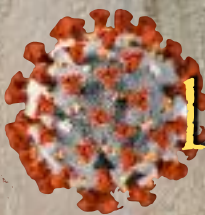




A Catholic Church Family Magazine for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands
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CHURCH *Alive*



Living amidst COVID-19

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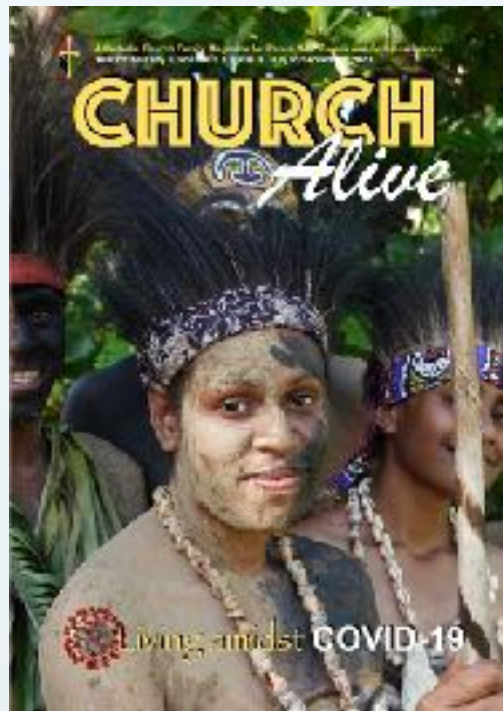
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Church Alive Cover



Debra Makaha and Dianne Hoa together with **Obed Hoea, Ignatius Eugene** and several other students were part of the dance group from the Gulf province community. The *bilas* is formed of shell money, grass skirts for females, and tapa cloth for males. Shell money is used for marriage and funeral celebrations. The dance was performed at Don Bosco Araithiri on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary celebrations.

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Church Alive Invitation

The Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI in this **Year of Laity 2020** has as its theme: **Holy and Formed for Mission.**

In the midst of **COVID-19** we have put together this issue of Church Alive with reflections, stories and articles on our situation today. May it inform and inspire you. Thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue of Church Alive.

Articles on the lives of priests, religious and more especially the laity who have led committed lives and inspired many can be sent for publication together with photographs. Reflections, inspirational stories and news items for the entire church are also welcome.

All material are to be sent to:
socom@catholic.org.pg or
ambrose.pereirasdb@gmail.com
on or before **10th September, 2020.**
Trust you will enjoy reading this issue.
With gratitude. God bless.
Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Editor

Living amidst COVID-19



We need to ensure that our common home, our relationships and above all our dependence on God will empower us and ensure that we keep ourselves and our communities healthy and safe.

It has all happened so suddenly. Symptoms of the SARS live virus, hygiene and sanitising, social distancing and stay at home instructions have been constant reminders to all of us. Over the past months we have been engaged in online education and zoom meetings and have been connected with friends and family using a variety of programs that new technology offers us.

“The country has not been ravaged by the devastation that the coronavirus has caused in many established countries globally”, said the Prime Minister James Marape. “The government cannot take credit and we need to give gratitude to God for his protection”, he said at Radio Maria’s fundraising launch in the month of May. On the 19th June, the ninth case of COVID-19 was announced, awakening us to the reality that we are not a special race and that each of us cannot be complacent at this time of crisis.

We may want to return to early 2020 and go about our peaceful lives, however, COVID-19 has changed all that. It has changed our daily routine and above all the outlook to our future.

Living amidst the COVID-19 we are now forced to make sudden and drastic shifts to our way of life. The pandemic has made us reflect on the relationship between each of us and the environment. With pollution reduced the beauty of places have been revealed. Family time has been enriched and our personal interaction with each other has led us to appreciate the hidden qualities of heart and mind of our loved ones. We have realized that every person, be they the marginalized, the underprivileged or the refugees, form a vital part of our community and that we are all in it together. No one can be left out. Above all, these weeks have given each of us the possibility to spend quiet time in reflection and prayer and enter into a deeper relationship with our Lord, our Master and our Creator.

As we resume our activities, uncertain of the future, we can still find reasons to hope as we hold on to the God who loves us and on whom we ultimately depend. We need to carefully put into practice the vital lessons we have learnt over these past few weeks. We need to ensure that our common home, our relationships and above all our dependence on God will empower us and ensure that we keep ourselves and our communities healthy and safe.

This issue of Church Alive brings you reflections from different people. They share their experience of the past three months. May their articles inspire you to put into practice the ‘New Normal’. 🇩🇪

God bless you all!

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb

SOCOM Secretary and Editor of Church Alive

A call to remember DEATH

Bp Donald Lippert



Bishop Donald Lippert OFM.Cap is the Bishop of the Diocese of Mendi which is located in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. He was ordained Bishop on 4th February 2012. He has been involved in a lot of reconstruction work due to natural disasters. He is the Deputy Bishop in charge of Social Communications.

Before departing from the crypt, you are greeted by one of these hooded figures who is holding a sign with a chilling message from beyond the grave: "I was once as you now are, you will one day be as I now am!"

I was privileged to celebrate a memorial Mass remembering the mother of a Religious Sister who serves in Mendi. Her dear mother reportedly died of COVID-19 in the Philippines a few days ago. Her family was not permitted to visit their mother in the hospital and after her death, the family was not permitted to take her body for the customary Catholic burial rites. This profoundly intensified the pain of this grief-stricken family.

To date, PNG has been relatively free of the virus which is responsible for the death of countless thousands of people, has placed much of the world in lock-down and has ground the global economy to a virtual halt. Even so, here in PNG we are not ignorant of the plight of so many affected people throughout the world and we have shared in some of the preventative measures of mitigation in order to protect people here from contracting the virus. PNG has not been unaffected by the pandemic.

Already much has been written about COVID-19 and it is certain that much more will be written in the future about what can be learned in the wake of this global pandemic.

The *Via Veneto* is one of the most exclusive shopping districts in Rome. Amid the expensive stores and shops that line this famous street is the church of the Immaculate Conception. The crypt of this church, which is served by the Capuchins, has become a kind of tourist attraction. The crypt served as the cemetery for the friars (and some parishioners) who died, but this is not an ordinary cemetery! Human bones of every kind line the walls and ceilings in various geometric designs. Many full skeletons of the dead are dressed in their religious habits and are standing or seated throughout the rooms of the crypt. Before departing from the crypt, you are greeted by one of these hooded figures who is holding a sign with a chilling message from beyond the grave: "I was once as you now are,

From this humble position perhaps, we will be able see through the self-deception of our pride and deluded self-sufficiency. From the depths of our pain, grief and impotence perhaps we will cry out to the One who is truly all-knowing, all-powerful and all-good!

you will one day be as I now am!" The whole exhibit is a powerful example of "*memento mori*" – a call to remember death.

