

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY OF TIME YEAR A: 26/02/17

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.

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and starting of Lenten Period.

Liturgy Meeting Last Sunday had Reps from every Community.

Heads of Commission Meeting on Friday night was attended by all

Commission heads. Parish off to a good start for 2017. Thanks all.

Pat Visanti's Diaconate Ordination on 12th March.

Reflection on today's Readings: In the Gospel today, Christ wants to reassure us: Do not worry so much about things, and always be wondering, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?"

Remember, your heavenly Father knows you need them all and he will take care of you".

Nobody doubts the need for prudence and for providing for the foreseeable needs of the future. However, just as important for our wellbeing is the kind of basic trust and optimism commended by Jesus. His words offer a radical antidote to being overburdened by caution and afraid of the risks of living. We really do need the sense that Someone up there is looking after me.

People's fears are real enough. It seems that we are afraid of *something* all of the time and of everything some of the time. Many are afraid of failure, afraid of letting others down and of being let down ourselves by others. We may be afraid to love somebody because they might not love us; afraid of losing our jobs, our health, our security, our grip. We are afraid of growing old and of dying. Fear comes in a wide variety of forms, stress, doubt, tension, pressure, anxiety. It manifests itself in ways from a nervous tic to a nervous breakdown. Or as in my case now, a tendency to look over my shoulder at every shadow in the street.

So we all of us have a lesson to learn from the great teacher of wisdom who said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you-you of little faith?" A deep faith can put all our normal fears into healthy perspective.

1. **The Lenten Programme:** We start the Lenten Season on Ash Wednesday on 1st March. 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 eg grog, smoking, entertainment etc and of course doing works of charity and mercy.
2. **Archdiocesan Lenten Appeal:** This is taken up each year for a good cause. The Archbishop writes "This year we will not deviate much from last year's Lenten Appeal Theme" "When I was homeless ... Mt 25:35-36, as we are still surrounded by our neighbours who are still in need of good housing, good sanitation and clean drinking water. Many thousands are still feeling the impact of TC Winston living in tents and make-shift houses. This grim picture prevails today waiting for your compassionate hands. They are a gift to us." **Lenten Appeal Envelopes are ready in the Parish Office to be collected and distributed by Community Leaders:** These envelopes are to be returned on Good Friday. You can start collecting when Lent starts and then your total be returned in your envelope at the end of Lent to the Parish which will be sent to the Archdiocesan JCD and Pontifical Mission Society Office, Nicolas House – for works of charity and mercy.
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.

4. **RCIA News:**

- All those in this year's RCIA Programme were at the Ashram this weekend for their Retreat. The group left the Crypt on Friday evening 24th Feb. and will return this afternoon 26th Feb.
- Rite of Election on 5th March 2017 - Sacred Heart Cathedral 10 am Mass - His Grace will be main Celebrant.
- 19/03 - 1st Scrutiny - 7am Mass - St Pius X Parish.
- 26/03 - 2nd Scrutiny - 7am Mass - St Pius X Parish.
- 2/04 - 3rd Scrutiny - 7am Mass - St Pius X Parish.
- 15/04 - Rites of Christian Initiation - Easter Vigil - St Pius X Parish.

Four (4) catechumens started this year but one has dropped out and one has gone to work in Nauru. Thus only two are left - Pauliasi Vodivodi, and Tewaia Batio. Please let us continue to pray for them on this their final leg of their journey in becoming full members of our Catholic Church. **The parish expresses thanks to Mrs Sala Navuku on her ongoing dedication to the RCIA Programme and our Catechumens year in and year out.**

Thank You Catholic Women's League: Yesterday 26th Feb. the Catholic Women's League of the Central Easter Division, had their 1st meeting of the year here in the Parish Hall. Mass yesterday morning was offered for their intentions. Afterwards they come on Visitation to the Parish Priest (veisiko) and gifted him with goodies – true to the nature of the CWL. Vinaka Vakalevu ladies of the Central Eastern Parishes, CWL.

Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting: Was also held in the Hurley Hall, Raiwaqa, yesterday morning. **Maria Qaranivalu, Ana Tikolutu and Bruce Vute from the Parish** are on the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission.

