

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAE



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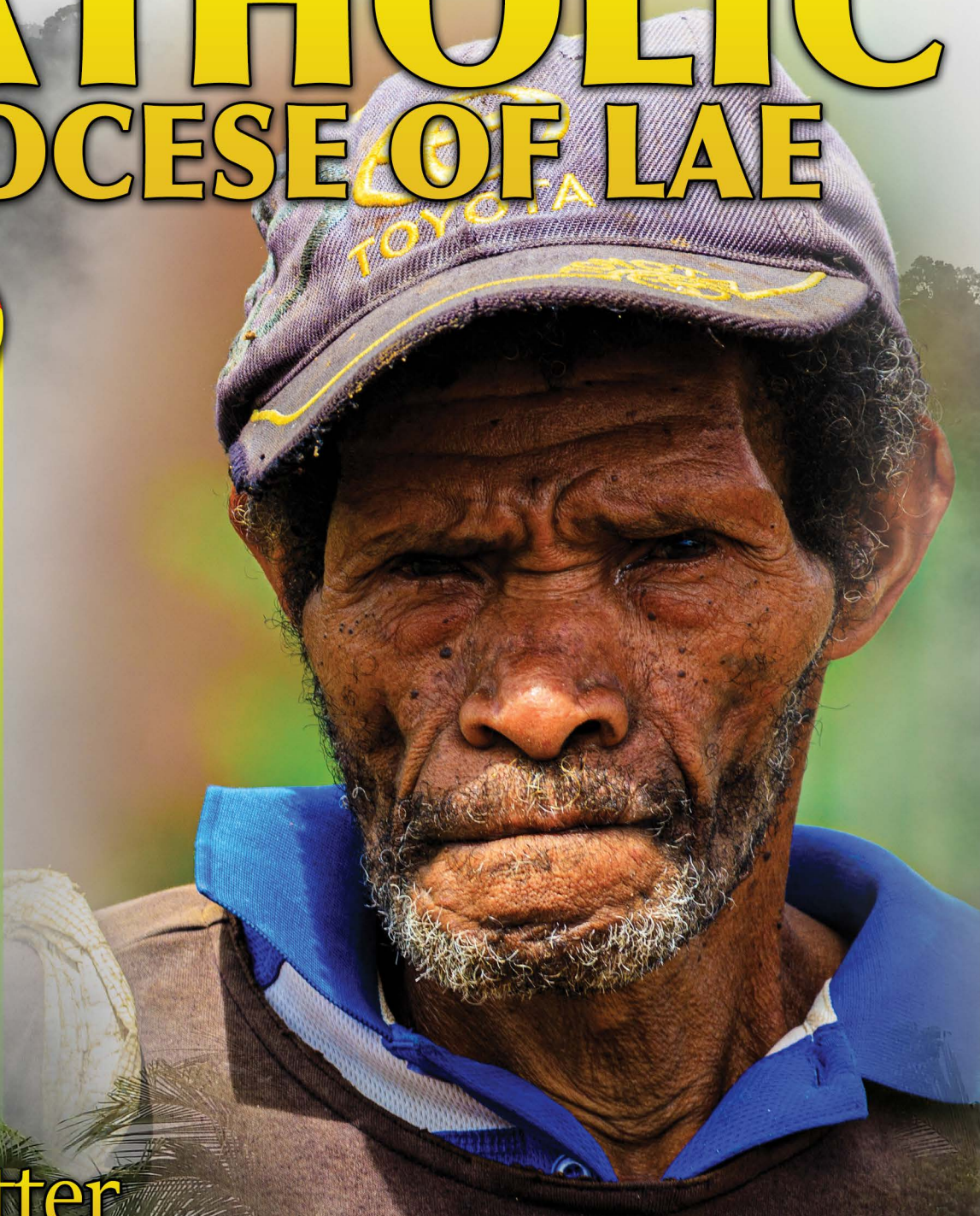
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In the third pastoral letter during the SOE bishop wrote; " now is the time to turn our homes into miniature Church and parents become catechists for their children. "

Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM

"I have never missed Mass during Holy Week and I am now 64 years old," Mama Fabian Stan

#Tune in to the Radio every Saturday for Liturgy Preparation at 2pm: Fr. Alfonso Voorn CMM always prepare us with reflections for the liturgical celebrations.

