

# ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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## FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, CYCLE A: 18/12/16

### 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.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Blessing the Candle of Peace.**  
Oh God your eternal Word took flesh when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive his Spirit who prepares for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Reflection for the Forth Sunday of Advent: (Fr Pat Rogers cp). What's in a name?** What can it tell about the person who owns it? Not much, unless it happens to be a well-chosen nick-name. Names like Helen, Sharon or Thomas or John are useful for distinguishing various members of a family; but they don't say much about the people themselves. One's name seldom reveals the personality or life-work of the one who carries it. With some Biblical names it is different. For instance, Abraham meant "Father of a great people" (Gen. 17:5) and Moses meant "Rescued from the Waters" (Ex. 2:10.) Above all, our blessed Lord has names which tell us who he really IS: "Jesus" means "God saves," "Christ" means "God's Anointed Messiah" and the name "Emmanuel" (today's Gospel) means "God in our midst." (Fijian Names sometimes define the person too eg Tikomaisuva, or Tikomailebenoni).

**How important is Jesus, really, for our personal life?** Be honest. Ask the man-in-the-street what Christianity is all about, and what's the usual answer? Something to do with being a decent person, loving our neighbour, keeping the law; and perhaps going to church on a Sunday? Not many will directly mention of Jesus Christ, who is at the very centre of our faith. Ghandi once said, 'If you Christians took your Christ to heart, the whole world would be Christian'

**He is our bridge-builder:** Nowadays, one of the most positive trends is in building up community, sharing efforts and projects with others, seeking out ways to find common ground with long-term enemies. In a word, bridge-building and reconciliation with our fellow human beings. The greatest bridge-builder of all is Jesus Christ.

**He shares our lot.** At Christmas we will concentrate on the simplicity and poverty of Our Lord's birth: how human he was, born of a young woman, not in luxurious comfort, but in the discomfort of a stable. That shows him as one of us, the human side of "Emmanuel." This gospel however mentions the divine origin of Jesus. Although he has a human mother, he has not a human father, but was conceived in Mary by the power of God. This unique way of coming into life, with God as father, and the virgin Mary as mother, underlines who Jesus truly is: both God and man, one of ourselves and yet one with the eternal God. The faithful acceptance of this fact (as St Joseph accepted) is just what is required of each of us, when Christ comes into our lives, for he truly is "God-with-us."

### The Programme for our Christmas Celebrations 2016

**Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation:** This Annual Celebration will be held here in the parish tomorrow Evening of 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. immediately after the 6.30 Mass. So it is hoped that many parishioners will attend Mass and remain on and avail of this sacrament so that we can celebrate worthy the Birth of Christ into our lives and communities. Community Leaders and Liturgical Community Reps – please spread and organise your communities.

**Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Programme:** In 6 days' time we celebrate the Birth of Christ in Bethlehem. The Liturgical Commission has decided to have **Christmas Eve Mass at 9.00pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec** preceded by Carols by the Parish Choir and Children's choir for half an hour. **Mass on Christmas Morning will be at 9.00am Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.** They have also suggested to have a **Mass of Thanksgiving to end the old year 2016 at 7.00pm on the evening of 31<sup>st</sup> Dec and 9.00am Mass on New Year's Day 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2016.**

**Nativity Drama:** Mrs Buatava's Nativity Group has been rehearsing Christmas Carols and a Nativity Drama. **They will put on this Drama at the time of Gospel during Mass on Christmas Eve.** We express our thanks to this little committed group of young people and also their patients' and their teacher/conductor Mrs Niseta Buatava.

**Mass for the Anointing of the Sick and Elderly:** This was a meaningful and successful ceremony which was celebrated last Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at 8.30am Mass. Thanks to all who brought our elderly for the Anointing of the Sick. During the coming week the House bound and those who were not able to be present last week will be visited where they will be able to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick.

