

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - CYCLE B: 31/12/17

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.

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:

Fr Carlo (Jung Euikyun) a Columban Priest from Korea will be joining the parish early in the month Jan 2018.

Holy Hour: To end 2017 let us give thanks to God with a Holy Hour & Benediction in the Church from 5.00pm – 6.00pm this

**Tomorrow is New Year's Day Feast of Mary
The Mother of God – Mass will be at 9.00am**

Feast of the Holy Family: Christian Homes

Today there's much talk of *crisis* in the institution of the family. Certainly the crisis is serious. But though we see a true revolution in *family practice*, and many have predicted the death of various traditional forms of the family, no one seriously predicts the disappearance of the family. On the contrary, history seems to teach us that in difficult times the bonds of family life become stronger. *Abundance separates people.* Crisis and want unite them. In the face of feelings that we are heading to difficult times, there are many who foresee a new rebirth of the family.

Frequently the sincere desire of many Christians to imitate the Family of Nazareth has favoured the ideal of a family bound together in the harmony and happiness of the home. Without doubt it's needed today to promote the authority and responsibility of parents, the obedience of their children, family dialogue and solidarity. Without these values the family fails. But not just any family responds to the demands of God's reign set forth by Jesus. There are families open to the service of society, and those who are selfish, withdrawn into themselves. There are authoritarian families, and ones where they learn to dialogue. Families who train in selfishness, and families who teach solidarity.

Concretely, in the context of the serious economic crisis we are going through, the family can be a school of un-solidarity in which family selfishness is made the criterion of acting that configures the social behaviour of its children. And the family could be, on the contrary, a place where a child can remember that we have a common Father, and that the world doesn't end at the walls of our home. We can't celebrate the Family of Nazareth without hearing the challenge to faith. Will our homes be a place where the next generation can hear the Gospel's call to universal fraternity, the defence of the abandoned, and the seeking of a more just society; or will they become the most efficient school of indifference, inhibition and selfish passivity in the face of someone else's problems?

(José Antonio Pagola)

Thanks Expressed to all who helped out with the Christmas Celebrations: To Visoni, Marj, Alan, Filo and Cecilia – for working so hard and erecting and decorating our two cribs, the Echo Crib outside and the more traditional one in the church which was blessed before Mass on Christmas Night. Both cribs looked magnificent. To Filo Ruru & Sera Vira HOC Faith Formation for producing the children's drama and training the Altar Servers. To Nina Grey and parents of the children for provided the costumes and refreshments for children after the Drama. To Mrs Mow and Selina and Joana HOC for looking after the liturgy. To Sophie for keeping the altar linen and server's cloths clean, ironed and fit for all celebrations. To the few members of Community 3 and a few of the Youth who turned up in the wind and rain on Sat Morn to clean the church for Sunday Mass and to Esi and Filo B who arranged the flowers for Christmas Eve Mass and members of 4a who started their liturgy on Christmas Morning. And of course to Thomas, Karalo, Selina, Margaret and members of the parish choir. The singing was superb – Thanks also to the many others who are always around, the Eucharistic Ministers, the Readers the Altar Servers and Philip who hardly ever misses an evening to get the altar ready for evening Mass, if he misses, stepping into his place will be Visoni and Selina. To Pauliasi & Leni who always help out around the place. To the parish Executives whom we depend on so much. Indeed, thanks is expressed to Parish Organisation & Community Teams all of whom play their part. We appreciate and say thanks to the Eucharist Ministers who visit the house-bound and sick Sunday after Sunday taking them the Eucharist and the Parish Newsletter which helps them to stay in touch with us. Vinaka Vakalevu to everyone who lends us a hand to run our parish. Thanks.

Happy and Prosperous New Year (Our Golden Jubilee Year) 2018 to all Parishioners of St Pius X Parish. Fr JME.

