

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - CYCLE B: 07/1/18

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 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.

New Year and New Parish Beginnings:

It is our **Jubilee Year** and there is a need to have all **Jubilee Committees** revised immediately as we have only 8 months to our Celebrations. So we need every parishioner and **Parish Organisations** to get into gear as soon as possible. We all must get

Day Light Saving ends this coming Saturday Night – All clocks are put back an hour.

Feast of the Epiphany: Presents and Presence

During Christmas we give presents to different people and others give presents to us. In some countries the main day for gift-giving is the Epiphany. This goes back to the story of the wise men going to Bethlehem, kneeling and offering the best gifts they could afford to the Baby King. But Christmas is not just about *giving presents*. It's even more about *being present*, i.e. sharing ourselves with warmth, affection and sincerity. The sincerity of our personal presence is the main thing. In practice, gift-giving may sometimes be aimed more at keeping on side and keeping the peace than being really present.

The wise men were completely single-minded and sincere in their gift-giving. Their gifts were expressions of their respect, reverence, gratitude and love for the child. Their gifts were given with no strings attached, no conditions, and no mixed motives. It may be that the consumerism of Christmas is somewhat necessary. Were it a completely spiritual celebration, hundreds of small businesses would go to the wall. Thousands of factory workers making chocolates, decorations, cards and toys, would be unemployed. It may also be that if people did not spend money on gifts to family and friends at Christmas, their consciences would not be roused to make donations to the poor at this special time of giving and sharing. (Many charities, in fact, experience a big boost at Christmas time). In celebrating Epiphany we are celebrating the greatest living proof of goodness, of God's deeply personal love for us. It was out of love that the Father gives us the Son to be our Light, our Saviour, our King and our Joy. God's present to us is no less than the divine presence in our lives, what poet John Betjeman has aptly called: 'A present that cannot be priced; given two thousand years ago. Yet if God had not given so, He still would be a distant stranger and not the Baby in the manger'.

Welcome Fr Carlo Jung Euikyun: After Mass today Fr Carlo, A Columban Missionary Priest from Korea will be afforded a welcoming bowl of Yagona and an official welcome to St Pius X Parish, Raiwaqa by the Parishioners. Fr Carlo will be taking up the post of Assistant Priest in the Parish from this week. Fr Carlo who speaks fluent Hindi was here in Fiji on his FMA studies from 2011 - 2012. Having spent some time in Myanmar – he is now appointed to the Region of Fiji. We wish him every blessing and a successful pastoral missionary ministry here at St Pius X.

Welcome to the Christian Community: Tiare Moana Adituraga Galek, Switzerland and Simon Maciu Togalevu, Vuiyasawa Lane, Milverton Rd. who were baptised today at the 8.30am Mass. First of the crop for 2018. God Bless.

Two Year Confirmation Training Programme: Yesterday and today at St Joseph's Hall with the Archbishop. We thank those our teachers who participated in this most important pastoral training for the benefit of our young adults.

Thanks expressed again: To the many families who invited me for Christmas and New Year's Day dinners: To those who brought presents to put under the Christmas tree. Am grateful for such generosity. Always in my heart. Thanks also to the big number who turned up to say good bye to 2017 with a Holy Hours 5.00pm – 6.00pm on New Year's Eve and of course the big number who welcomed in the New Year on New Year's Day with the celebration of the Mass – in honour of Mary, The Mother of God. Sincerely good wishes to you all for a Happy and Prosperous 2018. Fr Jme.

Archdiocesan Tax: The 15% of our Sunday Collections for the last 3 months was paid to the Archdiocesan Office during the week. It amounted to **\$1,679.58**. And for the entire year the Parish paid **\$6,142.77** to the Archdiocese.

From the Archbishop: News & Updates – From his recent Newsletter before Christmas:

Diocesan Synod: The Synod preparations are progressing according to plans. We are currently carrying out the consultative phase. We have sent out survey questionnaires, carried out focus groups discussions and posted survey questionnaire through Facebook. From the survey, we will have a rough idea of our peoples' aspirations, hopes and expectations of the Church. The synod data will provide the agenda for the synod meeting. On February 17th 2018, the Synod Preparatory Committee will meet to compose the synod theme, prayer and song. The Synod will be launched on Pentecost Sunday, May 20th 2018. The Synod meeting will be held on June 3-9, 2019. During the Synodal Year there will be renewal programs for various groups in the diocese. The Synod will close with Mass on Pentecost Sunday 2019.

New Parish of St Don Bosco: Congratulations! We have a new parish – St Don Bosco Parish in the Makoi, Laqere and Wainibuku area. We thank the Selasian Congregation for taking up this mission. Don Bosco parish was formerly the Area 4 of Our Lady of Fatima Parish which has over 1,000 Catholics. The inauguration of St. Don Bosco parish was held on November 19, 2017. The Parish will include a Youth Center, Church and Secondary School. Fr. Mikaele Leilua was also installed as the pastor of Don Bosco parish.

