



# ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

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### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER –YEAR B :08/04/18

#### 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.pm

**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 Community Leader and Priests 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.

#### Today is Divine Mercy Sunday:

A procession from the Flea Market, Suva, will start at 1.30pm, arriving at the Sacred Heart Cathedral at 2.30 pm with Mass at 3.00pm. The nine day Novena ended yesterday, Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> April. All welcome to participate.

**The Catholic Times** is in the Office and ready to be collected by Communities who have not done so yet. So far only three communities have.

#### Divine Mercy Sunday Reflection Open the Doors

After the death of Christ the disciples had locked themselves into a room because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Even after Mary Magdalene rushed back excited from the empty tomb shouting that she had seen the Lord, it was not enough to reassure them. What had been done to Jesus could be done to them, which led to them staying hidden in the attic room. The turning point came when the risen Christ appeared to them behind their closed doors and told them not to fear. He breathed the Holy Spirit into them, filling them with new energy and hope, releasing them to share in his mission. “As the Father sent me, so I am sending you,” he said. This helped them to leave their self-imposed prison, to go out to bear witness to the risen Lord. This is how Luke pictures the disciples’ response to Easter. He goes on to show this fervent community witnessing to the resurrection both by word and by the quality of their living. Just as the disciples were unmoved by the hopeful enthusiasm of Mary Magdalene who had seen the Lord, so Thomas was unmoved by the witness of the disciples who told him they too had seen the Lord. Thomas, it seems, was an even harder nut to crack than the other disciples. “Unless I see, I can’t believe.” As he had done with the other disciples, the Lord takes Thomas on his own terms. He accommodates himself to Thomas’ conditions and says, ‘Put your finger here.’ The Gospel today implies that the Lord meets us wherever we are. He takes us seriously in all our fears and doubts. The Lord is prepared to stand with us on our own ground, whatever that ground is, and from there he will speak to us a word suited to our personal state of mind and heart. We might pray this Easter season for the openness to receive the Lord’s coming into the concrete circumstances of our own lives, so that we too might say with Thomas, “My Lord and my God.’ We might also pray that, like the Lord, we would receive others where they are, rather than where we would like them to be.

**Easter Evaluation:** Thanks to the Parish Executives and heads of parish organizations who attended last Wednesday’s evaluation there were a lot of positives taken from the celebration as a whole. The conduct of the SWOT analysis of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday, the Triduum to Easter Sunday, indicated the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as a gauge of the effectiveness of the overall performance of parish groups involved in the celebrations. The performance of the Ministry of Hospitality, the choir, altar servers, lectors, extraordinary Ministers of Communion and Youth were discussed in detail. All in all the evaluation brought out where our major strengths lie, the weaknesses that can be worked on as opportunities for improvement in future celebrations and the perceived threats. Thank you all once again for your supporting the Easter program and we look forward to improved celebrations going forward.

**Condolences:** The parish joins in offering its condolences to the families of **Eileen Gladys Swann (4B)**, who passed away last Tuesday night, and **Filomena Fong (6)** who passed away last Friday night. Eileen Swann will have her Requiem Mass in the parish on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am. Parish 'reguregu' this afternoon at 5.00pm. Filomena Fong will be laid to rest beside her husband in Ba. Full confirmation of her reguregu will be made known later. May they rest in Peace.

**Wheels of Time:** Talanoa continues. Communities are requested to hold talanoa sessions in your respective areas to discuss and reflect on the past 50 years of life in your communities. Special attention will be on the strengths of the community, 'the moments of grace', times of joy, achievements and events that have brought people together. Please keep a record of it for future generations and sharings in the parish hall with other communities. This should be properly organized and if possible, invite former members who may have moved from the area to share their experiences and have a reunion.

**Old Photos and Memorabilia:** If you have some old photos and memorabilia of the parish please pass them in to the parish office or James Kamsoo (4B) for a parish history pictorial presentation during the Anniversary celebrations. This project ends in June. Please start bringing them in now. (*T Mausio; Communications' sub Committee.*) Meanwhile the Golden Jubilee committee meets after Mass tomorrow evening in the Board Room.

**Rev John Fong's Ordination** will be held on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> May. He will celebrate his first Mass here in the parish on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> May. Full details of these two events will be made known in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, choir practice for his first Mass in the parish will be held at 4.00pm today. All choir members please take note.

**Evangelization Commission news:** Open forum on the 7 Steps was held in the parish yesterday. A very big thanks to all those who took part. A Refresher Workshop will be held next Saturday in the hall at 10.00am. All Community leaders and Evangelization reps are required to attend. Interested persons are also welcome. The Commission meets on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> April, after the 8.30am Mass. Charismatic Convention in Bemana 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April. Please see Vama (HOC).

**Men of the Parish:** Second and final pledge will be held this coming Friday at 8.00pm in the AB Mataca Hall. All Church Fathers please take note.

**Lectors Training:** continues after the 8.30am Mass in the church. Their last session will be held next Sunday. All trainees please make the effort to attend these last two sessions.

**Family Commission: Marriage Preparation Course:** Archfam is starting its 2018 programme and will be conducting a Pre Marriage Course 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> April in St Joseph's Hall for couples who are not married and intend to get married. We extend an invitation to all couples now thinking of getting married to register at the parish office or let our Marriage instructors or HOC know about your intention. This will be your official preparation for your marriage. Registration is \$20.00 to cover meals and stationary. Family Commission Heads and Marriages instructors ought to attend also.

**Youth Commission:** 7 Steps this Tuesday night at St Joan of Arc Community. Curry night will be held on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> April. Their monthly meeting and the meeting of the Executives will be reorganized for a later date.

**Bibles for Sale:** New Testament in Fijian (Na Veiyalayalati Vou ni Katolika) \$7.00 & Community Bible \$20.00.

**Altar servers + parents meeting:** Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Servers please bring one "3B1 80 pages exercise book"

**Liturgy Commission:** Meets today after the 8.30am Mass.

**Parish Renewal Program:** will be opened on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> April during the 8.30am Mass. All Communities are asked to choose a date for Masses in their respective communities as part of the Renewal program and inform the office.

**St Cecilia:** Seven Steps this week at the Qalo's residence.

**St Peter Chanel:** 7 Steps this Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April @ 7.30pm in Ana's residence. Community meeting this coming Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00pm in the AB Mataca Hall. 4A Community members please take note.

**Kadavu St Pius X Parishioners:** Your Thanksgiving Mass will be held on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> April at 3.00pm at the Holy Eucharist Parish. Please contact Joana Qalo for further details.

**Thanks:** To St Michael Community 5A for animating the Liturgy during the week & cleaning of the Church & compound. Community 5B starts tomorrow 02/04/2018.

**Thanks for your generous Collections Last Week:** The following is a summary: Holy Thursday: **\$507.40**, Good Friday: **\$884.45**, Easter Vigil: **\$451.90**, Easter Sunday: **\$375.55**, Easter Offering: **\$1475.35**, Arch Lenten Appeal: **\$1077.95**, Offertory Envelopes: **\$75.00** Total Amount Collection: **\$4847.60**

**Reading coming week:** [8/4/18] Second **Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy Sunday:** Acts 4: 32-35; 1 John 5: 1-6; John 20: 19-31, Monday: **(Annunciation)**- Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38, Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7-15, Wednesday: **(Saint Stanislaus, Bishop, Martyr)** :Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21, Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36, Friday: Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15, Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21, **Third Sunday of Easter:** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5; Luke 24:53-48