Bishop Rozario Visits Menyamya

This year's pastoral visit of Bishop Rozario Menezes to remote communities was a little bit different from last year. It implied a Covid-19 awareness campaign and a health patrol by a health team. On his visit to St Matthews Catholic Church in Piwi village in Morobe's rural district Menyamya, Bishop Rozario was accompanied by the health team from the Centre of Mercy in Lae. The team of health workers did clinical check-ups and Bishop Rozario with the team's assistance conducted Covid-19 awareness among the people. People in the community said they had asked the Bishop during his last visit to provide basic health service and they expressed their happiness with the service now provided.

One of mothers in the village said that with the actual road conditions and the nearest aid-post being kilometers away health is a huge concern and she thanked the bishop for this visit: "Laspela taim em (bisop) i kam planti manmeri i bin sik na mipela i askim sapos em i ken kisim I kam ol dokta na nurs bai ol i mekim wanpela aid-post blong mipela long hia. Nau em i bin kam wantaim ol wokmanmeri bilong haus sik na mipela i amamas tru bikos mipela i lukim olsem em tasol i wok bilong helpim mipela." A similar issue faced was education with many school buildings built with bush materials and students sitting on the floor during classes.



Road condition remains the major impediment to accessing markets and other basic services. Bishop Rozario appealed to the government to work in partnership with the Church to find ways to assist rural communities. He also highlighted the agricultural potential in the area. However, bad road conditions still remain the hindrance. It was almost a 16-hour journey to Piwi village, and like this village many remote communities depend on Church-run institutions, especially with respect to health and education.



Two Years Without Basic Health Service

The people in the remote Piwi village of Menyamy District have been without basic health services for the last two years. This was revealed by health workers from the Centre of Mercy in Lae who were part of the health team during the pastoral visit to St Matthews Catholic parish at Piwi in June.

Cornelius Kandora, a male nurse from Bumbu Health Centre, said it was not the first time he visited the place and found that there had been no medical services to this part of Morobe since his last visit: "I came to the other village, which is an hour and 30 minutes climbing the mountain away, where I had been in 2018 to see patients. I saw again the medical card with my handwriting of 2018. There was no new medical report on the patient's card. It means there had been no health service in the area since 2018."

It is difficult for people in the area to receive proper health services due to the bad roads. Mr Kandora thanked the Catholic Diocese of Lae for the initiative to do health patrols in the parish saying that all citizens, in rural as well as in urban areas, deserve proper health services. Several villagers also spoke of the hardship of deficient health services in the area with the major problem of child-birth in the area where women have to climb mountains to deliver their child: "We don't have an aid-post here in the village and it is very difficult during child-birth, especially for our mothers", one of the mothers said. She also said; "The church here has been of great assistance but we also hope for support from our district leaders and health authorities to establish an aid-post." Bishop Rozario Menezes of the Catholic Diocese of Lae also asks the government leaders to partner with the Church in order to ensure that health services be delivered to these remote places.



Catholic Diocese of Lae Health Services upgrading its buildings for the community of miles area. Building above is under construction at the Bishop Henry Aid Post at 11 mile, Huon District.



Government Must Be Responsible



The National Government and the Department of Health must be responsible in the delivery of basic health services around the country, says bishop. Lae Diocese Bishop Rozario Menezes said health is one of the basic responsibilities of the government and must not be forgotten.

Bishop Menezes made this call early this month during the announcement of a scale down in operations of Catholic Health Services around the country. The plan to scale down services came about after observing that

more than 41,000 health workers around the country working under the Catholic Health Services and Christian Health services were not paid by the government since February.

“As church it is our Christian duty to look after the people and we have continued to serve paying the workers at our own expense and supplying drugs despite the government not paying the workers,” Bishop Menezes said. “But it a worry why the government is not looking after the people, they must be responsible. We requested the government to assist but nothing

was done,” He said.

The church is standing firm on its decision to scale down operations until the government takes responsibility and assist with paying the workers or will close down the services.



25th Anniversary of Holy Spirit Parish



The Holy Spirit Church in Lae Diocese celebrated its 25th years' jubilee on the Feast Day of Pentecost in May with the parishioners celebrating in colors to mark this milestone. As many recall memories of the Church beginning as a lively parish, today one of the founding priests shares his memories of the early beginnings of the Church as a parish priest. "This new parish had developed well as I had expected 25 years earlier when I was still looking after two different ethnic groups of people who were attached to their own tribal gatherings," Fr. Frans Lessen CMM said. In 1985 Fr. Frans was a parish priest in town and was also looking after the area where Holy Spirit church stood after he was transferred from Wau to Lae.



