

## RECTOR'S LETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2018.

Dear Friends, I pray you all have a very enjoyable summer break refreshed and renewed for new Schools with new friends and teachers. Parents will be glad to go back into their daily routine and work. Grandparents can also have a break from allowing their grand children to break rules that are put by parents while with them at home. I think there will be new levels of conversations taking place of new experiences of all kinds.

When I was a little boy I went to School and had the privilege of going to a far Island with my uncle who was the generator operator at the Lever Brothers Head Quarters in the Central part of the Country. It was there I first saw a car with head lights on at night, tractors and machines for the copra mills that year was 1962. It was there I had my first taste of white man's food such bread, butter, tea, coffee, milk, rice and corned beef and other varieties. That Christmas was the first to be away from my home village.

I had a little glimpse of the outside world and thought I do not need to go back to School that life was attractive and wonder why so many young men from my village do not return to School but became copra cutters and getting paid at the end of the month. It was hard manual labour but they are earning money and eating white man's food which was luxury. I made my decision not to return to my School and word reached my Parish Priest's ear on our island and his name was Fr. Willie I think they must named me after him so he sent back a message saying that I must return to School at once.

My Parish Priest Fr. Willie Au was God's messenger who rescued me from being a copra cutter, he encouraged me to have a vocation in the ministry and was present at my ordination to the priesthood on 2nd December 1975 being the Feast of St Andrew (transferred). I want to say to our young students today we have a lot of challenges that we face on our journey in life, avoid being trapped by the pleasures of this world they are temporary and will not last. But only the gifts from God will give you fulfilment, purpose, and rewards that are awaiting for you to enjoy.

This month takes me back to my college days in 1971 when we celebrated the centenary of the first Diocesan Bishop John Coleridge Patteson's martyrdom and his companions on the 20th. Our Theological Centre is named after him where we trained Priests, Lay men and women for the work of the Church in the islands as evangelists, catechists and lay readers. So the death of our Bishop was not in vain but his legacy lives on.

The Church has grown with the zeal for Mission and conversion is at the heart of our drive forward to share the Gospel and Good News of Jesus Christ at home and beyond. That mission ethos is what Bishop Peter of Chester wants our Diocese to aim for in the future so that Ministry and Mission is and must be at the fore front of every Parish Priest with their Parochial Church Council. Complacency must never be ours we have a lot to do still here and around the world.

On the 23rd we shall gather in the village Hall for our village harvest praise in the late afternoon so there will be no service in the evening at St James. These combined services are for everyone in our community, do encourage others to join us for celebrating God's goodness and blessings on our land and on our lives.

At the end of this month on the 30th at 6.30 p.m. we shall welcome Bishop Libby to St Michael and All Angels, North Rode when we celebrate our Patronal Feast Day, the Bishop will dedicate our kitchen and toilet facilities newly installed in the Church, there will be no evening service at St James.

Your Fellow Co - Worker in the Gospel.

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