Catechists: I congratulate the Catechists for their successful Tri-annual meeting. The Catechists' seminar included presentations on Reading the Signs of the Times in Fiji's Political History, Catholic Social Teaching Caring for the Vanua and Indigenous Cosmology. The catechists also carried out a SWOT analysis of their ministry to redefine their mission. The catechist created history raising \$93,618.80 in their soli.

The St. Thomas Aquinas Staff and I are currently reviewing the Catechist Training curriculum. We plan to have more courses using the many resource personnel we have around in Suva. I have appointed Catechist Beni Waqaniyalo as Course Director. Fr. Timoci Kolodisi whom I have appointed as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish will continue to be the Director of the Catechist Centre.

Come and See: Archdiocese of Suva: If you are a Catholic young man who has wondered about the priesthood, this retreat is a perfect opportunity to check out seminary life and discern the vocation God desires for you. When January 12-14, 2018. Where: Navesi Catechist Training Centre. To register and for more information contact: Fr. Timoci Kolodisi – Vocation Director, email: jimkolodisi@yahoo.com, mob: 9461017. The retreat will include Time to reflect of God's call and sharing it with others, Time for prayer and adoration Tour of the Seminary.

Invitation to make it a habit to Visit Parish Website: The Parish has a new look and now very easy to follow all the parish events. Many of the parish events leading up to Christmas are covered and of course the Parish weekly Newsletter is up there too. Please tell your family and friends overseas to follow us – some of them may not be aware of its existence and it can be a great means to keep them up to date with parish happenings eg deaths baptisms and weddings and photos etc. It may be the only parish website in the Archdiocese!! So spread the word and have a look: www.stpiusxfj.com

The Catholic Times available for Collection in the Office: Most communities have picked up their allotted number of the Catholic Times. The following Community Financial Reps or Leaders should do so after the Masses today 4B, 3, and 4C. Thanks to the rest who have distributed theirs - Copies cost \$1.00 each.

Columban Calendars There are still a few available: The Art Calendar \$5.00 & Colourful Wall Calendar at \$2.00.

Eucharistic Ministers Schedule for Sunday Visits: Maria Qaranivalu – the Vatuwaqa area; Miri – 4c and Jittua area; Philip – walking area around the church; Jacob & Gina – community 6 etc.; Kele and Alex – the rest – 2/3/7s etc.

Charismatic Prayer meeting will recommence today 7th January 2018 at 3.30pm after Divine Mercy.

Jubilee Committee – Marketing and Merchandise Group will meet after Mass on Thursday 11th Jan. 2018.

Thanks: To Community 4b – St Patrick's - for animating the Liturgy during the week & cleaning of the Church & compound yesterday. Community 4c St John the Baptist starts this week from tomorrow Mon, 8th Jan 2018.

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

1st Collection \$541.10; 2nd Collection: \$72.65; Donation \$20.00 = \$63375

Reading coming week: 1st Week in Ordinary Time: Epiphany Is 60: 1 – 6; Eph 3: 2 – 3a, 5-6; Matt 2: 1 – 6.

Mon 8/1/18 – Baptism of the Lord: Is 5:1-11; 1 Jn 5: 1 -9; Mk 1: 1 – 7; Tues 9/1/18: 1 Sam 1: 9-20; Mk 1: 21-28;

Wed 10/1/18: 1 Sam 3: 1-10, 19-20; Mk 1: 29-39; Thurs 11/1/18: 1 Sam 4: 1-11; Mk 1: 40-45; Fri 12/1/18: 1 Sam 8:

4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2: 1-12; Sat 13/1/18: 1 Sam 9: 1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Mk 2: 13-17; 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: 1 Sam 3: 3-10,19; 1 Cor 6: 13-15, 17-20; Jn 1: 35-42.

From Homily of Pope Francis on New Year's Day: Devotion to Mary is not spiritual etiquette; it is a requirement of the Christian life. Looking to the Mother, we are asked to leave behind all sorts of useless baggage and to rediscover what really matters. The gift of the Mother, the gift of every mother and every woman, is most precious for the Church, for she too is mother and woman. While a man often abstracts, affirms and imposes ideas, a woman, a

mother, knows how to “keep”, to put things together in her heart, to give life. If our faith is not to be reduced merely to an idea or a doctrine, all of us need a mother’s heart, one which knows how to keep the tender love of God and to feel the heartbeat of all around us. May the Mother, God’s finest human creation, guard and keep this year, and bring the peace of her Son to our hearts and to our world.