There were two compounds in the area occupied by people from Simbu and Bundi (Madang) and each group had halls used as church on Sunday. "I was looking for a neutral piece of land outside these compounds to build a church and when finding the suitable land I got permission to build a church," Fr. Frans said. The transfer of the land title would be arranged later. But shortly after the land title was transferred for the church building, Fr. Frans was moved to Rome and Fr. Sido van der Werf took charge of the church building. Fr. Sido was transferred from Wau to Lae in 1993. The church was built and was officially opened in 1995 with Fr. Sido as the first parish priest of Holy Spirit parish. After Fr. Sido came Fr. Edward Suakau who was also transferred from Wau to Holy Spirit Parish. Later came Fr. Hubert Hofmans. Changing circumstances in the diocese led to frequent changing appointments of parish priests. When Fr. Hubert went for home-leave in Netherlands Fr. Frans was appointed parish priest for Holy Spirit Church. "The two communities (by then) had become partners in the new and large parish and the parish became lively with various groups from different provinces and all works of live." "This new parish had developed well, as I had expected."

Everyone Is Responsible



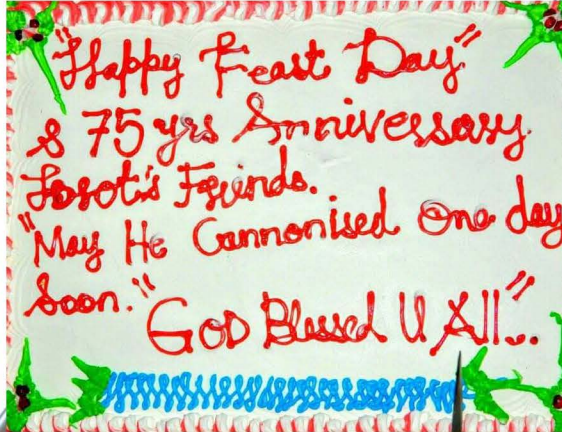
“CHILDREN ARE CHILDREN AND IT IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY TO SPEAK AGAINST CHILD LABOUR IN THE COMMUNITY.”

Lae Catholic Diocese Youth Chaplin Fr. Prashanth Kumar shared this message, emphasizing Pope Francis’ message to all Church members to speak out against child labour. The message was shared during a discussion on Catholic FM 103.7 on June 12 to celebrate the World Day Against Child Labour. Fr. Prashanth Kumar said that children are the presence of the society which means that everyone, being part of the society, has to contribute to the welfare of the children. “If there is anything found done against the wellbeing of a child, then we have to respond immediately. Most of the times we don’t react and respond or our response is very slow. Then we are depriving the child of its rights.” Fr. Prashanth said. “Many times, we hear “children are the future of the church or society”. That concept has changed. Children are not only the future but the present so when we take this into account, their rights become. This is very important because in anyone’s life childhood is very important,” The development of a child is essential as it determines his or her whole life Fr. Prashanth said on radio during a discussion. The World Day Against Child Labour was celebrated on June 12 with its 2020 focus on the impact of the economic crisis, caused by Covid-19, on Child Labour. The Vicar General of Lae Catholic Diocese, Fr. Roland Matoyi, said: With Covid-19 many children are impacted around the world as parents or guardians lose jobs, get quarantine and count on the children to find ways to assist them. Fr. Matoyi said: With many parents and guardians faced with the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic, childrens rights are getting endangered. Some children have to fend for themselves as some parents are getting hospitalised and dying. The diocese of Lae has a committee established that tries to address this issue of child labour. However, there is a greater need, namely that everyone feels responsible for improving this aspect of our society. A report of the United Nations also states that the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in an economic and labour shock-wave having a huge impact on people’s lives and livelihoods. Regrettably, children are often the first to suffer as the crisis may push millions of vulnerable children into child labour.

75th Years Peter ToRot

The 7th of July marks an important day for Catholics in Papua New Guinea as they celebrate in small and large gatherings the feast day of Blessed Peter To Rot.

