**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 to celebrate feast of Corpus Christi on Sunday**
2. **CBC Unites for World Environment Day**
3. **NEB Appoints Church Official ‘Deputy Chairman’**
4. **CPS calls for end to SOE**
5. **Mental Health Talk amidst COVID-19**
6. **Health Sector Faces Closure**

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# News Item 1 – Pope to celebrate feast of Corpus Christi on Sunday

Pope Francis will celebrate Mass for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, also known as the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, at the Altar of the Chair in St Peter’s Basilica on Sunday 14th June. The liturgy will conclude with a sermon of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

A small number of the faithful, around fifty persons, will participate in the liturgy with the Holy Father. The Mass will be live streamed by Vatican Media, beginning at 9:45am Rome time.

Last year, Pope Francis presided at the Mass for Corpus Christi from the steps of Santa Maria Consolatrice Church in Rome’s Casal Bertone neighbourhood. The Solemnity of Corpus Christi honours Jesus’ presence in the Blessed Sacrament, and dates back to the 13th century.

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**News item 2 – CBC Unites for World Environment Day**

Friday 5th June was a special occasion for staff of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI as it brought them together to commemorate World Environment Day (WED).

The observation of WED held on Friday 5th June at the CBC Headquarters in Gordons, served as an informative program that focused on:

1) creating awareness for the care of the environment;

2) Pope Francis' encyclical of *'Laudato Si'* (Care for Our Common Home); and

3) what could be done individually on a practical level to uphold caring for the Earth.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Bp Francis Meli, Bishop of the Diocese of Vanimo, Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of CBCPNGSI, and Mr Paul Harricknen, President of the Catholic Professional Society. An audience of 48 people were present for the occasion.

Meanwhile students along with staff of Don Bosco Technological Institute Boroko, also held an observance a day earlier on Thursday 4th June, dedicated to WED. The observation held in the campus hall was a short awareness session organized by the Earth & Environment and Media Education Seminar clubs.

To mark the occasion, the awareness campaign shed light on the current state of the global environment and the crucial role humanity plays in saving the environment.

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**News item 3 – NEB Appoints Church Official ‘Deputy Chairman’**

Secretary of theNational Catholic Education Commission, Mr Michael Ova, was recently elected unanimously as the new Deputy Chairman of the National Education Board.

The appointment was made during the National Education Board Swearing-in Meeting on 28th May, at the Loloata Island Resort outside of Port Moresby. The occasion had 32 people present, that included full-members of NEB, fifteen alternate members, and and technical officers of the National Department of Education.

Mr Ova currently the Secretary for NCEC, one of the various functioning Commissions under the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI, said his new appointment was a key achievement essential to effectively improving policies and procedures for the education system of schools throughout the nation.

Fr Paul Jennings, Chaplain of St Joseph’s Parish Boroko, congratulated Mr Ova on the achievement and said it was the first time in the country’s history for an official of the Church to be appointed to such senior position.

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**News item 4 – CPS calls for end to SOE**

The Catholic Professional Society has strongly called for end to the State of Emergency period, stating that it inflicted unnecessary suffering to the people of PNG. This was outlined in a formal letter from CPS, addressed on 22nd May to the Chair of Parliamentary Committee on SOE.

The letter stressed on various social implications of the SOE that threatened the livelihood of people and the operation of businesses, and suggested that though there were no deaths from COVID19, the impact of the lockdown on social practices, the education, health and economic sector were severe.

It expressed disappointment of the government’s choice to extend the SOE for 14-days, and called on members of parliament to seek the advice given from its own citizens and advisers rather than seeking counsel from foreign agencies.

The proposed Public Health Emergency Bill from the recent parliament sitting was also highlighted in the letter, where it recommended to the government to properly consult with a wider audience before its introduction into parliament.

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**News Item 5 – Mental Health Talk amidst COVID-19**

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

The session’s keynote speaker will be 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.

Discussions will focus on the methods essential to coping with impacts and stress of COVID-19, significance of a good mental health in children and adults, health centres, personnel and programs in place for help and support.

Students, teachers, religious, lay persons, and members of the public are encouraged to attend. However, seating is limited and those wishing to join should inform CBC in advance for seat availability. Once full capacity has been reached, entry into the conference room will be restricted.

For more information, contact **CBC SOCOM** on: Phone: **325 9577** | Email: **socom@catholic.org.pg**

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**News item 6 – Health Sector Faces Closure**

Papua New Guinea’s Health Sector faces a severe blow as its Church-run facilities threaten to shut down and staff to stand down from duties. The insight was shared by Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI on Tuesday 9th June, at CBC Headquarters.

According to Fr Giorgio, the vast majority of health services were currently provided for by the Christian Health Services, and the Catholic Health Services, but cautioned that these services could come to a stop if delay in funding prolonged.

He said the government was responsible in the provision of salaries and operational costs and due to its delay for six-months since January 2020, both health agencies were opting to commence closure of services at the start of July.

Stressing the vital role of the health and education sector he urged for the government to be careful in its spending during the country’s current economic crisis and to fund areas that required it most especially for the frontline workers.

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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.**