

# ST. PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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### EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 03/03/2019 (YEAR C)

#### 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:** 5.30pm – 6.30pm

**Friday Holy Hour:** Friday before the First Sunday (Youth Sunday) - 6:30pm (Mass) adoration until 8:30pm. World Apostolate of Fatima continues the Adoration until 10pm.

**Holy days** 7:00 am. & 7:00 pm. except Christmas & New Year.

**Confessions:** - Friday & Saturdays after Mass.

**Baptisms:** At 8.30am Mass on the first Sunday of the month. Parents wishing for baptism of their child make arrangements with the assistance of Community Leaders in seeking Sacrament Priests before commencing preparation Baptismal Helpers.

**Matrimony:** Those preparing for marriage must contact a priest to seek for the Sacrament and are required to undertake preparation sessions earnestly. Guidelines are available at the Parish Office.

**RCIA:** Session every Sunday after the 7am Mass, as for now programs are held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5pm and Saturdays at 3pm to 5pm.

#### Reflection for 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year C: Growing in the Faith during Lent

Lent is a time for growing in the faith. It is a time check whether Jesus' teaching is taking root in our hearts **through our 7 Steps Bible Sharing and other apostolic works of Mercy.** Today's readings focus on being steadfast in faith. St Paul encourages us to "be steadfast, immovable ... knowing that our labour is not in vain." We need to be like this, if we are in any way to lead others towards Jesus, and help them to grow spiritually, just as we are hoping to grow ourselves. But however firm we may be in the faith, we are warned against letting a judgmental attitude to take root in us. Jesus put this warning before us: "Don't try to remove the speck of dust from another's eye, until you have removed the log from your own eye". We must not correct others without honestly evaluating ourselves.

**In Lent deepening of faith and dedication should lead to a spiritual maturity.** This warning against hasty judgment and arrogance is sandwiched between Christ's teaching about universal love (Lk 6:27-36) and his call to **build our life on the solid foundation of his word** (Lk 6:46-49.) He calls us to be "merciful, as your Father is merciful. Our task is to remove obstacles to growth in ourselves and others and develop a kindly attitude to our fellow Christians. Let us help them leave the judging to God.

**Condolences** to the family of **Police Officer, Hermant Kumar (53) of Community 6.** He was laid to rest yesterday after his Requiem Mass at the Cathedral; **Sr Genevive Loo (78) of the Cluny Sisters, former principal of St Joseph's Secondary School,** who passed away last week at the Home of Compassion. Her Requiem Mass will be held at 9.30am tomorrow at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. May they rest in peace.

**Lenten Appeal Boxes/Envelopes:** available now. Could each family take on to Support Archbishop's Lenten Appeal (See Over).

**Welcome to the Christian Community:** At the 8.30am mass through the sacrament of Baptism **Ruben Gabriel Colata** (Community 4C) and **Martha Maeva Huangto'a Faga** (Community 7A)

**Betero Teakare: Ordination Preparation** Retreat; March 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. Remember him in our prayers.

**Permanent Membership Aggregation;** Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> during Mass at St Pius X Parish.

**Deaconate Ordination Mass;** Sacred Heart Cathedral, Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am. St Pius X parish to bring pies for morning tea and refreshments. **Saturday morning parish Mass is at 7.00am.**

**Commission for Social & Ecological Justice:** Meeting on Monday (4.3.19), 7.30pm, parish board room. With exception of SVDP, membership is based on expression of interest. Parishioners interested in being part of this commission are invited to turn up on Monday.

**Parish Jubilee Celebration Video Discs** are ready for sale at \$30.00 with Jubilee Magazine. Those interested could place cash order now at the parish office. **Columban Calendars:** Prepared from Australia (flip Calendar) for \$5 and Fiji Columban Wall Calendars for \$2.00 **Bible Diary** is available. (\$15.00 – Sr. Lavinia)

**Youth Supporters Social Night:** All parishioners (married & single) age of 25 ~ 40 y/o wish to support parish youth & plan for World Youth Day 2022, Portugal. Please, come TOMORROW (Monday) after 6:30pm Mass. **Next Youth Empowerment Session** (Youth Retreat) - March 16~17 at Marist Champagnet Institute. Details will be on next Sunday's newsletter.

**CCD Classes** continue this morning. Thanks to St Michael's for the refreshments today. St Columban for refreshments next week.

**Family Life Commission:** Fr Tino SM in charge of pastoral training at PRS wants to take 7 of his 6<sup>th</sup> year students to the Parish this year on Sunday evenings. It will be something for everyone in a given community; Children, Adults and youth – family life in General. The Parish Family Life Commission has endorsed his coming and starting in 1B tonight at 7.00pm. This program will run for 10 Weeks

**Ash Wednesday** – Masses on the 6<sup>th</sup> March will be held at 7am and 7.00pm respectively. St Marcellin School at 9.00am.  
**Stations of the Cross** on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5.45pm (Community 7B) **Wednesdays Stations will be in Fijian.**  
**CCIM** meets after the evening Ash Wednesday Mass in the car port. All are welcome to attend this meeting

**Parish Finance Committee** has declared that the fund-raising season for our Annual Bazaar this year 27<sup>th</sup> July is now open to the Communities to start. All parish fundraisings between now and 27<sup>th</sup> July to be geared towards the Annual Bazaar.

**Community leaders/Community Finance Reps** are humbly asked to source 4 volunteers from your respective Community who would pledge \$260.00 each for the coming year (apart from the Sunday soli). This pledge and envelopes would be ready for distribution by the Parish This Sunday.