St Michael's AGM Held on Friday 17th Feb and elected the following as Office Bearers for 2017: **Community Leader:** Amani Cirikisuva; **Evangelization:** Iowana Karavaki; **Assistant Evangelization:** Netani Cabealawa; **Liturgy:** Mareula Kau; **Social Justice:** Sala Qaqa, **Treasurer:** Flori Cirikisuva (**Awaiting Family Life and Youth**)?? **St Cecilia's AGM:** Was held on Friday night 24th Feb: Office Bearers for 2017 are as follows: **Community Leader:** Visoni Ravai; **Assistant** Peniasi Kainamoli; **Treasurer & Finance Rep** – Michael Low Chee; **Assistant:** Samu Kaivei; **Liturgy Rep.** Joana Qalo; **Assistant** Selina Ravai; **Evangelization:** Joe Qalo **Assistant** – Vasiti Kaivei; **Social Justice** Felix Parker; **Family Life** Manoa and Jeannie Rokoicure. (**Waiting Reps form the Youth – This is most important if the new Youth Framework proposed by Archbishop is to work effectively**).

St Joan of Arc AGM: **Community Leader:** William Magnus; **Assistant** – Harold Swann & Filo Lee; **Treasurer** – Julian Kean; **Assistant** – Brad Crooker; **Liturgy** – Christine Maharaj; **Social Justice** – Edward Lee; **Evangelization** – Philip Tearawa; **Faith Formation** – Tupou Nawalu; **Youth** – Lawrence Lee. (Congrats. All posts filled - new blood).

St Columbans AGM: This afternoon at 4.00pm in Qaranivalu's Residence, Vatuwaqa.

St Joseph the Worker: AGM on Tuesday Night: In Ignatius and Savaira Mow's residence.

St Paul's AGM on Tuesday Night 28th Feb. in Seeto's Residence, Howell Road

Request to Other Communities to hold their AGM: This week and all Officer Bearers be in place by 5th March.

All Parish Organizations are requested to have their AGMs Immediately.

Men of the Parish Meeting: This Sunday after 8.30 Mass. Thanks to them for animating Liturgy at 8.30 Mass today. The Archbishop and Archdiocesan Financial Council has approved of their fence renovation project.

Community Prayer Meetings: Continues every Tuesday evening in all Communities. Please bring your Bibles.

Animator's visitation continues on Tuesdays. Community Leaders please advise parish coordinator meeting venues.

JPIC Commission Meeting: Will take place in the meeting room of the parish next Sunday 5th March. **NB all Reps.**

Today Sunday 26th Feb. 2017

1. **Lectors Meeting:** After 8.30 Mass today. In preparation for Lent and Easter.
2. **Youth Meeting:** After 8.30 Mass today 1st meeting of Youth with New Head of Commission.
3. **Charismatic Prayer Meeting** this afternoon at 3.00pm in the Church. **Starting with the 'Divine Mercy'**
4. **World Apostolate of Fatima Meeting** on Sunday Evening at 4.00pm.

On the 13th May, the Catholic World will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady at Fatima.

Thanks and Appreciation: To Community 4a St Peter Chanel for animating the Liturgy during the week and for cleaning of the Church & compound yesterday. We invite Community 4b St Patrick's to continue tomorrow 27th Feb. Thanks too for your generous Mass Collections last weekend.

1st Collection \$650.75; 2nd Collection \$65.35; = \$716.10

Reading coming week 8th week in Ordinary Time 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time [26/2/17] Is 49: 14-15; 1 Cor 4: 1-5; Matt 6: 24-34; Mon [27/2/17] Sirach 17: 24-29; Mark 10: 17-27; Tue [28/2/17] Sirach 35: 1-12; Mark 10: 28-31; Wed [1/3/17] **Ash Wednesday:** Joel 2: 12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Matt 6: 1-6, 16-18; Thurs [2/3/17] Deut 30: 15-20; Luke 9: 22-25; Fri [3/3/17] Is 58:1-9; Matt 9:14-15; Sat [4/3/17] Is 58: 9-14; Luke 5: 27-32; **1st Sunday of Lent** [5/3/17] Gen 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7; Rom 5: 12-19; Matt 4: 1-11