

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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EASTER SUNDAY IN CYCLE C: – 16/04/17

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 7:00 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.

Easter Sunday: Lord's Resurrection
The Parish Priest & Parish Executrices
Wish you all a very Happy Holy, Blessed
and Peaceful Easter. May the Joy of the
Risen Christ fill all struggling souls with
hope and encouragement this Easter

Reflection for Easter Sunday Morning: A Mystery Beyond Words: Mary Magdalene finds the empty tomb and runs to the apostles to tell them her astonishing news. St John's is the only account where the apostles are directly involved in finding that the tomb was empty, and where neither Jesus nor angels were there to give any guidance about the meaning of it. The Beloved Disciple was present with Peter to see the discarded burial-cloths within the tomb, and he at once understood what this meant: that Jesus was risen from the dead! **For those who don't understand, no words are possible, and for those who do understand, no words are necessary.** That's the sense we have when reading the resurrection story. It tells of a deeply mysterious fact, but we can't quite capture what its impact was within the hearts of his followers, that first Easter day. Let's remember that this gospel, this truly *great* news, is timeless and so is still for *here and now*. In a real sense, I am reflected by every person in that story, and should try to put myself within the story as told by Saint John today. Am I like Magdalene who told the others the news of resurrection? Or like the apostles who responded immediately by running to the tomb to see for themselves. I'm not exactly sure when I first *heard* about the resurrection of Jesus.

On Easter morning, the stone was rolled away from the mouth of the tomb. Could I think of my heart as a tomb awaiting a resurrection? Can I identify anything akin to a stone that is holding me back from enjoying the fullness of life? It could be an addiction, a compulsion, a resentment, or some hidden and dark secret that I have never shared with anyone. We can be as sick as our secrets. But as Pope Francis puts it so well, "We are called to be people of joyful hope, not doomsday prophets!" Because of the resurrection of Jesus, we can all have hopeful joy, and go out to share it with the world.

In Loving Memory: **Jim Vakanawa: Tamani Lane**, died Monday 10th April, Reguregu tomorrow Monday 17th with burial after 10am Mass on Tuesday 18th April. May he rest in peace.

Welcome into Full Communion with us: Congratulations to **Pauliasi Vodivodi** Good Lane (4b) **Teweia Ioata**. (7b) who were received into the church and into full community with us at the Easter Vigil last night 15th April, when they were baptised, confirmed and received the Eucharist for the first time. Thanks to Eroni & Sala Navuku for accompanying them to this great day for them and us. Thanks indeed to their sponsors also.

Farewell to Niseta, Walusio and Antonio Buatava: It is with regret that today we bid farewell to this family from Rewa St and the Parish Community of St Paul's (6). They will be sadly missed by the parish and their Community. They have been so active and helpful in every aspect of parish life. It will be difficult to imagine the parish without them. All we can say is a humble 'Thank You, Vinaka vakalevu' for your commitment and dedication. We wish you well in Samoa – where Niseta will take up the post of Student Learning Specialist Tutor in English for the whole USP Alafua Campus, Apia, Samoa. May God's Blessings go with you.

Happy and Holy Easter to all Parishioners of St Pius X Parish
And all Members of your Families both at home or abroad

Thanks, expressed for all who took part in the Ceremonies during the Week. We had a wonderful Holy Week.

- To Karlo & members of the Parish Choir – all your practices paid off and your singing & music was superb.
- To Joana & Readers for their participation during Holy Week – the Word of God - wonderfully proclaimed.
- To Maria & the Liturgical Commission for discussing and planning of the Ceremonies so well.
- To Thomas for the reflective & powerful overheads and the readying of the hymns for entire Easter Triduum.
- To Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers for a job well done – all which contributed to good liturgy.
- To Mrs Mow, Tui, Maria Qaranivalu, Marj and Selina & Visoni for getting the church ready for the ceremonies.
- To Maria Waqavanua and Aloii Tugaga, Wati & Community 7b for cooperating with everyone during the week.
- To Niseta Buatava & Youth Drama Group on Good Friday – Very powerful & emotional presentation.
- To Filo Ruru and the Altar Servers: who turned up promptly and practiced for all the Ceremonies.
- To the Apostoles who volunteered to have their feet washed – as a sign of service in the community.
- To all of you from the Communities who was loyal to your half hour of Adoration on Holy Thursday Night.
- To members of the Communities for providing refreshments after the Ceremonies on Holy Saturday Night.
- To members of the Parish Executes for their role and Sophie who kept the vestments clean and ironed.
- And anyone else who helped out in any way with dusters, sasa brooms flowers arrangements, altar linens etc.
- Thanks also to Raiwaqa parishioners who turned up for the Chrism Mass in Cathedral on Tues. 11th April.