**Animators Visitation Schedule:** On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March: Fr Carlo – in St Joan of Arc (3) Tifi, Dan and Karlo in St Columban's (5B) Vero Vama, Maria and Visoni in St Cecilia (1B) Fr Martin (Youth group B – 2,3,7A,7)

**The Evangelization Committee Retreat:** is on March 16<sup>th</sup> at Wailekutu Prayer Centre. Newly elected and continuing Evangelization reps are urged to attend. Bring own bible and writing material and lunch and \$2 for return fare. Transport leaves church at 9.15am so be on time. Please contact Vama or Parish Coordinator by March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Evangelization Commission** meets in the hall after the 8.30am Mass on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Members are urged to attend.

**Seven Steps Animator's Meeting & Evaluation:** Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30pm (Every First Wednesday of the month)

**Junior & Senior Youth 7 Steps:** Junior Youth join with your Community; Senior Youth Fr Carlo to inform you on Venue.

**Liturgy Commission:** meeting today at 10.00am.

**Monthly Liturgy Commission Mass** (First Monday of the month, - 4<sup>th</sup> March)

**Eucharistic Ministers** – Those willing to faithfully serve in this ministry could give names in at the parish office.

**Parish Leaders Team Bonding** last Thursday is vital for leadership relationship in the parish. Thanks to all parish leaders who turned up to make use of the opportunity to strengthen the bonds of service to the parish and to one another.

**Parish Meetings and Prayers Today and during the week:**

1. **Parish Youth** (14~35y/o) meeting today at 10am.
2. **Women of the Parish** meet at 4.00pm in the AB Mataca Hall. Please bring a plate for refreshments.
3. **Charismatic Prayer** meeting at 3.00pm. Followed by Divine Mercy and World Apostolate of Fatima.
4. **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Mar:** 7 Steps in all communities (See above visitation of your community by the Animators)

**Faith Formation** (CCD, RCIA, Adult Catechism, Baptism and Marriage Instructors) meet at 10.00am on Sun. 17 March for your first meeting of the year. Please make an effort to attend.

**World Apostolate of Fatima** invitation to 'Samoa Congress' 2019. See Notice Board for full details.

**Men of the Parish** committee meets on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, after the evening Mass in the AB Mataca Hall.

**Men of the Parish** Talk on '*Bible and Tradition*' in the AB Mataca Hall on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> Mach. All men are welcome to the talk.

**St Peter Chanel** Community 4A '*family soli and chicken curry night*' at the AB Mataca Hall on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Marist Old Boys** Raiwaqa meet in the car port after the 8.30am Mass to discuss Marist Sevens Mass on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**World Youth Day 2022**, Lisbon, Portugal: Youth have started fundraising for World Youth Day 2022. It is a 4-year project to empower young Catholics to deepen their faith. Kindly asking your financial and spiritual support for WYD 2022. Thank you.

**Thanks:** to St Jacob Community 7A, for animating the Liturgies during the week and the Church cleaning yesterday. We now invite St Theresa Community 7B, to take on these important responsibilities from tomorrow (**including Thursday Adoration**).

**Thanks for last Sunday's Collection:** 1st Collection: **\$1140.35**; 2nd Collection: **\$96.50** Total: **\$1236.85**

**Readings Today: Sunday 24/02 Eight Sunday In Ordinary Time:** Sir 27:4-7/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45; **Mon 25/02:** Sir 1:1-10/Mk 9:14-29; **Tues 26/02:** Sir 2:1-11/Mk 9:30-37; **Wed 27/02:** Sir 4:11-19/Mk 9:38-40; **Thurs 28/02:** Sir 5:1-8/Mk 9:41-50; **Fri 01/03:** Sir 6:5-17/Mk 10:1-12; **Sat 02/03:** Sir 17:1-15/Mk 10:13-16; **Next Sunday 03/03:** Sir 27:4-7/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

**'God Created Women and Children' 2019 Lenten Appeal' Letter by Peter Loy Chong; Archbishop of Suva.**

Women and Children are made in the image of God. However, it is alarming that in Fiji violence against women and children is on the rise. Many women, girls and children are victims of rape and violence. According to survey carried out by the Women's Crisis Centre in 2013 Fiji's rate of violence against women and girls are among the highest in the world. Male violence against women is a real problem in Fiji, one the church must address. In this tragic situation, the equality, respect and love that are required in the relationship of man and woman according to God's original plan, are lost."

The Bible states that everyone, men, women and children are made in the image of God. Men, women and children are all children of God and therefore have the same dignity. The Catholic Catechism teaches, 'Man and woman have been created, which is to say, willed by God: on the one hand, in perfect equality as human persons; on the other, in their respective beings as man and woman... (each) possess an inalienable dignity which comes to them immediately from God their Creator' (CCC no 369). The Church should protect the dignity of all peoples especially the vulnerable. The USA Conference of Bishops state: "Violence against women, inside or outside the home is never justified. Violence in any form-physical, sexual, psychological or verbal is sinful; often, it is a crime as well. 'Pope Francis has made it clear in his letter *Amoris Laetitia* that violence is never an authentic display of masculinity: "Unacceptable customs still need to be eliminated. I think particularly of the shameful ill-treatment to which women are sometimes subjected, domestic violence and various forms of enslavement which, rather than a show of masculine power, are craven acts of cowardice. The verbal, physical, and sexual violence that women endure in some marriages contradicts the very nature of the conjugal union.'" (Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, no.54).

This year's Lenten Appeal will help build a "Safe House" for Women and Girls who need love and protection. Your donation will help the archdiocese of Suva through the 'Women at the Well Ministry' protect and heal women, girls and children who are victims of sexual violence.