**News Compilation for Catholic Church News aired on Radio Maria**

**Air Date: 4/ 03/ 2019**

**Good day! This is your weekly Catholic Church news broadcast on Radio Maria, 103.5FM, by Abigail Seta and Nigel Akuani.**

**The headlines for this week;**

1. **Memorial Mass for Bp. Christian Blouin, Emeritus Bishop of Lae**
2. **Bp. Rochus Tatamai shares insights of Sexual Abuse Summit**
3. **Confusion over Student Selection into Tertiary Institutes**
4. **Suspended Principals Return to Work**
5. **Pope Francis urges Catholics to stop gossiping**
6. **Lent a Time to Reflect on how we treat others**

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**News 1 - Memorial Mass for Bishop Christian Blouin, Emeritus Bishop of Lae**

A memorial mass was held for Bishop Christian Blouin, Emeritus Bishop of Lae on 4th March at St. Joseph’s Parish, Boroko, Port Moresby.

During the mass a captivating homily was preached by Bishop Rozario Menezes, Bishop of Lae, to pay tribute to the late Emeritus Bishop for his life’s dedication to serving God.

In the homily the late Bishop was described as giving himself completely to ensure he completed his life’s work before returning to God, the source of his being.

Among those present at the mass was John Cardinal Ribat who celebrated the solemn Eucharist.

Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, and CBC President Bishop Rochus Tatamai together with other bishops and priests concelebrated at the Eucharistic celebration.

The celebration was coordinated by Sister Mary McCarthy and the choir was by the Catholic Theological Institute seminarians.

…………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………….

**News 2 - Bishop Rochus Tatamai shares insights of Sexual Abuse Summit.**

**CBC, Gordons:** A press conference and discussion on Sunday 3rd March saw Bp Rochus Tatamai give an insighton the Summit on the Protection of minors in the Church.

During the press conference and discussion, Bp Rochus shared the highlights of what took place recently in Rome when the Presidents of all the Catholic Bishops Conferences gathered in response to a call from Pope Francis. In a letter, August 2018, the Pope called for a meeting to find a way forward at this time of crisis in the Catholic Church.

Bp. Rochus who recently attended the Sexual Abuse Summit at the Vatican, describes the summit as a ‘wakeup call’ for us Papua New Guineans.

The afternoon was thought provoking and emotional for all present at the press conference and discussion on the Care and Protection of Minors

Present at the Press Conference and discussion were Archbishop Douglas Young, Archbishop of Mt Hagen; Bishop Anton Bal, Bishop of Kundiawa; Bishop [Gilles Côté](http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/bcoteg.html), Bishop of Daru Kiunga; Priests, sisters, religious, seminarians and lay faithful.

…………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………….

**News 3 - Confusion over Student Selection into Tertiary Institutes**

**CBC, Gordons:** Widespread confusion has been created over the selection of grade twelve students into various Teachers Colleges.

National Catholic Education Secretary Michael Ova on Friday 1st March, said this was the result after a decision was passed by the governing council to select Grade twelve school leavers and non-school leavers, who did not apply, into teachers’ colleges

Mr Ova said as there was a rise in GPA to 2.4, many students who had applied to Teachers Colleges missed out, and this created a huge absence of students in colleges.

Mr Ova clarified that due to this absence, the governing council made the irrational decision of selecting students who did not apply into Teachers colleges.

He strongly urged that the governing council should have consulted its partners before making the decision, and added that the GPA of 2.4 must not be a criteria, but instead other forms of measurement should be used.

…………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………….

**News 4 - Suspended Principals Return to Work**

**CBC, Gordons:** The Catholic school principals who were suspended for defying the Tuition Free Fee policy have been allowed to return back to work.

This was confirmed on Friday 1st March by National Catholic Education Secretary Michael Ova who disagreed on the action taken by Department of Education in suspending the principals as they were simply complying and implementing decisions made by their school’s board of governors.

Mr Ova said that for the schools to be charging additional fees was not only necessary but was their right as provided for by the law.

He added that according to the disciplinary committee, the principals could return to work but would not be allowed to further charge additional costs onto families of students.

The temporary relief for the principals was granted to allow time for the Department of Education to make a ruling on the matter.

…………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………….

**News 5 - Pope Francis urges Catholics to stop gossiping**

**CBC, Gordons:** In a visit to a parish in Rome, Pope Francis encouraged Catholics to stop gossiping about the mistakes of other people, and to focus on repenting their own sins.

The parish of San Crispino da Viterbo located in the northern outskirts of Rome was visited by the Pope on Sunday 3rd March 2019.

In his homily the Pope reminded everyone that before criticizing and looking for defects in others, we were to first look at ourselves to see if we were without faults.

He said that we were all specialists at finding the flaws of others, and this prevented us from seeing our own, adding that this led to gossip and speaking badly about others.

The pope cautioned that before cursing others we were all to reflect on Jesus words where he said “Before speaking badly of others, take a mirror and look at yourself; look at your faults and be ashamed of having them”.

…………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………….

**News 6 – Lent a Time to Reflect on how we treat others**

**CBC, Gordons:** The Pope referenced the arrival of Lent, which begins Wednesday, and advised people to use this time to reflect on how they treat others.

He made this known in his homily during his visit to a Roman parish on Sunday 3rd March 2019.

He said if Catholics reached Easter with an improvement in this area where criticizing and gossiping become less the Resurrection of Jesus would be seen more beautiful, and greater among us.

The Pope advised that in this period of lent if a person wanted to break the habit of criticizing and gossiping, there were two alternatives. The first was to pray, especially for the person who is tempted to criticize.

He said that when faced with the temptation to speak badly about someone, the second recommendation was to “Bite your tongue. Strong!” Because this would swell the tongue and you would not be able to speak.

…………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………….

**Recapping our headlines for this week.**

1. Memorial Mass for Bp. Christian Blouin, Emeritus Bishop of Lae
2. Bp. Rochus Tatamai shares insights of Sexual Abuse Summit
3. Confusion over Student Selection into Tertiary Institutes
4. Suspended Principals Return to Work
5. Pope Francis urges Catholics to stop gossiping
6. Lent, a Time to Reflect on how we treat others

**This ends the Catholic Church news for this week, join us next week for more.**

**From the news team here at Radio Maria, we wish you all an enjoyable week.**