Perhaps we can view the terrible global pandemic in the same terms? In our contemporary world, filled as it is with constant new discoveries and amazing technological advances it may be easy for us to be deluded into believing that we are all-powerful, all-knowing and eternal. It is easy to forget God, because we feel that we have become as gods with power over life and death. We have forgotten the reality of death and with it we have lost the meaning of life. We have forgotten God and so we have forgotten what it truly means to be human. This has happened repeatedly (and disastrously) throughout human history: From Adam & Eve and their forbidden fruit, Babel and its infamous tower, through the French Revolution and its ensuing Terror, Marx and his flawed utopia, the National Socialist nightmare of the Arian race, down to our own day filled with similar or worse delusions.

An invisible molecule of protein covered with a bit of fat has brought

the world to its knees. And perhaps on its knees is where the world needs to be right now! From this humble position perhaps, we will be able see through the self-deception of our pride and deluded self-sufficiency. From the depths of our pain, grief and impotence perhaps we will cry out to the One who is truly all-knowing, all-powerful and all-good! From the trash heap of our expensive diversions, perhaps we will reach out to each other again in solidarity and care and discover how frail yet how precious is human life. From the apparent meaninglessness and absurdity of so much suffering perhaps we will experience again the transcendent meaning of human life in love. Remembering death perhaps we will remember the true meaning of life. From this Hell perhaps we will long for Heaven.

In the midst of it all, there is another figure calling to us from beyond the grave from where He arose victorious on the Third Day, and His message is the similar: "I was once as you now are, follow me and you will be as I now am!" 🇳🇮

Photo below:

Participants at the Social Communication Animators Seminar





Christ in the tabernacle of our Hearts

Archbishop Francesco Panfilo sdb, was appointed as the Coadjutor Archbishop of Rabaul on 18th March 2010. On 11th August 2011, he was installed as the Archbishop of Rabaul. Pope Francis has accepted the resignation presented to him by His Grace Most Reverend Francesco PANFILO, SDB, from the pastoral governance of the Archdiocese of Rabaul for having reached the age limit.

On 15th March, 2020, upon returning from Bougainville, where I celebrated the Chrism Mass with all the clergy in the presence for a large group of people, I wrote a Circular Letter to the Catholic faithful of Rabaul about the coronavirus. In that Letter I reminded the priests, religious and lay people that we were expected to follow the instructions of our civil leaders and, in particular, of our National and provincial Health authorities.

When the State of Emergency was declared and the lockdown of the country came into effect, I was in Pomio, on Pastoral visit. Although I was able to visit the parishes of Uvol and Amio, where I also celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation, and I attended the deanery meeting on 24th – 25th March, I decided to cut short the Pastoral visit and returned to Vunapope. Nevertheless, before leaving Pomio we were able to celebrate the Chrism Mass on 26th March. It was a beautiful celebration in the presence of a large crowd, so much so that I told the priests that the Chrism Mass of 2020 was the best attended celebration of the last 9 years.

While in Pomio, I had enough time to prepare a Circular Letter, dated 25th March, solemnity of the Annunciation, which was to be read in all churches the following Sunday. In that letter I wrote: "The Prime Minister has given clear directions restricting the movement of people from one place to another and encouraging people to stay at home until 5th April. On the other hand, The Minister for Health and HIV/

AIDS, Hon. Jelta Wong, has issued "an immediate ban on gatherings of over 100 persons".

And so, in the light of those directives I asked the priests to stay in their parishes because people needed them, to celebrate mass every day, and to offer the daily Mass for the welfare of those who could not be physically present in the Church. The same thing was to take place on Sunday, 29th March and on Palm Sunday, 5th April. Priests were told to inform the faithful at what time they were going to celebrate Mass, so that they could join spiritually from home. I reminded the priests that this was "the time to pray more, even though the majority will be deprived of the joy to be present at the Eucharistic celebration".

Upon my return from Pomio, I celebrated Mass every day at the Vunapope Cathedral which was attended regularly by 50 to 80 people. On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the greatest majority of people could not come to church, but they could follow the celebration through the Voice of Blessed Peter To Rot. During Communion time, our Deacon invited the people, who were following the Mass on the Radio, to receive Jesus spiritually.

At the beginning of April the National Authorities decided to extend the State of Emergency for another two months. This did not prevent the priests and deacons of the Gazelle Peninsula to get together on 2nd April to share ideas, thoughts, worries and expectation for the coming Holy

Photo left:
Archbishop Panfilo on a walk to
Raunsepna accompanied by his flock.



Week. We concluded our get together with the celebration of the Chrism Mass.

On 4th April, the day before Palm Sunday, I sent another letter to all the Catholic faithful in which I wrote: "Tomorrow we start the most important week of the liturgical year. This year we are going to celebrate it in a very singular way. Nevertheless, it can still be a Holy Week, provided we will find time to pray and, above all, to pray as a family".

Once again, I asked all the priests to stay in the parish and celebrate Mass daily. I wrote: "Tomorrow and on Easter Sunday, I encourage you to celebrate more than one mass, even three if possible, so that some people - **no more than 100 at any time** - can celebrate and receive the Eucharist". I also asked the Priests to coordinate with the personnel in Health Centres and Aid Posts, within their own parishes, to monitor any unusual health condition of people. I wrote: "The best strategy to prevent coronavirus is the lockdown of our borders, no matter how painful this measure can be, and to restrict our movements to what is essential only, keeping a certain distance one from another. Therefore only small groups of faithful, who live near the Cathedral and the various parish churches, will be able to attend the liturgies of the Holy Week. To the majority of our Catholic faithful I ask for your understanding. Let this Week be a **Holy Family Week**. Follow the celebrations spiritually and/or through the Radio of Voice of Peter ToRot in your home".

On 6th April there came the news that a lady from ENBP was found positive to COVID 19. A frightening silence fell over Kokopo and Rabaul and, indeed, over the whole Province. There was fear and anxiety that led even to very uncharitable comments against the innocent victim of the infection.

The next day, on 7th April, I wrote two letters: one for all Catholic faithful and one specifically for the priests, in view of the celebration of the Easter Triduum.

Knowing how dear the Holy Week is for our people and how painful it could be for many of them not to be able to celebrate, I encouraged

them to join their pain to the sacrifice of Jesus who came to save and redeem us with his passion and death. Yes, on that letter I told the people: "Please, stay home to protect yourselves and to protect others".

The Easter Triduum was celebrated in the main parishes, with no more than 100 people participating. It was surely unusual to celebrate the Last Supper without the symbolic action of the washing of the feet or the Easter Vigil without the celebration of baptisms and the festive participation of huge crowds. But the ringing of the bells at the Gloria and the singing of the Alleluia brought joy to the few who were in the Cathedral or in the main parishes as well as to greatest majority who were at home, following as they were being 'live streamed' on social media.