Visitation of the Sick for Easter: With the help of Kelemete I had the privilege of visiting all the sick and house bound in the parish during Holy Week. Twenty-two (22) households were visited in total – all of whom received the Confession, the Anointing of the Sick and the Eucharist.

Lenten Appeal Envelopes: Were taken up on Holy Thursday Night. **The Good Friday** Collection for the upkeep of the Holy Places in Jerusalem was taken up after kissing the Cross on Good Friday. These will be sent to the Archbishop. Thanks for your kindness and generosity. Details of these two collections will be published in next Sunday Newsletter.

Urgent Appeal from Teachers of St Pius X Kindergarten: Our Kindy Teachers request soft toys and other children's toys together with Lego sets and children story books that you may have in your homes and not using any more. Vinaka.

CCD classes will take place after the 07.00am Mass from now on after 7.00am Mass. (The reason for this is that they are not in the way of other parish meetings. CCD teachers are very often need to attend these meetings.)

Catholic Bibles on Sale for \$15.00 in Parish Office from Parish Coordinator or Evangelization Commission Head.

Meetings Today Sunday 16th April. 2017

1. **Charismatic Prayer** Meeting at 3.00pm in the Church.
2. **St Columban's Community (5b)** this evening Easter Sunday at Mere Avaiki's residence.
3. **Marriage Encounter:** 'Image Meeting' Combined Nadera and Raiwaqa at 6.30 in the Parish Hall.

Meetings during the Week:

- **Prayer Meetings** in most Communities (7 Steps) on Tuesday Evening 18th April.
- **World Apostolate of Fatima** Meeting on Wednesday evening 19th April after evening Mass
- **Youth Prayer Meeting** (7 Steps) Friday straight after the 6:30 pm Mass.
- **Justice and Development Meeting:** Next Sunday 23/4/17 Fr Hurley Hall after 8.30 Mass - Recent Reports.

50th Anniversary Committee Meeting: Please note that this meeting scheduled for Thursday, 20th April, has been moved to Monday, 24th April, beginning at 7.30 This, to allow all subcommittees to have their meetings beforehand, while at the same time recovering from the Easter long weekend. Congratulations, however, to a few subcommittees who have already conducted their meetings.

Retreat - Charismatic Prayer group: is having its annual retreat at Wailekutu Prayer Centre on 22/04/2017. Transport leaves church at 9am and return after 4.30pm. Invitation is extended to anyone wishing to join the group. Bring writing materials, bible and lunch/return fare (\$5).

Thanks, and Appreciation: To Community 7b St Teresa of the Child Jesus for animating the Liturgy during the week and for cleaning of the Church & compound. We invite Community 1b St Cecilia's to continue from tomorrow 17th April.

Thanks too for your generous Mass Collections last weekend.

1st Collection \$722.70; 2nd Collection \$103.55; Envelopes \$430.00 = \$1256.25.

Reading coming week: Easter Sunday [16/4/17] Acts 10: 34, 37-43; Colossians 3: 1-4; John 20: 1-9; Mon [17/4/17] Acts 2: 14, 22-33; Matt 28: 8-15; Tue [18/4/17] Acts 2: 36-41; John 20: 11-18; Wed [19/4/17] Acts 3: 1-10; Luke 24: 13-35; Thurs [20/4/17] Acts 3: 11-26; Luke 24: 35-48; Fri [21/4/17] Acts 4: 1-12; John 21: 1-14; Sat [22/4/17] Acts 4: 13-21; Mark 16: 9-15; **2nd Sunday of Easter** [23/4/17] Acts 2: 42-47; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19-31