

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

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 08/01/17

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 – 6pm

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

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of **Vincent Peters** (Rotuman Seminarian Deacon/Priest) who died on Friday 6th Jan. in Home of Compassion. He was due to serve in the Cook Islands. May he Rest in Peace and sympathy to his family and friends.

Reflection on today's Feast – The Epiphany of the Lord – Or the Feast of the 3 Wise Men Presents and Presence

During Christmas time we give presents to different people and others give presents to us. What's it all about? It all goes back to the story of the wise men going to Bethlehem, falling down on their knees, and offering the best gifts they could afford to the Baby King. But Christmas is not just about giving presents. It's more about *being present*, i.e. sharing ourselves with warmth, affection and sincerity. The quality of our personal presence is everything. In practice, gift-giving may sometimes be aimed more at keeping on side and keeping the peace than being really present. In fact, gift-giving may at times be part of the commercialisation of Christmas instead of an expression of unconditional love.

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. The flaws in our own gift-giving may make us feel that the whole business of exchanging Christmas presents should be abolished, and that the commercialisation of Christmas should be restrained and restricted, if not eliminated altogether.

If we think such thoughts, it may help to remember 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, trees, chocolates, decorations, cards and toys, would find themselves unemployed. It may also be helpful to remember 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 and needy at this special time of giving and sharing. (Many charities, in fact, experience a big boost at Christmas time). Despite the limits and flaws in our gift-giving, it's important to both keep the practice alive and to purify it of its worst excesses. It's particularly important to the lives of children. The good news is that while they are attracted to receiving e.g., a gift of an I-pad or of shiny new roller-blades, they are also attracted to the Crib and to the story of the baby lying there clothed in rags. Their hearts are touched by the plight of his parents who are so poor that they can offer him nothing but their protection and affection.

The Archbishop Requires from Each Parish at this time of Year the Following Reports and Updates

1. The Parish Baptismal and Marriage returns for 2016
2. Up-to-date census report from each parish
3. Parish Budget for 2017 as well as Parish Financial Statement for the year ending 2016.
4. Parish Pastoral Plan as well as Parish Development Plan/Master Plan (short term and long term development plans for the parish – to ascertain if parishes are planning any major church extensions or school construction works?)

We have been working on the above – during the last week: The Baptism and Marriage Returns are ready to be submitted. So also is our Budget for 2017. The Chairperson of the Financial Council is working on the Financial Statement for the end of 2016. There is a Parish Document in the Office entitled Raiwaqa Pastoral Management Plan. As for a Parish Development Plan for the next few years, it should be easy – as we are gearing up towards the Celebration of our Golden Jubilee in 2018.

As for updating the Census – **All Community Leaders are requested to report to the Parish Office or Priest new Families who have come into your Community during last year and also the families or individuals who may have left your community during the last year too.** This should not be a major task – and should be done immediately and report given in by Wednesday or Thursday of this Week. Please also identify the ethnicity of an individual or Family too. This is required in the breakdown. **Thanks so much Leaders.**

Parish AGM is scheduled for Feb 12th at 10.30am. This year is Election Year also. The Parish AGM will elect a Chairperson and an assistant chairperson. Nomination Forms for the Communities to have their say – will be available in the Parish Office on Monday 9th January. And all nomination forms must be back in the Parish on the 29th January. Again calling on Community Leadership to carry out their responsibility in this regard – Collect the forms from the Parish; distribute them to the families in your Communities; Re-collect the forms and return them to the Parish before on the 29th Jan. A criteria sheet will be issued as well to Leaders.

Summary of the Sacraments Administered in the Parish During 2016: We also say a big 'Thank You' to all those who prepared our youth and young adults for the sacraments during the year; to our Sunday School teachers of the First Holy Communion and Confirmation Classes; to our Baptism and Marriage instructors and those who accompanied and conducted the RCIA programme in the parish. We publish here today the numbers who received the Sacraments in the parish in 2016: **Thirty Five (35) children were baptised** during the year in comparison to 46 last year. **Twenty Nine (29) Children received their 1st Holy Communion**, in the month of November. There were no Confirmations last year. There were **eleven (11) Church Weddings** in comparison to 9 last year. There were **Twenty two (22) Deaths** this year in comparison to 19 last year. While three (3) were received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Ceremonies this year. That is the Sacramental Summary of events in St Pius's X Parish, Raiwaqa in 2016. Let God be praised.