Knowing that many people would wish to receive the Holy Eucharist, I encouraged the priests to celebrate three masses on **Easter Sunday** and to visit the various communities during the **Octave of Easter**.

Yes, the Lenten Season and the Easter Season of the year 2020 will be remembered in the books of history. Our churches were not packed to capacity, but Christ was not quarantined and his Gospel was not in chains. Our Lord's heart remained open to all of us. Even though we could not worship together, I am sure each of us could find him in the tabernacles of our own hearts. **The Lord is truly Risen, Alleluia!** 🇻🇵

Renewal of the Earth

The importance of maintaining Forest Cover in PNG to improve ecology



- Carol Aigilo

Carol Aigilo is an Environmentalist who has worked in the two sustainable oil palm producing companies in PNG during the past 6 years. She specialises in the field of sustainability and compliance management system. She is a parishioner and an active youth member of St Joseph's Parish, Boroko, Port Moresby.

In the plight of development throughout the world where PNG is no exception, there is an equal amount of pressure put on the natural resources of the earth that are extracted to create commodities. In spite of moral teachings against exploitation of natural resources that is taught through Christianity and law etc., one thing for certain is humanity's continuous obsession for tangible wealth. This obsession has overtime caused bigger problems for the wellbeing of the environment that is experienced at both the local and global level. Increase in greenhouse gases and climate change are the extent of environmental issues faced in the country and the world today. You need not look far to see the real impact of climate change in sea level rising and devastating king tides that are affecting the local communities of PNG; the situation reported in the Carteret Islands back in 1993 making their inhabitants become the world's first environmental refugees and other communities such as Duke of York Islands (reported in 2003) and Madang town (reported in 2010). It is unfortunate that it would have to take a global pandemic crisis for people to realize the extent of exploitation we have created for our planet.

PNG has at least 8 major development investments in national commodities that contribute significantly to the country's economy. These include gold, oil, copper, coffee, cocoa, vegetable oils, fish and timber. However, timber

has been diminishing at fast pace because of its high demand. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) report in 2011, 63.4% or about 28,726,000 ha of PNG is forested. Of this 91.2% (26,210,000 ha) is classified as primary forest, the most bio-diverse and carbon-dense form of forest. PNG had 86,000 ha of planted forest. However, with the increase in development activities that have taken place throughout PNG since 2011, there has been a significant decrease in the total amount of primary forested land in PNG.

In 2017, PNG Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) reported statistics showing that forest cover had depleted at a rate of 30% since 2001. It is a significant decline in ecology and poses high risk of loss in biodiversity of the wildlife in forests that have been logged or removed and consequently contributing to the rise in global warming.

As research conclusively show the Coronavirus originated from human's obsession to explore cuisines that involved bats or pangolins, environmentalists throughout the world however protest it is nature's way of healing itself. As young climate and environmental activist, Greta Thunberg said in 2020 Earth Hour in April, ***"Earth Hour for me is every hour of every day. The need to unite and protect our planet has never been greater. As we have been***

asked to avoid public gatherings to slow the spreading of the COVID-19 (coronavirus), I recommend everyone to come together virtually for #EarthHour to renew our commitment to the planet and use our voices to drive action.” This is inevitable for PNG. There needs to be more serious discussion and implementation of conservational practices to help restore the ecology of the natural environment that has been diminished by development activities. Trees for rehabilitation is one simple and practical way to reinstate ecological processes that will accelerate recovery of forest structure, ecological functioning and biodiversity levels towards a normal state of a functioning forest.

A proactive action plan like that facilitated by Governor of NCD, Powes Parkop in March 2020, in partnership with Active City Development Programme’s power walk (ACDP-PW) and Port Moresby Nature Park to plant 50,000 trees in the city before June 5th to mark the World Environment Day, is another practical way to help the earth recover. The program serves the purpose to help restore the carbon stock value of the country and thus protecting the country against climate change and also beautifying the city. This initiative is a recommended for institutions such as schools, ministry for forestry, churches and private businesses to engage in a partnership and plant as their contribution in helping the environment. There are other similar tree

planting initiatives conducted by the PNG CEPA and other local NGO’s such as Travel4Green.

And finally, the discussion on the use of renewable resources needs to be given more priority in terms of development and the future for PNG. Prime Minister, Mr. James Marape reiterated a speech he presented in 2019 that he intends for PNG to become the producer of organic foods to the Asian countries and the lockdown period in 2020 has been nothing short of a reassurance plan for his vision (www.businessadvantagepng.com). The government has already allocated funding for opportunities in the agricultural industry however advocacy & training need to be provided to the people on how to access that business opportunity. This encourages a more sustainable way of making business that is more realistic to the livelihoods of PNG and even more, contributes to protecting the environment.

In summary, forest cover is vital to maintaining the ecology of our planet and particularly for our beautiful country, PNG. A simple and practical way of conserving our ecology is through tree planting. This initiative needs to be driven with more emphasis by the PNG environment governmental bodies. Also as way of fostering a sustainable development for PNG, the government should make clear to its people the opportunities provided in sustainable projects such as that of agriculture. Training and advocacy need to be conducted to the public so people are informed on how to access and utilize these business opportunities. I believe with the government’s commitment to these conservational and sustainable practices, PNG can strive towards achieving a sustainable development. 🇵🇬



Photo left: Hon. Powes Parkop at a Tree Planting program





Responding to COVID-19

An Educator's Reflection

Dr Catherine Nongkas with a few of the students

Dr Catherine Nongkas PhD, is the Vice President for Academic and Technical affairs of Don Bosco Technological Institute, Boroko, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. She shares with us her reflection as an educator during this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

COVID-19 necessitated a new paradigm shift. As the Vice President for Academic and Technical Affairs in Don Bosco Technological Institute and a member of the administration, I felt a huge sense of responsibility.

As I put pen to paper about my personal reflection on the COVID-19, I am still unsure of what COVID-19 really is. What I know is that COVID-19 has impacted my life and work in a big way.

During the lockdown period of the COVID 19 and the State of Emergency (SOE), I experienced mixed emotions and challenges. On TV, I watched numerous stories about COVID-19 and the devastating impact it was having around the world especially in Europe and the USA with so many thousands contracting the virus, so many deaths, so many new cases in the last 24 hours, and so many who recovered. The images of the exhausted and traumatic front-liners were fear provoking. So, all these left a very grim picture in my mind of COVID-19 and its destructive effect if it reached our shores in PNG – we would not survive!

Personally, I was fearful for myself, and my family, loved ones near and far. In prayer, I committed all my family and friends to our Blessed Mother. I spent money and time calling up my families, friends both in country and overseas wanting to know how they were, if they were alright, worried, at home or abroad. Most assured me that they were alright and

assured me of prayers for me and that they were also thinking of me and my well-being. Thanks to social media, communication is good and much easier these days.