From the Archbishop: News & Updates – Curia News: The Archdiocese of Suva continues to make good progress in her mission to establish the kingdom of God. Our diocesan commissions are progressively working towards their strategic plans. Recently I appointed Fr. Rogasiano Raikivi as the Vicar for the Youth Commission and Fr. Ioane Vodosiroti to be Vicar for the Catechetical Commission. All diocesan commissions now have a Vicar. The Vicars are the bishop's representatives in the commissions and they will help coordinate the commissions' strategic plans and diocesan directives. The other vicars are: Fr. Frank Hoare, Vicar for the Evangelization Commission, Fr. Timoci Kolodisi, Vicar for the Liturgy Commission, Fr. Sulio Turagakacivi, Vicar for the Family Commission, Fr. Josefa Tuimavule, Vicar for Justice and Development Commission. The Vicars for the regions are: Fr. Cecil Williams Vicar for the Central Eastern, Fr. Emiliano Lasaqa Vicar for the West, Fr. Mateo Waqa Vicar for the North.

Our Archdiocese Pastoral Council is also making good progress. The Diocesan Commissions submit their reports to the Pastoral Council. The Pastoral Council will address the long and short-term pastoral plans of the Archdiocese.

The Finance Council is currently working on a few capital projects, namely the properties at Ellery and Hercules Street, Varani Street, and Loa Street. We will also work on other properties in Ba, Wailekutu, Villa Maria. We have a number of unused land in the rural areas. In September, we formed a farm committee in the Northern Region to plan farming projects. They have already planted 2000 *yaqona* plants in Nakayaga land in Bua and their target is to add 2000 every year. We also began sandalwood farming in the Ashram with about 600 plants. We encourage parishes with land to invest creatively. Meanwhile our Finance Officer Mr. David Veremo and Accounts Clerk Andrea Manuelli have updated our accounts from 2009 and we will present you with an audited financial report by end of 2017.

The Archdiocese Finance and Administration Office through David Veremo (Finance Officer) conducted a training for parish book-keepers on December 5-6 at St Joseph Secondary School Hall. Our plan is to eventually establish a standard financial management procedure in the Archdiocese. From 2018 the Archdiocese Office requests that all parishes and diocesan centres submit a monthly finance report and an annual audited finance report.

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: Some communities have picked up their allotted number of the Catholic Times and the following Community Financial Reps or leaders should do so after the Masses today 1B, 2,3,4B,4C and 7A. Copies cost \$1.00 each.

Bible Dairy's: The parish sold one carton (36 copies) of the Bible Dairy's for PRS. There are still a few

Columban Calendars available: The Art Calendar \$5.00 and the Colourful Wall Calendar at \$2.00 each.

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.

Confirmation Team Training by Archbishop Peter Loy Chong: will be held on Saturday 06 January and Sunday 07th Jan. 2018 @ St Joseph Secondary School Hall. Parish Confirmation Team please take note.

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

Thanks: To Community 4a – St Peter Chanel - for animating the Liturgy during the week & cleaning of the Church & compound yesterday. Community 4b St Patrick's starts this week from tomorrow, New Year's Day, 1st Jan 2018.

Thanks for your generous Christmas Collections: The following is a summary: Sunday Morning Mass 8.30am

1st Collection \$553.90; 2nd Collection: \$93.80; Envelopes \$135.00 = \$782.70

Christmas Eve Mass @ 9.00pm = \$911.90; Christmas Morning Mass = 453.50; Envelopes 65.00. Total \$1,430.40

Total for the 3 Christmas Masses this year = \$2,213.10; (Total for the 4 Christmas Masses last year = \$2,881.00).

Reading coming week: Feast of the Holy Family [31/12] Ecc 3: 2-6, 12-14; Col 3: 12-21; Matt 2: 13-25, 19 - 23;
Mon [01/01/18] **Mary Mother of God**; Num 6: 22 - 27; Gal 4: 4 - 7; Luke 2: 16 - 21; Tues [2/01] 1 John 2: 22 – 28;
John 1: 19 - 28; Wed [03/01] 1 John 2: 29 – 3:6; John 1: 29 - 34; Thurs [04/01] 1 John 3: 7 - 10; John 1: 35 - 42;
Fri [05/01] 1 John 3: 11 - 21; John 1: 14-29, 43 -51; Sat [06/01] 1 John 5: 5 - 13; Luke 3: 23 -38; Sun [07/01]
Epiphany Is 60: 1 – 6; Eph 3: 2 – 3a, 5-6; Matt 2: 1 – 6. (This marks the end of the Christmas Season).