

ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, CYCLE A: 27/11/16

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 – 6:00pm

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 are available at the Parish Office.

RCIA: Session every Sunday after the 7am Mass.

1st Sunday of Advent:

Advent means “arrival.” In the season of Advent, the church prepares to celebrate the coming of Jesus. We recall the past, celebrate the present, and look to the future with hope. We prepare to celebrate not only the birth of Jesus but also his presence in our family, in our communities and our Parish.

Reflection for the First Sunday of Advent: A time of heightened awareness:

Advent is a time of heightened awareness that invites us to see ourselves as God sees us, insofar as that is possible. Both liturgy and life are pointing us towards the future. Isaiah calls us to confess our sins and hope for better days. Saint Paul’s message in Corinthians is confident and upbeat. Mark warns us against complacency, since the end is coming sooner than we expect.

Have you watched the behaviour of people at airports, waiting for loved ones to arrive from a flight? They look excited, eager for the first appearance of familiar faces, ready with the broad smile of greeting. Do we await the Lord’s coming with equal eagerness, because we long for his presence? Advent is meant to be an alert, active waiting, with a spirit of excitement, or as Jesus puts it, “Be on guard, stay awake”. He wants us to have a clear purpose in life, to mature in our relationship with him and with others, to give time to prayer, and to live with his message in our hearts. That’s what our Advent should be like. And while we wait, we can enjoy his promised gifts. St. Paul assures us: “You will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ.” We can experience these coming weeks with hope and awareness, in the spirit of an Advent people.

Entry into the Order of Catechumens: Today Sunday 27th Nov – at the 7.00am Mass we will have the “Rite of Entry into the Order of Catechumens” for four in the Parish here. They are Pauliasi Vodivodi (St Patrick’s), Teweia Ioata (formally from St Teresa of Child Jesus - 7b), Birianna Ioata (formally of St Teresa of Child Jesus - 7b) and Veronika Croker (St John the Baptist - 4c) The group joined catechumens from the Greater Suva Area (26 in all) for a day of Recollection held at Nazareth Prayer Centre yesterday 26/11/16. We wish our Catechumens well on their faith journey towards Baptism. Thanks to Sala & Eroni Navuka who are preparing, instructing and accompanying our Catechumens on their journey into full union with the Church.

Sunday 27th Nov. 1st Sunday of Advent: At the 8.30 Mass today we will have the Blessing and Commissioning of Ushers and Altar Servers, a Lectors and a Eucharist Minister. We are grateful that all the above are taking up ministries in our parish towards the enhancement of liturgy and for the sake of the better and smooth running of the Parish. Deo Gratias. We are grateful.

Cemetery Mass in Vatuwaqa Cemetery at 3.00pm for our dead during this Month of remembrance..

Catholic Times Available this weekend. Now selling at \$1.00 each. The 5% Archdiocesan Tax – not sufficient to print the Paper

Wedding Bells: Congratulations to Jacinta Leah Burese, (4A) Raiwaqa and Paula Namarua, Galoa who were married in Lomary Church yesterday 26th Nov. 2016. They are wished God’s Blessings and a long and happy married life together.

Feast Day of St Columban: Wednesday 23rd November: Thanks to the parishioners who turned up to Celebrate St Columban’s Day in a humble simple way after the 6.30pm Mass. A huge thank you to the Communities who brought in refreshments for the occasion. The Columbans decided that this year’s celebration would be simple in comparison to last year’s elaborate celebrations.

Parish Outreach to the newly formed 'Insyd Out 'Touch Rugby Club. The members of this newly formed Club mainly made up of youth (15-25) from Communities 4a and 4b who gather to play Touch Rugby every evening on the rara opposite the Church gathered in the Parish Hall on Monday evening 21st Nov. in big numbers to see and hear the Assistant Minister, for Youth and Sports, Mr Iliesa Delana, unveiling their New Logo. The event was a well ordered occasion – some of the mothers of the lads decorated the Hall beautifully. The President of the Club, Tukini Narokete and Treasurer Joseph Kean – both addressed the meeting. The Parish Priest welcomed the Minister and members of the Insyd Out Club on behalf of the Parishioners of the Parish (thankfully many were present). Navitalai Domo, President of the Club gave a speech acknowledging how the Club and its activities had changed his life. The aim of the club is not only about Touch Rugby but to give the youth a sense of guidance and direction, instilling in them a sense of discipline, good manners/behaviour/respect and spiritual values. Of course a lot of them are not schooling or employed. They Club has also book hall on 3rd December for the Club's Christmas Party

Men of the Parish Soli: Friday 25th Nov in the Fr Hurley Hall – raised \$1,335.00. 1st Prize – 1 carton of chickens won by St Cecilia, (1B). 2nd Prize – 2 cartons of beer, won by St Patrick's (4B) and 3rd Prize – a surprise – won by St Peter Chanel's (4A). Thanks to all for their generous contributions. Vinaka.