Reflecting on my work, which is in the area of education, COVID-19 necessitated a new paradigm shift. As the Vice President for Academic and Technical Affairs in Don Bosco Technological Institute and a member of the administration, I felt a huge sense of responsibility. Prior to the lock down and during the State of Emergency (SOE), the President's Council had emergency meetings to have an action plan for the institution and was in constant communication with staff and students. It was a busy time because as a Higher Education Institute, we were challenged by the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (DHERST) to have a plan of action in place for and if any outbreak of the corona virus occurred in the city and more specifically on the school campus. No doubt, it was a difficult time because there were so many unknown factors surrounding this virus. For example, if a student in the residence, staff or a family member on campus contracts the virus, where would they be accommodated for isolation? The school nurse was also

In life, we encounter storms of all sizes and shapes but not all disrupt our paths, while others chart new pathways.

busy trying to ensure the school had the correct information from the Health department of the corona virus, so posters received were posted on all notice boards around the school and in the residential areas throughout the campus. Hand sanitizers, alcohol and other cleaning materials had to be purchased for use in and around the rooms and buildings of the school, and masks had to be sewn for staff use etc. We had to enforce all the health protocols that were issued to all staff and students on campus and ensure everyone complied. This included the screening and taking of the temperatures at the gates and applying the hand sanitizers as they entered the campus and all the rooms were cleaned before they left the campus.

During and after the COVID lock down and SOE, there is no doubt that the education of our students, that is the learning and teaching need to take a different pathway. There has to be a new paradigm shift in the delivery of education. Both staff and students have to adapt to the new normal and this is not easy. For me, the paradigm shift has included the following:

1. Think outside the box: To find other ways to teach and deliver the learning and teaching to our students. To rethink the teaching methods/ strategies we've always used and considered the students' situation especially the majority of our students living outside when they could not travel onto the campus to access the

units of work.
2. Staff produced units of work on multiple platforms for

student learning – Face to face, printed unit modules, uploaded units of work on Moodle, used ICT/Videos. All these were given to students etc.
3. Education is everyone's business: COVID-19 has forced parents/ guardians to take interest in their children's education.
4. How to move forward with the new normal: Create a new environment, a cleaner environment. COVID – 19 is God's intervention to saving our world and show human beings that He cares for our environment and us before we destroy our home.

In life, we encounter storms of all sizes and shapes but not all disrupt our lives, some come to clear our paths, while others chart new pathways. During this time, COVID-19 has created new opportunities for me. Personally, I thank God for COVID-19 because I was given time that I did not have before. Time is gift because I was able to do things, I did not have time to do during the busyness of my day. For example, I completed the marking of students' work and returned their work. I prepared my lectures and tutorials, read a few more educational, spiritual articles and even completed reading a book that I had wanted to read for some time but could not find the time. I had time on my own, rested a bit more and felt more energetic. I believe my experience is in line with the Gospel passage where Jesus asked his apostles to come away and just be quiet and be on our own. May God continue to walk with us protect and shield us from COVID-19. 🇸🇩



DBTI students on campus



Photo left:
The Educational presence of the Salesian Educator is essential for the formation of the students.



Blessed Petro ToRot

Helper of the sick and the suffering

- Dominic ToMar



For several months now our attention has been focused on the deadly Coronavirus pandemic that has devastated the lives of millions of people around the world and brought it almost to a standstill.

The pandemic has affected the way people live and national economies. Its impact has been compared to past global disasters such as the Spanish flu, the great depression and the two world wars.

In Papua New Guinea, we have experienced disasters for years. Natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis, floods have caused untold misery, pain and suffering to our people. For ten years a civil war raged on Bougainville. Our forefathers of living memory also endured the scourges of the two world wars in 1914 – 1918 and again from 1942 – 1945. Our people continue to suffer from malaria, HIV&AIDS, tuberculosis, cancer, and many more diseases.

Blessed Peter ToRot witnessed pain and suffering throughout his life although he himself was healthy and strong. He was two years old at the beginning of the First World War in 1914 and was into his fourth year as a young catechist during the volcanic eruption in Rabaul in 1937. He was killed just weeks before the end of the second world war in 1945. Peter ToRot's life was impacted by these major disasters in the lives of the people of the Gazelle Peninsula. He died at the prime of his life and in the peak of his pastoral ministry.

His life and pastoral ministry should be seen against the backdrop of the two world wars and the volcanic eruption. Although his father was the chief of Rakunai, ToRot did not pride himself as the chief's son. He grew up as any ordinary boy in the village. He befriended boys of his own age group. His status as the son of the chief did not set him apart from his peers. He belonged to his peers but did not allow his peers to influence or derail him from his life's goals.

ToRot's compassion for others started at an early age. At the time he was a student at St Paul's Catechist Training College, we are told that he endeared himself to the 'vairas' (foreigners) that is non Tolai students. He felt for them because unlike the local Tolai students, the 'vairas' often felt lonely and homesick because their parents were far away in West New Britain, Manus, New Ireland and were unable to visit them at the college. ToRot went out of his way to help them. He always shared with them what his parents brought for him during their visits to the college.

The suffering and pain he endured for and with his people came about mostly during the occupation of Rabaul by the Japanese Imperial forces. The help he offered to the sick and suffering came about during the war when the missionaries were imprisoned in Ramale Prison camp near Kokopo. In the absence of the missionaries and without the presence of the Australian colonial administration, the local population was deprived of health services, education and religious programs. Many people especially children died from lack of medical

Peter ToRot's most significant offering came when he offered his life because he openly and vehemently opposed the legalization of polygamy which he saw as an affront to the dignity and rights of women and a sin against the sixth commandment.

services. My own two eldest siblings died because there were no health services available. The people relied on traditional herbs or at times on Japanese medical services where they could.

Amidst the suffering he and the people endured in the village, ToRot did not forget Fr Laufer, the parish priest, the Bishop and all the missionaries who were imprisoned in Ramale Prison camp. He often visited them. He brought them fruits, vegetables, meat and eggs. He used the visits to brief the parish priest on the situation in Rakunai and to bring back consecrated hosts for communion. The roads he travelled were long and dangerous. He trusted in God's protection.

ToRot was a beacon of hope and a ray of light. The people looked up to him for support, guidance and leadership as many of the village leaders and elders either sided with the Japanese or abandoned their duties for fear of their lives. However, the chief of Rakunai, Anton Tata stood by ToRot although he himself had taken a second wife under the Japanese law on Polygamy.

Peter ToRot's most significant offering came when he offered his life because he openly and vehemently opposed the legalization of polygamy which he saw as an affront to the dignity and rights of women and a sin against the sixth commandment. He secretly arranged marriages for young girls and women to prevent them from being taken as second wives. His most excruciating suffering was at the moment of his martyrdom. He was beaten as he was led to prison, suffocated after being injected with a poisonous liquid. He met his death "as a lamb is led to the slaughter", sharing in his master's pain and suffering.

