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 Mass: ‘Make room in your lives for the Word of God’**
2. **Diocese of Kimbe Rejoices at Ordination of New Bishop**
3. **CTI signs affiliation with University of Santo Tomas**
4. **Diocese of Bereina to Highlight Year of Laity**
5. **West Papua Students Undergo Induction Program**
6. **Protect the Environment Like Your Own Children**

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# News Item 1 – Pope at Mass: ‘Make room in your lives for the Word of God’

In the Holy Mass of Sunday 26th January, Pope Francis urged all Christians to make room in their lives for the word of God, encouraging everyone to keep a Bible close for daily inspiration.

The Holy Mass celebrated marked a new observance established by the Pope in his Motu Proprio “Aperuit illis”, to be celebrated annually on the third Sunday in Ordinary Time, and to be dedicated to the celebration, study and spreading of the Word of God.

Pope Francis said we needed God’s word so that we could hear, amid the thousands of other words in our daily lives, that one word that spoke to us not about things, but about life. He urged for people to make room in their lives for the word of God and on every day read a verse or two of the Bible. He said, “Let us begin with the Gospel: let us keep it open on our table, carry it in our pocket, read it on our cell phones, and allow it to inspire us daily.”

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**News item 2 – Diocese of Kimbe Rejoices at Ordination of New Bishop**

Colourful and vibrant cultural dances accompanied by melodious music and harmonious singing rent the air as Rev Fr John Bosco Auram was ordained as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Kimbe, at the Bernard Vogae Memorial Park on 25th January 2020.

Abp Francesco Panfilo, Archbishop of Rabaul, Cardinal John Ribat, Archbishop of Port Moresby and Bp Emeritus William Fey were the consecrators for the Ordination. Abp Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands read out the Apostolic Bull from Pope Francis and preached a very fitting sermon. Priests, religious and lay faithful from the diocese of Kimbe, Bishops and representatives from different dioceses, local MP’s together with several thousand people were part of the celebrations.

In his homily the Apostolic Nuncio reminded the new Bishop to trust in God and Our Blessed Mother and pray for his people and his priests. He paid tribute to His Lordship William Regis Fey, who shepherded the diocese for over nine years with dedication even to the point of neglecting his health.

Bp John Bosco thanked God, his parents and the people for the support of their prayers. He encouraged all to be deeply spiritual and lift up their voices in prayer, and reminded them to daily pray a decade of the rosary as a family for him and the ministry in the diocese.

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**News item 3 – CTI signs affiliation with University of Santo Tomas**

The Catholic Theological Institute (CTI) is a step closer to be able to offer a Bachelor in Sacred Theology (STB) granted by the University of Santo Tomas, Philippines after signing an affiliation agreement.

In an official gathering between representatives of CTI and UST on Thursday 23rd January, the documents namely the ‘Affiliation Agreement’ and the ‘Norms to be Observed’ were signed in triplicate copies by His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Pro-Chancellor of CTI and Rev. Dr. Joseph Vnuk OP, President of CTI.

However, the affiliation is not official until approved by the Congregation of Education - the pontifical congregation of the [Roman Curia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Curia) responsible for Catholic universities, faculties, and institutes of higher study.

In his welcome speech, Rev. Vnuk, told of how CTI had been seeking for a number of years to have its degrees approved by UST and how it had undergone many changes to meet UST’s standards.

Spokesperson of UST and Regent of Studies of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, Rev. Jannel Abogado OP, said the affiliation was an essential aspect to improving the formation of clergy and the local church. He called for CTI to take full advantage of the benefits of the collaboration with UST in pressing forward the affiliation process.

Cardinal Ribat described the signing as the end of one long and challenging journey and the start of another for CTI in its unwavering efforts toward achieving affiliation with UST.

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**News item 4 – Diocese of Bereina to Highlight Year of Laity**

The Catholic Diocese of Bereina will be hosting an Education Program aimed at highlighting the importance of the Year of Laity on Friday 31st January, at the Mainohana Catholic Secondary School.

The program is designed to integrate and involve as Laity the different Catholic Commission Heads, Bereina’s Diocesan Coordinators, and the different teachers from the Diocese’s 130 Schools.

Special guests to be speaking at the program include Sr Emma Lapun of the National Catholic Education Commission, Sr Ancy John Directress of Right Relationships in Ministry, Ms Marie Mondu, Development Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference, and various other Commission Heads.

Sessions to be covered include the Catholic Education System, Role of Teachers, State and Church Partnership in Education, Catholic Philosophy and Identity of Catholic Schools, the Year of Laity, Child Protection in PNG, and the Pope Francis’ Encyclical of Laudato Si.

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**News Item 5 – West Papua Students Undergo Induction Program**

A second batch of West Papuans students have been granted an opportunity for further studies thanks to the initiative of Caritas PNG. This was made official after the students signed a Contract of Agreement on Tuesday 28th January, at the Catholic Bishops Conference Headquarters, Waigani.

The second batch comprising of 10 female students are set to attend training in Basic Sewing and Cooking over a 2-month duration, at the Archdiocese of Port Moresby Social Apostolate Centre. The training comes after the first batch successfully attended and completed their training in various trade skills in 2019 at Don Bosco Technical School.

Spokesperson for the West Papuan Community, Mr Donatus Nahak, said the induction was important especially for West Papuan females, both mothers and young girls, to enable them to start up their own small catering businesses. He said the training is focused at equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute positively to their community.

The occasion was attended by students, parents, guardians and community leaders, all of whom are from the West Papuan communities around Port Moresby.

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**News item 6 – Protect the Environment Like Your Own Children**

Every person must start taking care of the trees in their environment like how they would for their children. This was the sentiment of Ms Marie Mondu, Development Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference, on Tuesday 21st January.

Ms Mondu said this in response to the theme for this year’s 2020 Media Education Seminar entitled: ‘Keep it Clean, Go Green!’. She said there was a strong need for the environment’s preservation and called for more effort in amplifying the ‘Keep it Clean, Go Green’ Campaign.

She stated that Papua New Guinea hosted the 3rd largest forest in the world, and this placed PNG in a unique position, a higher burden and global responsibility to preserve its forest with all its might and foresight. She urged for all people to plant a tree or two and meet the target of 100,000 trees this year, and cautioned that the more forest we cut and did not replace, the more we were contributing to decreasing the oxygen our country supplied to the world.

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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 Catholic Communications we wish you all an enjoyable week.