating Constitution into the Vernacular:** The request for a translation into the Vernacular will be for another time and another place. Thus, there is no need to stretch the revising of the Consultation over year.
3. **Awareness on Bazaar Preparation:** The Parish Teams have two more months to cover the rest of the communities which should effectively be over before the Bazaar.
4. **50th Anniversary of the Parish:** The 50th Anniversary Launching is Scheduled for the Feast of St Pius X this year the launching will focus on the Mass and the dedication of Archbishop Mataka Hall. The evening will conclude with some refreshments and sharing under the new banner. A simple yet meaningful occasion to set the tone for greater things.
5. **Keeping within budgetary allocations:** Everybody involved is doing their utmost to make the event one worthy of Golden Jubilee. One advantage we have now is time on our side, so let's make the most use of it.
6. **Sacrament of Confirmation** must be seen as being part of the Jubilee and not a separate entity. What better time to celebrate this Sacrament then on the 50th Anniversary celebrations itself. Let's make preparations for this, then, within the context of the 50th Anniversary.
7. **The Logo Competition:** While the logo competition is well underway, the subcommittee responsible will determine the outcome and chose what's in the best interests of the spirit of the celebration. If they decide to display and possibly sell merchandize on the Bazaar Day they should have our support. Come the launching, we can show evidence of this with a banner, and of course the culturally inclusive Liturgy that reflects our multi-racial make-up of the Parish. It is expected that the Liturgy Commission will come up with a well-prepared Liturgy for the day.
8. **The meeting rooms:** Agreeing in principle to the idea of converting the two meeting rooms for more productive purposes. Signals were given to Father to work on the idea with his own input recommended. It is envisioned that a time in the near future meetings will be held in more convenient and conducive settings. A partition be constructed that would be opened up only, to accommodate PPC and Commission meetings.
9. **Sticking to meeting Roster / Timetable** will avoid clashes and fighting for space.

Forthcoming Seminars and Workshops:

1. **New RCIA Approach:** To be now more Community based rather than class-room like approach. Those involved in Parish RCIA programmes and Faith Formation. On 17th May the Archbishop conducted a training programme for Rep from Parishes of Central Eastern Region. He wants us to Form RCIA teams in each Parish. Our CCD teachers informs us that they have a RCIA team together (names later). The Archbishop may conduct another workshop for these on 4th June.
2. **JPHD Workshop:** One day workshop is being organised on the 8th June (World Ocean Day) in St Joseph's Hall from 8.30am to 4.00pm by the Archdiocesan JPHD on Catholic Social Teaching re care for Vanua and raise social consciousness on Social and Economic Problems in view of the forthcoming elections. Invited will be members of the Fiji Council of Churches, Catholic Chiefs and Government Ministers etc.
3. **One Day Workshop: To look at Guidelines for dealing with cases of Sexual Abuse** - on 4th July in St Joseph's Hall from 8.30am to 5.00pm - to create awareness of sexual abuse cases and to provide Safe Environment Training.
4. **Parish Family Life Commission:** Is organising a Breakfast Seminar for Single Parents 10th June. Details at PPC meeting

Meetings Today Sunday 21st May. 2017

1. **Marian Movement Devotion** - starts at 2pm in church. **Charismatics** at 3.00pm. Followed by **Divine Mercy**. Followed by **The World Apostolate of Fatima** at 4.00pm **Community 5b (St Columban's)** Community Meeting today at 4.00am in Mere Aviki's residence.
2. **Community 6 (St Paul's)** Prayer Meeting at 5.00pm followed by Community Meeting in 6 Udal Street.

Meetings during the Week:

1. **Monday 29th May:** St Pius Parish Communications Sub-Committee meets Parish Hall at 7.30
2. **Tuesday 30th May most Communities (7 Steps).** Brochures for 7 Steps Method of Prayer now available.
3. **Tues 30th Community 2** Prayer meeting & bible sharing at Sophie and Winnie Shackley's Residence at 7.30pm
4. **Youth Prayer Meeting (7 Steps)** Friday straight after the 6:30 pm Mass. Followed by Executive Meeting.
5. **Liturgy and Sacraments Meeting:** Next Sunday 4th June after 8.30am Mass.
6. **Get Fit – Stay Healthy: Zumba Dance Exercise:** Every Saturday Morning Vuiyasawa Park from 6 - 7am.

Thanks, and Appreciation: To Community (4c) St John the Baptist for animating the Liturgy during the week and for cleaning of the Church & compound. We invite Community 5a, St Michael's to continue from tomorrow 29th May.

Thanks too for your generous Collection for last week. The following is a summary:

1st Collection \$539.27; 2nd Collection \$101.45 and Envelope Pledge: \$2150.00 = \$855.27 Seminarians = \$60.00

Our total Collection for the Seminarians amounted to \$518.00. This amount has been submitted to the Archbishop.

Reading coming week: 7th Sunday of Easter [28/5/17] Acts 1: 12-14; 1 Peter 4: 13-16; John 17: 1-11; Mon [29/5/17] Acts 19: 1-8; John 16: 29-33; Tue [30/5/17] Acts 20: 17-27; John 17: 1-11; Wed [31/5/17] Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Acts 20: 28-38; John 17: 11-19; Thurs [1/6/17] St Justin: Acts 22: 30; 23: 6-11; John 17: 20-26; Fri [2/6/17] Acts 25: 13-21; John 21: 15-19; Sat [3/6/17] St Charles Lwanga & Companions: Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31; John 21: 20-25; **Pentecost Sunday [4/5/17]** Acts 2: 1-11; 1 Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13; John 20: 19-2.