2020 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Peter ToRot and the 75th Anniversary of his martyrdom. As we celebrate these two important and historic anniversaries in his life in glory, we recall his earthly life, so short yet so significant, an ordinary life lived in an extraordinary way. ToRot lived as an ordinary villager of his time. Historic events such as the two world wars and the volcanic eruption impacted and shaped his life in one way or another. The second world war became the deciding factor in his life. Over and above all he believed that ultimately God is in rule, so he always put God first in everything, every situation and in all things. The words of St Paul summarize his whole life: "For me to live is Christ." 🇸🇵



Prayer To Blessed Petro ToRot

Blessed Petro ToRot,
God called you to serve Him
among your own people,
as a catechist.

You loved your work and
you were faithful to the Divine call.

Your heroic witness to serve your creator
strengthened them in the faith.

We rejoice and thank God,
for exalting you to be the
first Beatified Martyr of our country.

Pray for us,
that we may remain faithful
to our vocations and stand firmly committed
to God and his people,
especially in times of trials and difficulties.

Amen.

Please send us your favours, graces and miracles received through the intercession of BI Petro ToRot, together with photographs and documents that you may possess. These will support the cause of his canonisation.

Get it **RIGHT** with God first

When we talk about the family, we talk about Marriage. Marriage is a beautiful sacrament in the Catholic Church. We are grateful to **Helen and Paul Harricknen** for sharing their own experience

about their marriage relationship to help our youth and couples.

Paul and Helen Harricknen celebrated their 32nd Wedding Anniversary on June 30, 2019.

HELEN'S STORY

I'll let you in on my secret. "When I was a young girl growing up, I prayed for a husband that does not drink and one that would look after me well. And I prayed for many years and I believe God answered my prayer. Because when I met Paul, he used to drink and carry on the way most young men do, thinking they have a girlfriend or a young wife they can take control of. But after he was admitted to the bar as a lawyer, during his thanksgiving meal, he publicly announced that as a token of gratitude to Jesus and Mary for getting him this far in life, he would quit drinking and concentrate on his job and his marriage life.

As soon as Paul found employment, he started looking for a house for the family - almost immediately. We were not

going to hang around with relatives but to settle down on our own to manage our marriage and family when we began having children. This is when I recalled my prayers and I said to myself: Hello God! You're listening to me. Thank you very much for answering my prayers."

As a wife, my strength has always been prayer. My dependence on prayer started at an early age. My belief in prayer and hard work has supported me as a wife, mother and teacher. Always have your prayer life intact in order for you to be grounded well in what you do.

There is no such thing as a smooth sailing marriage. There are always challenges in life. I manage my challenges by always putting my children and survival of my marriage before myself, meaning I have to make sacrifices to keep my marriage and care for my children. I believe that the way these challenges are overcome, add strength and growth to the marriage relationship.

'I prayed for a husband that does not drink and one that would look after me well. And I prayed many years and I believe God answered my prayer.'



I do not check Paul's phone and I do not answer his calls unless he tells me to. Trust is important in a marriage relationship. I have always maintained that I am effective with what I can control than what I cannot control.

Photo left:
Officer of the Order of Logohu (OL) awarded in 2018 for services to the Catholic Church and to law, justice and human rights.

**'I prayed for
a husband
that does not
drink and
one that
would look
after me well.
And I prayed
many years
and I believe
God
answered my
prayer.'**

For young people, choose properly, always consult. Slow down when the person you have just met has a certain hold on you, which sends you 'head over heels' or starts making your heart beat fast.

Once you have consulted enough, and you feel that this is the one you are going to spend the rest of your life with, you have your marriage blessed and then don't stop there.

You have to keep working at it until you are truly happy with the one that you have decided to be together with for the rest of your life, because marriage is a lifetime commitment.

PAUL'S STORY

The institution of marriage is as sacred as any other sacrament. That is why we have to do everything to preserve and defend this institution, this relationship. It is a relationship for life.

We have to allow God into our marriages! It is the only thing that can guarantee permanency of a marital relationship.

Papua New Guinea law recognizes basically three marriages - customary, civil, and sacramental or church marriage. A church marriage usually leads to registration in the civil registry. Unlike the first two, which involve a man and a woman, a church marriage involves three - a man, a woman, and

God. It is a relationship of ONE man, One Woman, and One God for life, all three in One union.

Receiving the sacrament of marriage in the church allows God's presence into the relationship. The moment God enters this relationship you do not think about, or even mention divorce or separation.

I have never thought about divorce with my wife. It does not cross my mind because the moment we allowed that sacramental aspect into our marriage, it has become permanent. Marriage sacrament takes us to another level.

Problems come, but you have to manage it, we have to work at it. That is one secret of marriage. The other secret is to be able say sorry and to forgive. We have our moments of highs and lows. I am a man of short temper, impatience, and can be easily provoked but Helen neutralizes with her patience, and keeping cool and collected when I am in my worse moods. Our cultural and professional differences play a part in arguments at times. I am from Sepik and Helen is from Bougainville, our patrilineal and matrilineal cultures can easily rub into conflicts at times. A lawyer and a teacher could be challenging at times too. We have to manage all these. And here we are 32 years and still journeying on together. This is where we celebrate our marriage journey and thank God.

After 32 years of marriage, I can guarantee you, if you have God into your marriage, by the time you grow older and over 50 years old like Helen and I, you will discover you'll get so much closer that you will never tire of each other. I encourage young couples to stay married for this long and experience the joy of marriage. The closeness of couples shows they are actually one. Marriage is about oneness.

We need to pray for strong families and marriages. If all of us can do that, our church, our community, and our nation can be strong and we can live out our mission in life. 🇵🇬

Photo left:

**2019: Paul and Helen Harricknen
at the Taj Mahal, Agra, India**





May 2018: Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession of Sr Pamela Vecina FMA, with her mum Mildred and siblings Jo Ann and Maia.

Sr. Pamela Vecina, FMA is missioned at Tapo parish in Kokopo, ENBP and is involved in parish catechetical ministry and in primary school religious education and formation of pre-aspirants. She has been a missionary in Papua New Guinea since 2001. She shares with us her moments of sorrow and pain at the passing away of her mother.

December 2019 was my last visit to my mother. I treasure those few days before Christmas day until the first week of January 2020. As a missionary Salesian Sister of Don Bosco, we Sisters enjoy the privilege of a home visit every two or three years. Mum always waited for this moment and I always spent it with her. My last visit was unusual as she was sick and unable to attend the Christmas Eucharistic celebration with me. She was also absent from the clan reunion that we usually attend. My sisters celebrated mom's 81st birthday in January. It was the last family gathering for mum. A few days after her birthday she was hospitalized and though she recovered a bit, the illness advanced. Her last audible words to me over the phone last March were, "Let us pray that we will still be alive to see each other again." Mom's health condition got serious. COVID-19 prevented us from travelling home to be at her side. Anguish engulfed me as I was unable to be with her when she needed

me most. Even my sister in the Philippines was unable to go home. My nephew who lived with her since childhood and my cousin who were her caregivers were the ones with her in hospital. Thanks to technology, our daily contact was through a video call.

