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

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**Welcome to another weekly Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I am Nigel Akuani, and I am Rosemary Yambune with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope at Angelus: Allow yourselves to be transformed**
2. **Cardinal celebrates Chrism Mass**
3. **Salesians celebrate 40 years of PNG presence**
4. **Shutdown of Health Services ‘Imminent’**
5. **Good Mental Health Vital to Coping with COVID-19**
6. **Churches Come Together for ‘PNG Hour of Hope’**
7. **CPS calls for Transparency and Accountability**
8. **Importance of New Evangelization**

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# News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: Allow yourselves to be transformed

In his homily during the Sunday Angelus on 14th June, Pope Francis told the 50 people present that Sacrament of Eucharist is our nourishment.

He said it is to become in us that renewing force that gives energy and the desire to set out again after every pause or fall. He reflected on the mystical and communal effects of the shared chalice and the broken bread and advised that they required “our assent, our willingness to let ourselves be transformed in our way of thinking and acting”.

The communal effect said the Pope, “is the mutual communion of those who participate in the Eucharist, to the point of becoming one body together, in the same way that one loaf is broken and distributed. He explained that “this dual fruit of the Eucharist: first, union with Christ and second, communion between those who are nourished by Him”, generates and continually renews the Christian community.

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**News item 2 – Cardinal celebrates Chrism Mass**

Cardinal John Ribat, Archbishop of Port Moresby celebrated the Chrism Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral, Port Moresby on 11th June 2020. The theme of the celebration was: ‘The Spirit of God has anointed me’.

Nearly 50 priests joined the celebration. The choir was led by seminarians from the Holy Spirit Seminary. There were also a few religious and lay people present on the occasion. Addressing the priests, the cardinal reminded them of their role to accompany and journey with and encourage their people. Highlighting the example of St John Vianney, he invited the priests to imitate this saint, care for vocations and be present as Christ to the people in our world.

The Chrism Mass is usually celebrated before the Easter Triduum. However, due to the present COVID-19, the celebration was postponed. It is a Eucharist at which the Oil of the Sick, Oil of Chrism and the Oil of Catechumens are blessed. These are used throughout the year.

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**News item 3 – Salesians celebrate 40 years of PNG presence**

The Salesian of Don Bosco celebrated four decades of Salesian presence in Papua New Guinea on June 13thand 14th 2020 in Araimiri, Gulf Province.

The 40th anniversary celebration recalled the establishment of the first Salesian presence in Papua New Guinea in June 1980, and had as its theme, ‘Honouring the past, celebrating the present, envisioning the future’.

A Solemn Thanksgiving Eucharistic mass was presided by Bp Peter Baquero sdb, the Bishop of Kerema while students of Don Bosco Araimiri Secondary School and parishioners led the melodious liturgy.

The second part of the commemoration ceremony had lively entertainment of songs, dances and a skit that depicted the arrival of the first missionaries.

Eight Salesian priests five of whom journeyed across the country to represent the entire province joined in the celebration. Also present for the occasion were Salesian brothers, Salesian sisters, Caritas sisters, Missionary sisters of the Immaculate, Canossian sisters, members of the Salesian family, past pupils, students and friends.

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**News item 4 - Shutdown of Health Services ‘Imminent’**

The Health Sector of PNG will soon be experiencing a severe halt to all its services to the general population if its grievances are not met by the government. This was the cautionary statement stressed in a formal letter addressed by the Christian Health Services of PNG and Catholic Church Health Services on 10th June to the Government of PNG via the Ministry of Health and National Department of Health. The letter outlined three vital points that hindered the operations of both organisations specifically:

1. Salary and Operational Grants for Church Health Services since February 2020, as stipulated in the 2020 Budget Appropriation;
2. Operational Grants for Health Worker Training School from 2017 to 2020; and
3. Stop Work Notice.

The letter is urging the government to consider their plight and release the funding for the preceding months for operations and salaries without any delay.

It is supported by Mr Japalias Kaiok, Chairman of Christian Health Services; Mr Ulch Tapia, Chief Executive Officer; Bishop Francis Meli, Catholic Bishop for Health; and Sr Jadwiga Faliszek, Secretary of Catholic Health Services.

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**News item 5 – Good Mental Health Vital to Coping with COVID-19**

A Mental Health Talk focused at helping people cope with the effects of COVID-19, was held on Wednesday 10th June from 10am to 12pm, at the Catholic Bishops Conference Headquarters Gordons.

The talk had as its keynote speaker 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 dwelled 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 emphasized 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.

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**News Item 6 – Churches Come Together for ‘PNG Hour of Hope’**

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.

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**News item 7 – CPS calls for Transparency and Accountability**

The Catholic Professionals Society of PNG has called for accountability and transparency on the use of COVID-19 Funds.

Their concern was outlined in a press release on 6th June, in response to the Treasurer’s recent warrants for the release of Covid-19 stilumus funds. The letter stressed for clear processes to be in place that would ensure professional and ethical conduct of Provincial Governments and District Development Authorities as implementing agencies of the COVID19 relief funds. Without a clear process in place, the release of funds was described as “throwing away public money into pitless political sinkholes that created doubt in whether the funds will be used for the intended purpose and for the impacted people.”

The letter further called for the Government to allow public consultation on the Public Health Emergency Bill before it could be debated and decided by the members of parliament. It insisted for consultation of think tank institutions, agencies, churches and civil society, especially if such a bill was the first in the world as remarked by the PM in Parliament.

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**News item 8 – Importance of New Evangelization**

A special talk highlighting the importance of New Evangelization in the Catholic Church, is expected to be given by Fr Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI.

The talk scheduled for Saturday 20th June from 9am to 1pm at St Joseph's Parish, is aimed at providing an insight into the role of the NE Commission, and how it tries to re-present the gospel in an effort to help and support those who have experienced a crisis of faith. Priests, religious, and laity throughout Port Moresby are welcomed to attend the session.

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**Recapping our headlines for this week:**

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

**From all of us at here at Catholic Communications, we wish you all an enjoyable week.**