**Outreach to Cyclone Victims:** The Team of Columban Ex Lay Missionaries and Columban Companions in Mission who visit the Villages of Veidrala, Namuriwai and Nasau in Ra, Parish of Naiserelagi, Navunibitu – one of the most devastated areas by Cyclone Winston have returned with some distressful stories from there and lack of action on the part of Government Agencies even 10 months after Cyclone Winston. They lived in these villages for a week, talking, counselling and walking with the communities – giving a helping hand and gifting them with some basic domestic commodities. They had an evaluation evening of how the week went on Wednesday last. They expressed the need for some further fact finding and follow up work in the future. Thank You, Ex Columban Lay Missionaries and Columban Companions in Mission for this initiative and sacrifice on your part. Your Facebook stories and pictures still distressing.

#### **Evangelization:**

- Charismatic Prayer meeting at 3.00pm in church.
- World Apostolate of Fatima prayer meeting at 4.00pm in church.
- Communities are encouraged to continue with 7 steps on Tuesdays.
- Thanks expressed to all who are working so hard in spite of the bad weather to make Christmas Celebrations worthy of the Birth of Christ. We have seen some setbacks to our plans already. “Man proposes but God often has other ideas. We can’t bring a report on the Carol Evening (Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec – we are not sure if it goes ahead.

#### **Liturgy**

- Meeting of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist this Sunday after 8.30am Mass.
- Construction of two cribs are in progress. Youth is reminded to help Marj with the construction of outdoor Crib.
- Thanks to all who are helping in any way to celebrate the coming of Christ anew into our parish this Christmas. The decoration and cleaning of the Church will take place during the week. Please do not leave all this work to Community 4c. We all have to be responsible for this on major Feasts of the Church. Vinaka Vakalevu all.

#### **Men of the Parish:**

1. 18<sup>th</sup> December – Sunday 8.30am Liturgy and Christmas Break up Lunch;
2. 21<sup>st</sup> December – Big Christmas Clean Up.
3. The Plans for the renewal of the Boundary Fence around the Church Compound has been submitted to Suva City Council for their approval or alterations. It will be then be submitted to the Archbishop and Copas.
4. The formation of a Parish Disaster Management Team still needs to be formed – Suggestions appreciated.

**Women of the Parish:** Thanks to Mrs Sala Navuku for initiating and running two Sunday Evening Programmes on the **Theology of the Body** for younger members of the Parish. These PowerPoint and Video clips were very well received by our teenagers. It is hoped that sessions will be shown to different groups in the Parish especially to our Youth.

**Choir practice in preparation for Christmas** On going during the week in all Communities and Parish Hall.

**St Vincent de Paul: Jesse Tree Tags:** Any other gifts (in cash or kind) for the St Vincent de Paul can be left with Kele at the Parish Office early during the week so the members can distribute them to the needy. Thank You.

**Catholic Times Available this weekend.** To be taken and sold in the Communities for \$1.00 by Reps respectively.

**For your Generous Contributions:** Thanks to members of St Patrick’s, Community (4b) for animating the Liturgy during the week and the clean-up of the church & compound yesterday. We invite Members of St John the Baptist (4c) to continue with this responsibility from tomorrow 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2016 in cooperation with everyone else.

Thanks for your generous contribution last Sunday.

**Last Sunday's Collection:** First Collection - \$487.95; Second Collection - \$87.30 = \$575.25; Envelops \$260.00.

**Readings for Next Week: 4th Sunday of Advent** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent [18/12/16] Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1: 1-7; Matt 1: 18-24; Mon [19/12/16] Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Luke 1: 5-25; Tue [20/12/16] Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1: 26-38; Wed [21/12/16] *St Peter Canisius*: Song of Songs 2: 8-14; Luke 1:39-45; Thurs [22/12/16] 1 Samuel 1: 24-28; Luke 1: 46-56; Fri [23/12/16] *St John of Kanty, priest*: Malakiah 3: 1-4, 4, 4-6; Luke 1: 57-66; Sat [24/12/16]

A. **Morning Mass** (8:30 am) – 2 Samuel 7: 1-5; Luke 1: 67-79

B. **Christmas Eve Mass (9:00 pm)** – Isaiah 62: 1-5; Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25; Matt 1: 18-25.