Mildred Segales Vecina was a primary school teacher for over thirty-six years. She served in the Education Department in the Philippines in classroom teaching and school leadership. As an educator she had imparted not merely literacy, numeracy and academic proficiency to school children, but she had mentored future professionals and leaders for home and country.

Mom grew up in the non-Catholic faith of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. She was baptized and received the Sacrament of Matrimony. She became a frequent Mass goer, an example we all chose to follow. Her rule at

Her love for Our Lady has always inspired me. The daily rosary, catechesis and 'Flores de Mayo', offering flowers to Mother Mary in the month of May are vivid in my mind. I have continued this tradition throughout my college days until this day.

home was that we all go as a family to the parish for the first Mass at 6:00 am. Our first holy communion and confirmation were prepared and celebrated on schedule as she registered us for these sacraments. The same was done for her grandchildren.

Her love for Our Lady has always inspired me. The daily rosary, catechesis and 'Flores de Mayo', offering flowers to Mother Mary in the month of May are vivid in my mind. I have continued this tradition throughout my college days until this day. Something that was introduced to us early in the family apart from daily prayers, was the reading of the Bible. Mum was good in memorizing Bible verses, a practice in her upbringing, and she would read to us verses from the family Bible that she kept in our living room. As teenage kids, together with my second-born sister we were involved in Catholic charismatic prayer meetings or fellowship, mom was always a welcome host when the meeting venue was at home. She also was a supportive mother for our other church activities.

She was a woman of faith, submitting to God what vocations in life we received as her daughters. Her personal examples and words of instruction to us at home have prepared us well for our own life today. When mum became a widow, she became constant in her Sunday

Mass attendance and her personal prayers were the source of her strength. Her conversations with me were also reminders to pray for her as she would assure me and my sibling and their families of her constant prayers.

As a family rooted in faith, we prepared her for her final encounter with the Lord. That was our gift to our beloved Mama Mildred. She received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick from the hospital chaplain who was her cousin, an SVD priest. During the COVID-19 pandemic amidst the lockdown, mum was still given a four-day wake, because hers was not a COVID-19 case, thanks be to God.

Her funeral, in our absence, was beautifully arranged and held in the place of her desire by my maternal clan. It was of course a blessing that we were able to attend from a distance via digital technology. Mom was born on 22nd of January, the feast of Blessed Laura Vicuna, and she passed on to eternal life on the 6th of May, the feast of St. Dominic Savio. Both are Salesian young saints. I have no doubt that it is God's appointed time, mom's best moment. She expired very peacefully in the month of our Blessed Mother, the Help of Christians, and of St. Mary Mazzarello, our Co-foundress as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

Facing this very difficult and the sad situation of my mom's sickness and demise could have been unbearable and devastating. But we went through this trial with much peace in our hearts sustained by our prayer, and also the prayers of many people especially those who love my mom, the members of the Salesian Family, and friends all over the world. Farewell Dearest Mom. We know that you now dwell in the house of the Lord. 🇵🇭

Photo left:
Cousin Stella with her family at the wake on May 9th, 2020



COVID-19 triggers an increase in FAITH

- Rosemary Yambune

COVID-19 and the State of Emergency lockdown period has brought stories from our people in Papua New Guinea. These special stories stem from our front-liners who risked their lives at their work stations awaiting an emergency call.

One of those front liners is twenty-five-year-old, Lazarus Anis, who hails from Morobe Province. He works as an ambulance driver with St Johns Ambulance in Port Moresby. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Lazarus stood firm in his work, getting his inspiration from the patron saint of his employer, St John. St John, one of the 12 Apostles was chosen by Jesus. He is traditionally considered the author of the fourth Gospel, the Book of Revelation and the Epistles bearing his name. Exactly like how St John has spread the Gospel to everyone of all races, servicing the Almighty God. Lazarus prides himself on helping others in Papua New Guinea from all walks of life.

"It is a blessing to be able to give service to all people regardless of their faith or creed," Mr. Anis said.

The then single employer began his work with St Johns in December 2018 during the APEC summit and was called back on 4th March this

Photo below: Lazarus Anis

year to join the team as an Ambulance Driver. Lazarus expressed how teamwork during the SOE turned out. "As the first responders to emergencies providing pre-hospital health

care, teamwork was not easy, however with faith in God, we made it past" he stated.

The SOE period saw parishes closed off or operated with controlled participation. The Easter period was different for the entire nation. Family time for some people multiplied while health workers abandoned their families. "I faced a different experience and great challenge during the pandemic as an employee and a husband. The challenges include family needs, work, and my Christian faith. I struggled to balance my work life and my family life all at ones."

The SOE period also thought us many lessons that we should learn in life. For hidden heroes like Lazarus, he began something he had not done before. Reaching out to others.

"The COVID-19 Pandemic has made me continue to support other people in my social life. Since we were told not to attend church, the bible strengthened my faith, I take every day."

As the head of the family, he would be deemed as weak to show fear, so he turned back to the higher power. "Short morning prayer to start my day and evening prayer before sleep and before performing my duties has become part of me ever since the SOE".

Just like Lazarus, there are many similar workers around the world putting their lives at risk to serve others. Before the interview question ends, he concluded by applauding other front liners around the world. He said "I thank everyone who put their hands up, sacrificed their time to join the fight against the virus. Through faith and following, directives from authorities we will be safeguarded from the virus". 🙏





Churches come together for 'PNG Hour of Hope'

- Nigel Akuani

Port Moresby: Representatives of the Seven-Mainline Churches united themselves in an effort to strengthen the television program 'PNG Hour of Hope'.

A Workshop Review of the program was held on Thursday 11th June at the Catholic Chancery's office of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby. The occasion was hosted by the PNG Council of Churches in partnership with Church Partnership Program PNG Australia, and the National Broadcasting Corporation of PNG. It had 26 participants that included Priests, Reverends, Pastors, and media personnel. Each represented different Churches of the country, the PNG Bible Translation Association, and the various organisations involved in the backing and operation of the program.

Facilitating the workshop was Lahui Lovai, Media Representative of PNGCC. In his introduction he dwelled on the significant role the media played in society and encouraged churches to take full advantage of its use to spread the message of Hope. "Through television and the unprecedented emergence and growth of the social media platform today we can reach and spread God's divine message with our congregation during this time," he said.



