

# ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, CYCLE A: 04/11/16

### 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.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Blessing the Candle of Love.**

*God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome.  
Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ  
with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become  
one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever  
and ever. Amen.*

### Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent: Walking New Paths

Around the year 27 or 28, there appeared in the desert near the Jordan a prophet both original and independent, who made a big impact on the Jewish people: the first generations of Christians always saw him as the one who prepared the way for Jesus. The whole message of John the Baptist can be summed up in a cry: «Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight».

Twenty centuries later, Pope Francis is crying out the same message to us Christians: «Open up paths to God, come back to Jesus, and welcome the Gospel». His intention is clear: «Let us seek to be a Church that finds new paths». It won't be easy. We have lived these last years paralyzed by fear. The Pope isn't surprised: «Change always causes some fear, because we feel safer if we have everything under control, if we're the ones who build, program and plan our life». And he asks us a question that we need to answer: «Are we committed to walk the new paths that God's newness sets before us, or will we dig ourselves deeper into out-of-date structures that have lost their capacity to respond?» Pope Francis is showing us every day the changes of attitude that we need. Eg.

+ Put Jesus in the centre of the Church: «a Church that isn't carrying Jesus is a Church that is dead».

+ Don't live in a closed and self-important Church: «A Church that closes itself in the past betrays its identity».

+ Always act - moved by God's mercy for all God's children: don't cultivate «a restoration and legalistic Christianity that wants everything to be clear and safe, and goes nowhere»

+ Seek a Church that is poor and that is of the poor. Anchor our life in hope, not «in our rules, our ecclesial protocol, and clericalism»

**In Loving Memory: Avisake Buatava.** (80) Sydney, Mother of Walusio Buatava (Community 6) who died recently and was buried in Sydney on Friday last 2/2/2016. Sympathy is expressed to Walusio and his family. **Baby Makelesi Drua, (1 yr 5 months)** 67 Veria East, Vatuwaqa who died 1<sup>st</sup> Dec and will be buried tomorrow Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec after Mass of the Angels at 9.30am here. Sympathy is expressed to her parents Severo Drika Kalougata and Medalaine Rubi. May they rest in peace.

**Cemetery Mass in Vatuwaqa Cemetery last Sunday was a huge Success.** Thanks indeed to all who made the preparation for this Annual Mass this year. A far greater crowd turned up this year than last year. It was a fitting remembrance for our beloved dead. Parishioners from Laucala Bay and St Agnes Parishes joined us. Thanks again to all involved – the choir was excellent.

**Other Liturgical Ceremonies of Last week went well too:** Despite all the Rugby Matches that was in progress last Sunday morning our liturgical ceremonies went well – The Entry into the Order of Catechumens at 7.00am Mass and the Commissioning of Altar Servers and Ushers and a Lector and an Eucharistic Minister at the 8.30am Mass. A huge word of thanks to the members of Liturgy and Faith Formation Commissions and of course well done and congratulations to all who stepped up to the plate to take up these most important Parish Ministries in St Pius X, Parish, Raiwaqa. Blessings on you all.

**Mass for the Anointing of the Sick and Elderly:** Will be celebrated here in the Church Next Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of Dec at the 8.30 Mass followed by refreshments in the hall. We are doing it this way this year so there can be many people present for this celebration. So please families be ready to transport your family member here for this Mass. They look forward to this Mass every year.