In the Diocese of Lae, like in many other dioceses around the country, parishes celebrated this important day to mark the 75th death anniversary of Blessed Peter To Rot. Bishop Rozario Menezes of Lae Diocese celebrated Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in honour of Blessed Peter To Rot. Peter was born in 1912 at Rakunai, a village near Rabaul in East New Britain and was the beloved Catechist in his district until his death. He became Catechist at the age of 21 and served faithfully until his death in 1945 and every year Catholics around the country celebrate his feast day. On January 17th 1995 he was beatified as Blessed Peter To Rot, PNG's first martyr and this year July marks the 25th anniversary of his beatification as a martyr.



The Feast Of Blessed Peter ToRot, First Martyr Of PNG at Christ The King Parish, 11Mile. Mothers And Youths From Momase And NGI



APPOINTMENT TO THE DIOCESAN CURIA

1. Vicar General

Fr. Roland Matoyi CCM

2. Chancellor

Fr. John Joseph Bellarmin IVD

3. Pastoral Vicar

Fr. Vinod D'Mello SMM

4. Members of College Of Consultors

Fr. Roland Matoyi CMM
Fr. Nicholas Radei

5. Chaplains and Spirituals Directors

Couples for Christ and family life
Hospitals
Legion of Mary
Catholic Charismatic
Youth
Vacation director
Mothers
Alter servants
Sunday school
Prison
Catechists
Unitec
Imams Barracks

6. Deaneries and Deans

Lae Central Deanery
Lae Eastern Deanery
Markham Valley Deanery
Mountain Deanery
Siassi Island Deanery

Fr. Roland Matoyi CCM

Fr. John Joseph Bellarmin IVD

Fr. Vinod D'Mello SMM

Fr. John Joseph Bellarmin IVD

Fr. Edward Suakau

Fr. Alfonso Voon CMM

Fr. Nicholas Radei

Fr. Arnold Schmitt CMM

Fr. Prashanth Kumar

Fr. John Joseph Bellarmin IVD

Fr. Prashanth Kumar

Fr. Nicholas Radei

Fr. Jeynal Justus IVD

Fr. Brain Nonde CMM

Fr. Vinod/Sr. Monica

Fr. Arnold Schmitt CMM

Fr. Krzysztof Zacharuk CMM

Fr. Nicholas Radei

Fr. Michael Wartom MSE

Fr. John Joseph Bellarmin IVD

Fr. Roland Matoyi CMM

Fr. Edward Suakau

Fr. Jeynal Justus IVD

Fr. John Nake





"Young people have the energy and drive to create something and they can do it "

St. Maria Goretti is the patron saint for the youths, especially young girls and women who are victims of rape and violence. She was chosen by our Catholic Bishop Conference (CBC) as the Patron Saint of Catholic Youth of PNG and Solomon Islands.

Picture features; St Martin's Catholic Youth, Malaita Ministry and the Community of Papua Compound in the Celebration. The program begins with the Eucharistic Celebration, celebrated by Parish Priest and Diocesan Youth Chaplin Rev. Fr. Prashanth Kumar, followed by the history and biography of St. Maria Goretti, a slide show, and a quiz reflecting the life of St. Maria Goretti and outdoor activities.

Guidelines Way Forward

On Monday, 13th July 2020 at 5:30pm, His Lordship, Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM the Bishop of Lae Diocese had a very important meeting with all Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson and Priest of all the Parishes in Morobe.

The purpose of the meeting was the highlights of the CONSTITUTION OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL which was introduced and presented by The Bishop to each Parish Priests and their Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson.. Bishop made an introductory note saying, He would like all Parishes in Lae Diocese to Function as one Body of Christ and by introducing the Constitution Of The Parish Pastoral Council and its Guidelines is a way forward..



"St Paul's Catholic Community in Gagidu station Finchaffen during the first visit of Bishop Menezes on Corpus Christi Sunday"



Catholic FM 103.7

Radio Station On Air Broadcasting

Catholic FM 103.7 is the means of mass communication for the Catholic Church in Morobe. Early last year the radio station was relocated at the new chancery building of the Catholic Diocese of Lae at St. Mary's Cathedral. With the help of the funds that came from the benefactors of the Missionaries of Mariannahill, the radio station was able not only to move to a new location but also installed a new digital equipment in the studio in order to improve its services. The digital equipment came with renewed sense of hope to reach out to people living in remote villages.