Sessions were also given by Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, CBC SOCOM Secretary who stressed the importance of preparation and practice and Prisca Karlo, NBC TV Program Producer gave an account of the program's growth since its launching in May 2020 and reassured the PNGCC of NBC's help and support.

Lively interactive game sessions, one minute video creation and presentations kept everyone energized throughout the day. An intense discussion also had participants form two groups to deliberate possible ways of improving the program's format of presentation and its concept.



Good mental health vital to coping with COVID-19 - Nigel Akuani

Port Moresby: A Mental Health Talk focused at helping people

cope with the effects of COVID-19, was held on Wednesday 10th June from 10.30am to 12pm, at the Catholic Bishops Conference Headquarters Gordons. The keynote speaker was Dr. Umadevi Ambihaipahar OBE, a pioneer in the field of mental health in PNG, having driven mental health services at the national level since 1999.

Her session dwelt on methods essential to coping with impacts and stress of COVID-19, overcoming stress and anxiety, importance of a good mental spiritual and physical health, safety precautions and advise for

adults and children, health centres, personnel and programs in place for help and support. In her address she told of how the COVID-19 pandemic was a devastating global crisis that caused stress, pain and grief to many and emphasised the essential role positive mental health played in coping with its effects.

74 participants attended the talk session that included students and teachers, councillors, Priests and Religious, lay persons, health workers, care givers, media personal and members of the public. Participating schools included Don Bosco Technical School (DBTS), Don Bosco Technological Institute (DBTI), La Salle Technical College, and St Charles Lwanga Secondary School (SCLSS).



Bp Desmond Moore RIP

On 2nd June 2020, Bp Desmond Charles Moore, MSC, Bishop Emeritus of Alotau-Sideia passed away in the Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia. He was 94 years old. The late Desmond Moore, MSC, was the second bishop of Alotau and served for 31 long years from 1970-2001. He took over from the late Bp. John Doyle, and was

replaced by Abp. Francesco Panfilo in 2001.

In remembrance of him, Bp Rolando Santos, Bishop of Alotau-Sideia described the late Bishop as

respectful and kind as he always encouraged his priests to be faithful to their vocation and ministry. "Thank you, Bp. Des Moore, for the good and inspiring example you give me as a bishop, and for all the good work you did in this diocese that "all may be one in the love of Christ". As you proclaimed the Gospel and celebrated the sacraments faithfully for the salvation of God's people, may you now receive the Lord's reward and enter into his Kingdom," said Bp Rolando.

The late bishop was born in Thebarton, Australia on 12th May 1926, ordained priest of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on 27th July 1957 and appointed as Bishop of Alotau-Sideia on 7th March 1970. It was on 2nd July 1970 that he was ordained as Bishop. He was replaced on 15th June 2001.



God is in us

- Fr Joseph Durero and Benny Bogg



Vicar Pastoral, Fr. Solomon Akaya who co-celebrated the mass added bonus to the parish's joyous occasion.

Archbishop Anton Bal's main message for Pentecost was "God is in us."

Madang: Madang Holy Spirit Cathedral was filled to capacity on Pentecost Sunday, 31st May 2020 as it marked many reasons for the parish to celebrate, including its feast-day and name's-day.

A double Eucharistic mass opened the celebrations for the nine parish communities and over 1,000 Catholic members to sing, dance and witness their faith in action.

The presence of Madang Archbishop, Anton Bal, Vicar General and Parish Priest, Fr. Joseph Durero and

This message was repeated throughout the celebration as parishioners reminded themselves that the occasion also marks their hard work and contributions towards the recent completion of the K800,000 extension of the Cathedral building, the successful hosting of 2019 Parish Youth Rally and the building and completion of the K600,00 Archbishop's House - which is a valuable addition to parish infrastructure- built with funding from Emeritus Bishop, Rev. Stephen Reichert.



CPS makes statement on same sex unions

- Nigel Akuani

and aggressive against foreign aid donors and organisations whose policies could potentially harm the Christian fabric of Papua New Guinean societies.

"Be vigilant against any blind reception of advices, terms, and conditions from funding givers that are aimed at eroding and destroying our founding values, morality, beliefs and faith," he said.

Port Moresby: The promotion of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) flag is perceived to influence our government and country into an agenda that is against our faith, beliefs, and values.

Mr Paul Harricknen, President of the Catholic Professional Society, presented the LGBTQ issue at a press conference on 21st May, at the Catholic Bishops Conference, Gordons. The statement followed after various foreign organisations operating within Papua New Guinea recently raised the controversial 'rainbow flag' to show their support for LGBTQ Groups.

Mr Harricknen urged for leaders of the government, civil services, churches and people, to become vigilant

He reminded all about the criminal offence on homosexuality and warned the government against any proposal to change the marriage law of the country. He told of how these office buildings raised the flag without authorization and approval from the PNG Government, and said the press conference was an occasion to make a clear statement against this practice.

An audience of 63 people were present to show their support and concern, all from various Church denominations, media organizations, government departments and NGO's.

Diocesan Centre serves as quarantine facility

- Raymond Komis Girana



Bougainville: The Fr. Begg Conference Centre of the Diocese of Bougainville formerly known as YC Hall is being transformed into a quarantine facility for Bougainville.

The Caretaker of the Diocese of Bougainville, Fr. Polycarp Kaviak in a phone interview on Wednesday, 20th May, told Bougainville Diocese Media that there is

a temporary agreement between the Diocese and the Autonomous Bougainville Government on the use of the centre for quarantine, that goes as far as June 2020, is subject to extension depending on the situation.

Fr. Polycarp said the work on the additional three units in the centre has reached its completion stage and should be ready to cater for people traveling into the region following the uplift of the restrictions on commercial flights into Bougainville.

The Diocesan staff working in the centre were also privileged to receive training on how to handle things during the quarantine period.

Students raise awareness on COVID-19 and Environment

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb and Abigail Seta

Port Moresby: The 2nd Media Education Seminar for students saw a production of films and jingles that raised awareness on COVID-19 and the environment.

Held at the Emmaus Conference Centre, Boroko from 15th to 17th May, the program had forty participants from seven catholic agency schools participating. The productions created by the students reinforced the precautionary measures circulated by the State of Emergency (SOE) controller and on the seminar's theme: "Keep it Clean. Go Green."

The program had sessions on the Environment and COVID-19, Audio Basics and Creation of Jingles, Video Basics, Types of Shots, The Problem Tree, Storyboard Making, Film Shooting, Video Editing and Video Presentations.



The participants are challenged to change their attitudes and behaviour and put into practice what they share through audio and film. "Think not as me, but as we", Fr Ambrose Pereira emphasised. He invited all to reflect on how they could spread the message of *Laudato Si* and celebrate the *Laudato Si* year announced by the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Kimbe clergy senate conference

- Fr. John Balele



Kimbe: The diocese of Kimbe had its first annual priest's senate conference with their new bishop, His Lordship Most Rev. Bp John Bosco Auram.