**Convocation of the Clergy St Joseph's Hall – 29<sup>th</sup> Nov – 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2016:** A Brief Summary: - This is the meeting that the Archbishop holds with his priests each year. The 3 day meeting dealt with issues that are topical and practical for the Archdiocese at this time. **Day One dealt with three topics:** (1) The Forthcoming Archdiocesan Synod. It is 26 years ago since the last Diocesan Synod was held in 1990. They Archbishop will initiate proceedings for the next Synod on Pentecost Sunday this coming year. There will be a year's preparation for the Synod which will take place around Pentecost 2018. (2) The Archbishop's vision and Framework for the Youth of the Archdiocese – where the youth and its programmes are to be central to Parish activities and not on the peripheral of things. (3) Confirmation. That Confirmation be parish based and candidates be a few years older (Form 1 & 2 in secondary schools). The preparation period for Confirmation be 2 years. That the course be standardised for the entire Archdiocese. The only two parishes that has a two year course in operation at the moment is Labasa and Raiwaqa. Members of the 'Faith Formation Commission' in the Archdiocese were present. **Day Two dealt with Disaster Management:** Cyclone Winston was a wakeup call for everyone in Fiji. We were not prepared. The Government has a Disaster Management Plan in place – the Archdiocese should have its own plan at grass-root level. For this the Archbishop would like each parish have its own 'Rapid Response Team' in place – that would quickly assess the situation after a disaster and report immediately to the Archdiocesan Justice and Development Commission who in turn report to Government. This would ensure a more genuine and true picture of happenings on the ground in every parish and village. The slogan should be:- Preparedness (**DISASTER**) Response, Recovery, Development and Mitigation. **Day 3: was given over to Wellness and healthy living for us all.** There were talks by doctors and free check-ups too. This issue is a concern for the Archbishop since so many of his young priest have died as young men and many others sick presently "Harvest the Wellness within You" is the Dept of Health's Motto and we do this by the kind of food we eat – everything in moderation!!!!

**Outreach to Cyclone Victims:** Today Sunday a team of Columban Ex Lay Missionaries and Columban Companions in Mission will visit the Villages of Veidrala, Namuriwai and Nasau in Ra, Parish of Naiserelagi, Navunibitu – one of the most devastated areas by Cyclone Winston. They will live 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. Thank You, Ex Columban Lay Missionaries and Columban Companions in Mission for this initiative and sacrifice on your part.

#### **Evangelization:**

- Animators meeting after 8.30am Mass in the meeting room. Members are requested to attend.
- Charismatic prayer meeting at 3.00pm in church today
- World Apostolate of Fatima prayer meeting today at 4pm in church.
- Evangelisation is organising a 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. All donations from communities, organisations and individuals will go towards SVDP. Dress Code – Christmas.
- Communities are encouraged to continue with 7 steps on Tuesdays.

**Men of the Parish:** Men of the Parish Committee - This will be held tomorrow night 05/12/2016 in the Parish Hall. Faith Formation Night on Friday was badly attended – only 4 men and 3 ladies turned up – Dubai Rugby Night was 1<sup>st</sup> Priority!!!

- 9<sup>th</sup> December – Faith Formation – 12 Ways to help Men of the Parish to grow in Loyalty and Devotion to Jesus Christ;
- 18<sup>th</sup> December – Sunday 8.30am Liturgy and Christmas Break up Lunch;
- 21<sup>st</sup> December – Big Christmas Clean Up.

#### **Liturgy**

- Distribution of Certificates for Altar Servers, Ushers and Lector in the Hall after 8.30am Mass.
- Meeting of Extraordinary Ministers Next Sunday after 8.30am Mass.
- Construction of two cribs are in progress. Youth is reminded to help Marj with the construction of the outdoor Crib.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion and new member who will make their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion next year – **she deems Advent important and wants to start training the Children for their Christmas Drama.**

**Catholic Times Available this weekend.** Now selling at \$1.00 each. The 5% Archdiocesan Tax – not sufficient to print the Paper. Perhaps we will have to ask each Community leader to sell these in their communities. Please let us know your numbers.

**For your Generous Contributions:** Thanks to members of St Joan of Arc Community (3) for animating the Liturgy during the week and the clean-up of the church & compound yesterday. We invite Members of St Peter Chanel, Community (4a) to continue with this responsibility from tomorrow 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent** [4/12/16] Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15: 4-9; Matt 3: 1-12; Mon [5/12/16] Isaiah 35: 1-10; Luke 5: 17-26; Tue [6/12/16] Isaiah 40: 1-11; Matt 18: 12-14; Wed [7/12/16] *St Ambrose of Milan:* Isaiah 40: 25-31; Matt 11: 28-30; Thurs [8/12/16] *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:* Genesis 3: 9-15, 20; Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12; Luke 1: 26-38; Fri [9/12/16] Isaiah 48: 17-19; Matt 11: 16-19; Sat [10/12/16] Sirach 48: 1-4, 9-11; Matt 17: 9, 10-13; **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent** [11/12/16] Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10; James 5: 7-10; Matt 11: 2-11