Today Sunday 8th January 2016:

1. Welcome home, Fr Tom Rouse. He will be celebrating our 8.30 Fijian Mass today.
2. There will be a short meeting of the Financial Council after 8.30 Mass
3. The Liturgical Commission meets today also after 8.30 Mass.
4. And there will be a meeting of the Youth Executives after the 8.30 Mass in the Fr Hurley Hall.
5. Charismatic Prayer Meeting this afternoon at 3.00pm in the Church.
6. Charismatic/World Apostolate of Fatima Meeting on Sunday Evening at 5.00pm to finalise details for Island Night.

Charismatic/World Apostolate of Prayer Island Night on the 15th January 2017 in the Fr Hurley Hall at 8.00pm. All parishioners are invited to contribute to this Fundraising Drive. Vinaka Vakalevu.

Health Check Up (Zone Nurse): For 5 year olds. Also free medical check-up for parishioners – 10th Jan 2017 starting at 10.00am.

St Pius X Pre School: Application Forms for the coming year are now available in the Parish Office.

Daylight Saving Time Ends Next Weekend: So put your clocks and watches back one hour on Sat Night Next 14th Jan.

Parish Disaster Management Team: The Archbishop is adamant that these are formed in each Parish and he is right. There was a meeting in the Parish Hall of a few people to discuss a way forward on Thursday 5th Jan 2017. They will invite some others from the Communities to attend another meeting **on Monday Evening, 9th Jan after 6.30 Mass.** Any volunteers or interested persons are welcome to attend, so this Committee can be formed. We appeal to your sense of Christian Commitment and Civic Responsibility to help us form a Parish Disaster Team that will be ready for action when an emergency happens in our locality or country. Vinaka Vakalevu.

More Ushers Needed: The Commissioned Ushers (whose ministry is one of Welcoming and inviting people in and showing visitors to their places) are few in numbers. The Liturgy Commission would like to invite other to join the ranks of Ushers. So new volunteers will be welcomed. Thanks to the faith few that turns up Sunday after Sunday and are faithful to their commitment.

Overseas Donor of Reading Glasses (Specs) Is prepared and can provide these glasses for anyone knowing their prescription for their eyes. If interested leave your name and particulars in the Parish Office immediately.

Working Towards our forth coming 50th Anniversary of the Parish in 2018.

1. The broken window frames and loaves in all windows around the parish plant has now been renewed. Hopefully parishioners approve and like it and more important take good care of the windows in our halls and offices from now on. All the broken frames in the Fr Hurley Hall will be replaced during the week too. A new door will be fixed to the Parish Hall upstairs. The contract to do this work was **\$8,800.00** – (already budgeted for maintenance).
2. The Plans for the renewal of the Boundary Fence around the Church Compound has been submitted to Suva City Council by the 'Men of the Parish Club' for their approval or alterations. It will be then be submitted to the Archbishop and Copas for their approval. Hopefully work can start on this project by Feb 2017.
3. Our fixed Deposits with ANZ Bank at 1.7% interest has been broken and reinvested with Unit Trust of Fiji @5.9%
4. Perhaps the Parish will be seeking to employ a full time Handyman and a New Night Watchman in 2017.
5. The 2017 Parish Budget has gone through all preparatory stages and is ready for endorsement by Parish AGM the 12th Feb. **A lot of money will be needed during the next 18 months – to continue with the long overdue parish maintenance. There is always a fear that we won't have enough to carry out all the maintenance needed.**

Thanks and Appreciation: To Community 5b St Columban's for animating the Liturgy during the week and for cleaning of the Church and compound yesterday. We invite Community 6 St Paul's to continue as of tomorrow 9th Jan. Thanks too for your generous Mass Collections last weekend. **New Year's Eve Collection \$402.63; 1st Collection New Year's Day \$463.00; 2nd Collection 60.95; Envelopes \$25.00 = \$951.58.** Sale of Mats \$445.00

Reading coming week: Epiphany Sunday [8/1/17] Is 60: 1-6; Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2: 1-12; Mon [9/1/17] **Baptism of the Lord:** Is 42: 1-4, 6-7 (or Acts 10: 34-38); Mt 3: 13-17; Tue [10/1/17] Heb 2: 2: 5-12; Mk 1: 21-28; Wed [11/1/17] Heb 2: 14-18; Mk 1: 29-39; Thurs [12/1/17] Heb 3: 7-14; Mk 1: 40-45; Fri [13/1/17] Heb 4: 1-5, 11; Mk 2: 1-2; Sat [14/1/17] Heb 4: 12-16; Mk 2: 13-17; Second Sunday of Ordinary Time [15/1/17] Is 49: 3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1: 1-3; Jn 1: 29-34.