It was held from 4th to 7th May. Over thirty priests gathered together in the heart of Kimbe town where

the Diocese headquarters is. The primary purpose of the meeting was the formulation of a Diocesan Pastoral Plan which Kimbe diocese for the past 17 years lacked. According to this Steering Committee, consisting of Fr Benjamin Agae, Fr Joseph Galia, Fr Gregory Kasprzycki, Catechist Mark, Mr. Mathias Ire and the Bishop Himself, the next part of this process is getting the laity to be involved. This means collecting recommendations from the faithful laities within the diocese in all 19 parishes.

At the end of the conference a consensus was agreed upon that after every necessary information collected are analysed and processed a draft of the diocesan pastoral plan should be made available by 15th September 2020.

PM launches Radio Maria fundraising drive

- Abigail Seta and Nigel Akuani

Port Moresby: Prime Minister James Marape committed K250,000 to Radio Maria as he launched its Mariathon Fundraising Drive to sustain its work of evangelizing through sharing the 'Good News.'

The fundraising was launched on Wednesday, 13th May at the Radio Maria headquarters in Gordons and concluded on 18th May. The prime minister who was the keynote speaker at the launch also toured the facilities of Radio Maria and stated that Radio Maria as a media organisation plays an important role in society by monitoring the government's actions and more importantly providing the inspiration of God to the people.

"Mediums like Radio Maria continue to disseminate correct information to society as well as keep the government and public servants balanced and in check with what we do. They are small but key facilities in our country are given the correct support they deserve," said Mr Marape.

The launch of the fundraising was graced by the presence of His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC; Acting Health Secretary, Dr Paison Dakulala; General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Fr Giorgio Licini PIME; Ambassador Gabriel Dusava; Mr Fabian Chow, Chairman of the Fresh Produce



Development Authority and Managing Director Costal Shipping.

"Radio Maria is a worldwide network for the Church, and we have Radio Maria PNG. We need to support its work," stated the Cardinal as he addressed the gathering.

Following the official launch, a pledge of K17,000 was made by the Acting Health Secretary, Dr Paison Dakulala who spoke of the precautionary measures against COVID-19. Mr Fabian Chow also pledged K10,000 on behalf of his family. With its theme "Bringing Mary's smile to everyone," the station is working to extend its network across the country and provide leadership for Radio Maria in the region.



Mendi: The Diocese of Mendi celebrated the first of Six apparitions of Virgin Mary to three children of Fatima in Portugal at The Mary's Centre, Kewabi Parish of Ialibu-Pangia electorate, Southern Highlands province.

The event was celebrated on Wednesday 13th May 2020. Bishop of the Diocese of Mendi, Bp Donald Lippert OFM, was the main celebrant.

Diocese of Mendi celebrates Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

- Moses Ben

Superior of Missionary of Holy Family, Fr Piotre Michalski MSF and several priests joined him at the Eucharistic concelebration.

In his homily the Bishop said: "The Virgin Mary identified herself as Our Lady of the Rosary and urged the children to pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world and to make sacrifices for the conversation of sinners."

He said that we, as Christians have to sacrifice ourselves to pray and help the poor people and those who are in need in both spirit and body.

More than a hundred people from Christian communities and different outstations came together to celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima.



Most Rev Rochus Tatamai, Archbishop of Rabaul

The Apostolic Nunciature in Papua New Guinea informs that His Holiness, Pope Francis, has accepted the resignation presented to him by **His Grace Most Reverend Francesco PANFILO, SDB**, from the pastoral governance of the Archdiocese of Rabaul for having reached the age limit.

The Holy Father has appointed Archbishop of Rabaul **His Excellency Most Reverend Rochus TATAMAI, MSC**, until now Bishop of the Diocese of Kavieng.

Congratulations to Most Reverend Rochus Tatamai msc.
Gratitude to Archbishop Francisco Panfilo sdb.

OVERCOMER

John Harrison (Alex Kendrick) is a basketball coach at a high school. Due to the manufacturing plant being moved to another city, all the good basketball players along with their families have to move too. He is told by school Principal Olivia Brooks (Priscilla Shirer) that the school is losing several teachers and coaches, and she needs him to coach cross country as she doesn't want the school to lose another program.



John agrees to be the running coach for Hannah Scott (Aryn Wright-Thompson) who is asthmatic. She lives with her grandmother and has been told that both her parents are dead. She also steals items from students at school and has a collection of them. One day, on his hospital visits to help pastor, John accidentally enters room of Thomas Hill (Cameron Arnett). Hill is blind and suffering from diabetic complications. Hill also used to be cross country runner. After couple of visits to see Hill, John finds out that Hill is Hannah's father. He also later finds out that the principal was Hannah's mother's friend and has been paying her tuition fees.



Hannah is told about her father and is taken to meet him. Though reluctant at first, she eventually accepts him and starts visiting him more. Through the process she self discovers herself and also strengthens her Christian faith and her belief in Jesus Christ as her father. Hannah returns all the stolen items and practices rigorously.

Day of the race, State Championship, Hannah is given ear buds and player by John who tells her to play it as the race begins. Through race, she hears her father's voice of coaching and encouragement which leads her to win the race and become the state champion.

Later, Hill passes away. Couple of years later, we see Hannah telling her story to her cross country friends. Then she puts a flash drive in a player and runs through city while listening to recording from her father which begins with, "Its your 21st birthday".



Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. What have you allowed to define you?
2. What do you need to overcome?



Enable us to listen to
the cry of the earth and
the cry of the poor

Laudato Si 49

Keep it Clean. Go Green!

FILM & PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

Film Competition - Institutions

1. Video must reflect '**Keep it Clean. Go Green**'
2. A quote from **Laudato Si** to accompany film
3. Duration: **02:30 to 05:00 minutes**
4. Format: **MP3, MP4, VLC in High Definition Format**
5. Send your Videos to the **email IDs** below via **WeTransfer**
6. English subtitles are needed for all films.

Photograph Competition - Individual

1. The photograph must reflect '**Keep it Clean. Go Green**'
2. A quote from **Laudato Si** to be sent along with the photograph
3. Size: **500 to 999 Kb**
4. Format: **JPEG Only**

Criteria

Individual: **15 to 26 years old.**

Institutions: **Schools, colleges, parishes, etc.**

Inspiration, creativity, composition and original local content are essential.

All material will become the property of CBC SOCOM and may be used in publications. The best original films will be screened at the ISFF20 in September 2020.

Films and photographs are to be submitted on or before
Saturday, 15th August 2020 to:

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb: ambrose.pereirasdb@gmail.com

Abigail Seta: socom@catholic.org.pg

Further details can be got from the CBC website.

Please give us your: **Name, age, institution and contact details.**

Name of your principal /parish priest / pastor and contact details.



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