In December, Catholic FM experienced a setback, its old STL link was damaged. Prima Small Goods LTD came in and donated funds to remedy the situation and get the radio back on air. TE.PNG's technicians were contacted and engaged. But before they could complete their work - while on site configuring the link- the pandemic COVID19 alarmed our country and precipitated the lock down. This forced the technicians to flee and go back without completing the job. As a result, the radio station was forced to go off air at the time when it was most needed by the faithful and the people of Morobe. Mr. Richard Silakau, the technician, was outsourced by TE.PNG to complete the work today. And at about 12 pm Catholic FM 103.7 went back on air.

For five months the Catholic faithful of Lae Diocese depended only on programs that come from the Archdiocese of Port Moresby on Radio Maria through their frequency channel Catholic FM 103.7. They will now be able to share and listen to their local programs too.

“We were delighted to come back on air. We resumed our role of providing our listeners with valuable and much-missed local inspiring messages, praise and worship songs. We will be live broadcasting the Liturgy of Mass. Health programs, educational programs, important announcements and information, especially concerning local events from both the Church and the provincial government will be our immediate focus. Thanks to the help that we are getting locally and from our confreres overseas to do this work” said the director of the station, Fr. Brian Nonde, CMM. Catholic FM 103.7 will continue to work with Radio Maria in Port Moresby. Between 8 am and 5 pm Catholic FM radio will be airing the local programs from within Morobe, and at night it will switch to the programs from Port Moresby on Radio Maria.

The usual and familiar line-up is back on air, and this includes spiritual and catechetical programs such as 'Simple Abundance', Gospel Shows and Prima Lunch Hour with Mr. Scofield Mutum to add taste to much of its audio contents.

A key development is that the station is now drawing up an agreement with Voice of America through the US Embassy in Papua New Guinea for educational programs. Most importantly, it has a new face on its social platforms, Facebook and YouTube: Snyder William, who is the new associate who is giving a hand with Live Video programs such as Bishop's Liturgy of Mass and short inspiring videos so that people can listen and watch at the same time.

"We expect to get in touch with more listeners in our daily programming. We want people to express their views on social and spiritual matters. We will continue to bring on air the News from the Vatican and Church News. Our own local stories from within Morobe will continue to be aired in the Insider Show at 1 pm. Sunday and liturgical programs that are sponsored by Juilan Sharps and Family Foundation will continue. We realize that we especially need to work with more relevant organizations, this is a necessity we are noticing during the pandemic" said Fr. Brian.

The Catholics in Morobe got their radio station back on air. The best news they waited for. All the prayers that were said over the past five months were being answered. Thanks to the local and overseas benefactors of the Missionaries of Mariannahill!

CATHOLIC
FM 103.7
PNG

WE ARE
BACK ON
AIR



Many thanks to the Congregation of the Missionaries of Marianhil in the Region of Austria for the help given to the apostolate that we the Mariannhillers are involved in here in PNG Lae Diocese. Our first ever recording of liturgical songs in Papua New Guinea are started, we hope to promote local Catholic gospel songs and hymns and build up a sense of taste for both culture and liturgy. This is an urgent task because most of the faithful seem not to appreciate and know catholic liturgical songs contained in the the Yumi Lotu. This will be our contribution to the Church in PNG; safeguarding the Church's rich liturgical heritage is part of our missionary. Keep us in your daily prayers as we embark on this exciting and enriching path.



During the Holy Week, Papua New Guinea went into a state of emergency that prohibited Church gatherings. The communication team of Lae Diocese adjusted and started broadcasting Masses Online on its Facebook Page and YouTube channel. Followers on Facebook increased from 4,000 to 10,000. The followers are Catholics from within and outside of Papua New Guinea. The points below are extracted from the report that was written by our communication:

Advantages of Live Streaming:

- people could tune in and watch the Masses at different convenient locations;
- the faithful could revisit Live Mass Playlist and reflect again on messages and learn more about the celebrations.

Disadvantages:

- It was very costly for both viewers and the Diocese;
- Not good for all generations, the old timers found it less spiritual;
- People in remote villages and places with no internet access are left out;
- It can promote individualism and break up community/family ties;
- Lack of concentration as the gadgets used by viewers have multiple purposes.



Lae Diocese Communication Team

Fr. Brian Nonde CMM - *Director of Communications Lae Diocese*

Schofield Mutim - *Radio Announcer and Program Producer*

Snyder William - *Content Creator and Music Producer*

Janet Kari - *Volunteer Journalist*

Thomas Huliambari - *Volunteer Journalist*

Noland Pandau - *Music Producer*

Fr. Alfonso Voorn CMM - *Proof Reader*