Men of the Parish Advent Program: (1) 2nd December Faith Formation – Fr Larry on Video; (2) 9th December – Faith Formation – 12 Ways to help Men of the Parish to grow in Loyalty and Devotion to Jesus Christ; (3) 18th December – Sunday 8.30am Liturgy and Christmas Break up Lunch; (4) 21st December – Big Christmas Clean Up.

Youth Meeting: After Choir Practice on Sunday evening – which is scheduled for 5.00pm.(27/11/2016)

Catholic Women's League: Meeting on 3rd Dec after 8.30am Mass - Invitation to all women of the Parish to a Tea Party and Soli.

Evangelization Advent and Christmas Program: Evangelisation meeting after 8.30am Mass in the meeting room.

- This is to further discuss programme Christmas programme. Community reps please attend meeting.
- No Charismatic and World of Apostolate prayer meetings today due to Mass at the Cemetery in Vatuwaqa.
- Evangelisation is organising a parish programme for December – carol singing for 17/12. Theme - Christmas is a time of giving and sharing. Programme starts at 4pm onwards. All communities and organisations are encouraged to present at least one Christmas carol or a Christmas drama and donate something (cash or in kind) for SVDP. Dress Code – Christmas colours/spirit.
Communities to continue with 7 steps on Tuesdays. Community leaders to contact Evangelisation Head to organise animators visit to promote awareness on small Christian communities.
- **Small Christian Communities** (SCC): PPC endorsed Tuesday as the standard day for SCC in all Communities. Other days in the week may be used for other activities. Trained SCC Animators will be coming around the Communities to deliberate more on the SCC and the Seven Steps of Prayer Method advocated by the Archbishop. Community leaders please contact Evangelisation Head to discuss Animators visit to communities.
- **Seven Steps Method of Prayer:** In all communities on Tuesday Night 29th November.

World Apostolate of Fatima: Special Mass for the group and members from other parishes at 8.30am on Dec. 10th 2016

Liturgy Commission: Members of the Commission have visited 7B and Communities 5A and 5B. The members of the Commission would like to visit all Communities to discuss some of the liturgical changes due to come into effect on 1st Sunday in Advent. Please liturgical Reps arrange with Head of Commission the time next week you wish a visit from the Team ((2 Teams available).

Members of the Commission will be putting up a Jesse Tree and of course the advent wreath for this Sunday the 1st Sunday of Advent and two cribs (outside and inside church) for Christmas. Outside crib to be erected by Marj and members of the Youth.

Meeting with members of the St Vincent de Paul: Meeting of Members on 3th Dec at 4.00pm in the parish hall.

At this meeting they will make preparation for Christmas visitation to needy families. New Members are requested to join the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Their AGM and elections to be held early in the New Year. And their

Faith Formation Commission: CCD Classes: Confirmation/Holy Communion continues every Sunday. Mrs Niseta wants to start again next Sunday for Advent with both those who made 1st Holy Communion and new member who will make their 1st Holy Communion next year – **she deems Advent important and wants to start training the Children for their Christmas Drama.**

Meeting of Financial Council on Friday night last 25th Nov: The New Proposed changes re parish finances was again discussed and it was recommended that these be pursued. These will mean better returns on parish fixed deposits and easier access to banking facilities.

Meeting of the PPC: Was held on Saturday 26th Nov. The final draft of the budget was presented to all Community Reps.

For your Generous Contributions: Thanks to members of St Joseph the Worker Community (2) for animating the Liturgy during the week and the clean-up of the church & compound yesterday. We invite Members of St Joan of Arc (3) to continue with this responsibility from tomorrow 28th Nov. 2016. And thanks for your generous contribution last Sunday.

Last Sunday's Collection: First Collection - \$687.10; Second Collection - \$94.95 = \$782.05; Envelops \$90.00.

Readings for Next Week: 1st Sunday of Advent [27/11/16] Isaiah 2: 1-5; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 37-44; Mon [28/11/16] Isaiah 4: 2-6; Matthew 8: 5-11; Tues [29/11/16] Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10: 21-24; Wed [30/11/16] **St Andrew, Apostle:** Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4: 18-22; Thurs [1/12/16] Isaiah 26: 1-6; Matthew 7: 21, 24-27; Fri [2/12/16] Isaiah 29: 17-24; Matthew 9: 27-31; Sat [3/12/16] **St Francis Xavier:** Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9: 35—10:1; 6-8; 2nd Sunday of Advent [4/12/16] Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15: 4-9; Matt 3: 1-12